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NEW HORIZONS

UNDP Turkey Monthly Magazine

BATTLE STARTING AGAINST THE INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN TURKISH SEAS

**WOMEN BASKETBALL PLAYERS
SAY “STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!”**

**STORKS ARE PROTECTED
IN BEYŞEHİR**

**TURKEY RESILIENCE PROJECT
IN RESPONSE TO SYRIA CRISIS**



#HearMeToo
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS

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STORKS ARE PROTECTED IN BEYŞEHİR



Hundreds of thousands of storks and big birds migrate from Africa to Europe via Anatolia. The number of breeding pairs that spread throughout Turkey is 8683. The total number of stork couples in Europe is 180,000-220,000. The breeding grounds of the storks are usually meadows or wetlands. The main causes of stork deaths are electricity transmission lines, pollution caused by pesticides and wastes. The local people have no negative attitude towards storks.

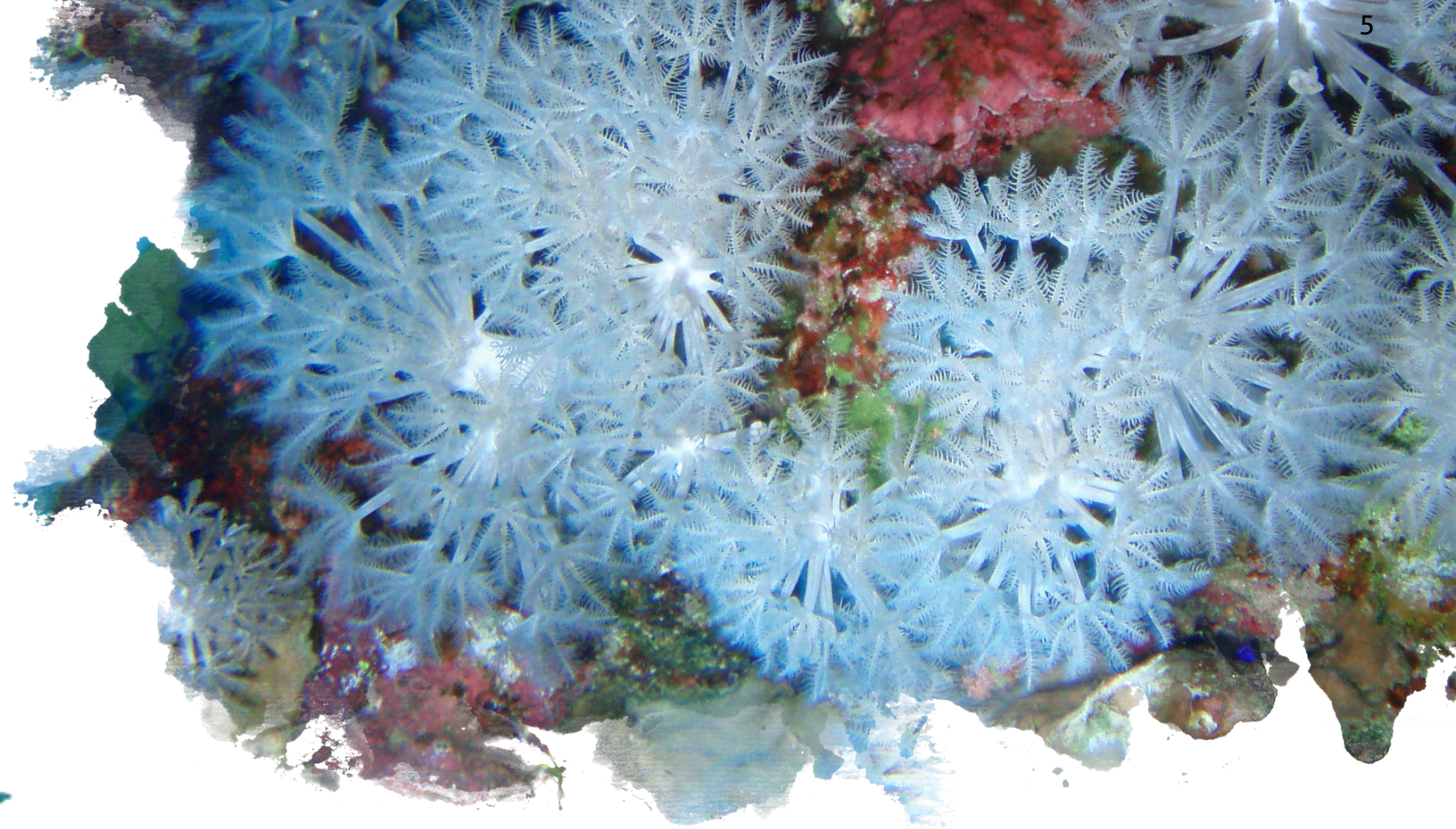
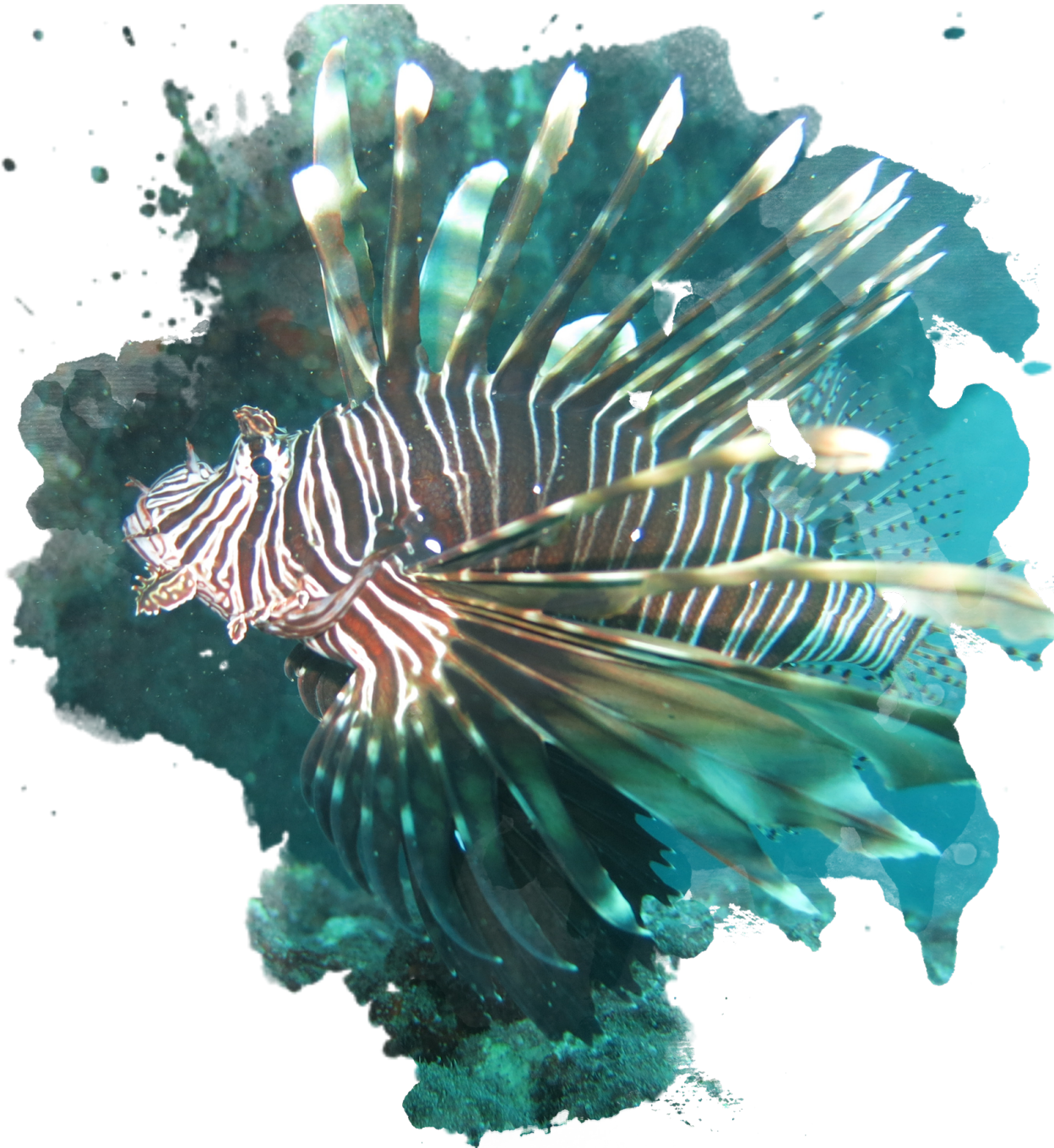
In the cemetery of Yeşildağ neighborhood located in the southwest corner of the Beyşehir Lake, white storks have 26 active nests on the juniper trees. In this region known as the Storks Valley, male storks come in the beginning of March and mend the nests they used last year. A month or so later, the female storks join the nest for breeding.

After about 50 days of incubation, 2-4 nests are hatched in each nest. Stork families feed and nourish the babies. By August, babies become adult storks with a weight of 4 Kg and they can fly now. They return to their southeast African countries with their families. The storks, who enter and leave our country from Hatay travel through thermal air currents over Palestine and the Sina Peninsula.

Ecological Balance Society established in Ankara has conducted "the Establishment of Eco-tourism Infrastructure in Beyşehir Lake Storks Valley and the Surrounding Project" with financial support of Turkey GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) in 2017. The project was carried out with the guidance of the GEF / SGP team and the participation of stakeholders especially Beyşehir Municipality, National Parks, Beyşehir National Education Directorate, MEDAŞ and local people. Within the scope of the project, 8 artificial stork nests were placed in the Storks Valley. It was ensured that the electricity transmission line passing near the nests was isolated by MEDAŞ. A stork observation tower was built by the National Parks in the Storks Valley. Within the scope of this project, two cameras were installed near the nests by the Ecological Balance Society so that nests can be watched live 24 hours from the web page of Beyşehir Municipality. The breeding success of storks in the Stork Valley was 2.2 babies / nest in 2017. Besides, cycling and hiking routes have been identified in the forests and around the lake.

Ecological Balance Society will be carrying out the storks protection project in Yeşildağ Storks Valley and Adaköy Storks Hill with the support of the GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) in 2019.

BATTLE STARTING AGAINST THE INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN TURKISH SEAS



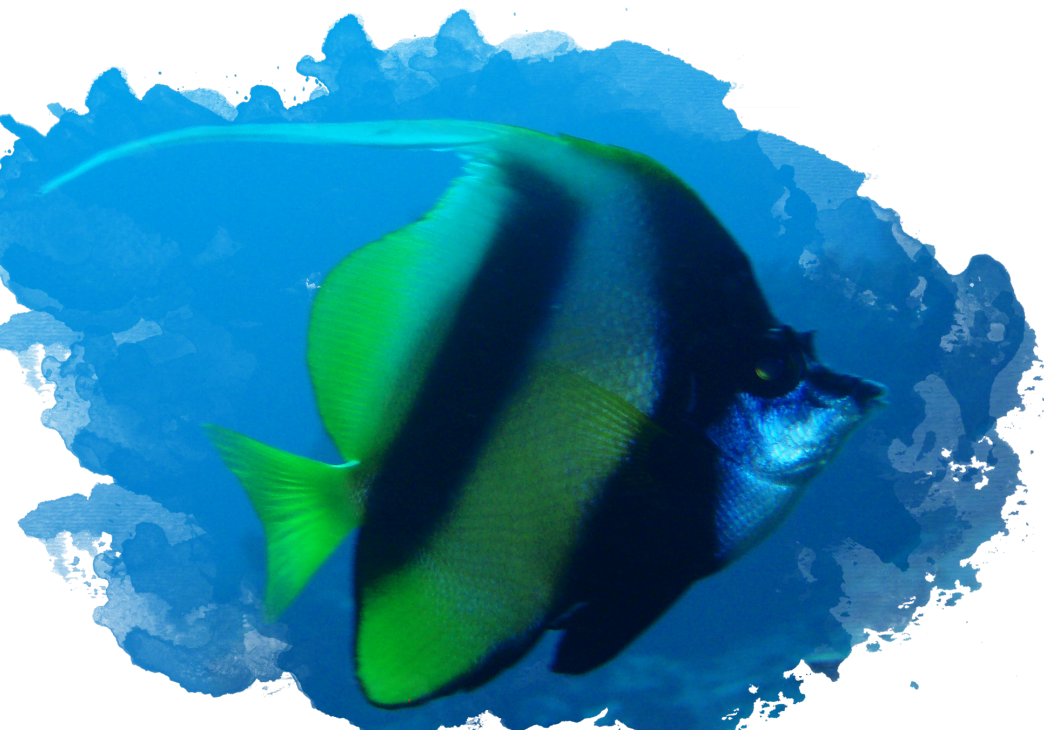
The first step has been taken for battling invasive alien species that have entered the Seas of Turkey in various ways and are expected to cause a major amount of damage to the ecosystem.

Turkey has a rich diversity due to being surrounded by three seas, which have different characteristics. As a result of various factors, species, which have shifted from their natural habitat to other areas, are called alien species.

On the other hand, species that harm other species, nature, human health and economy by its invasion and settlement in the area are called invasive alien species.

While the number of alien species that are located in the Mediterranean Sea exceeds 1000, the number of alien species located in the Seas of Turkey is almost 500. While 74% of the alien species came to the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal, 80% of the alien species, which arrived in the Black Sea, came due to ships' ballast water. Some of these invasive alien species also come via aquaculture, releasement of fish and aquarium handling.

These alien species carry parasites to the marine ecosystem, marine biodiversity, marine species and habitats, spreads diseases, causes genetic deterioration, rivalry, and destroys and endangers native species' generation by draining them. These species also threaten human health because they can cause diseases, poisoning and injuries. On top of this, it has a negative impact on fishery and tourism, which leads to an unfavourable national economy.

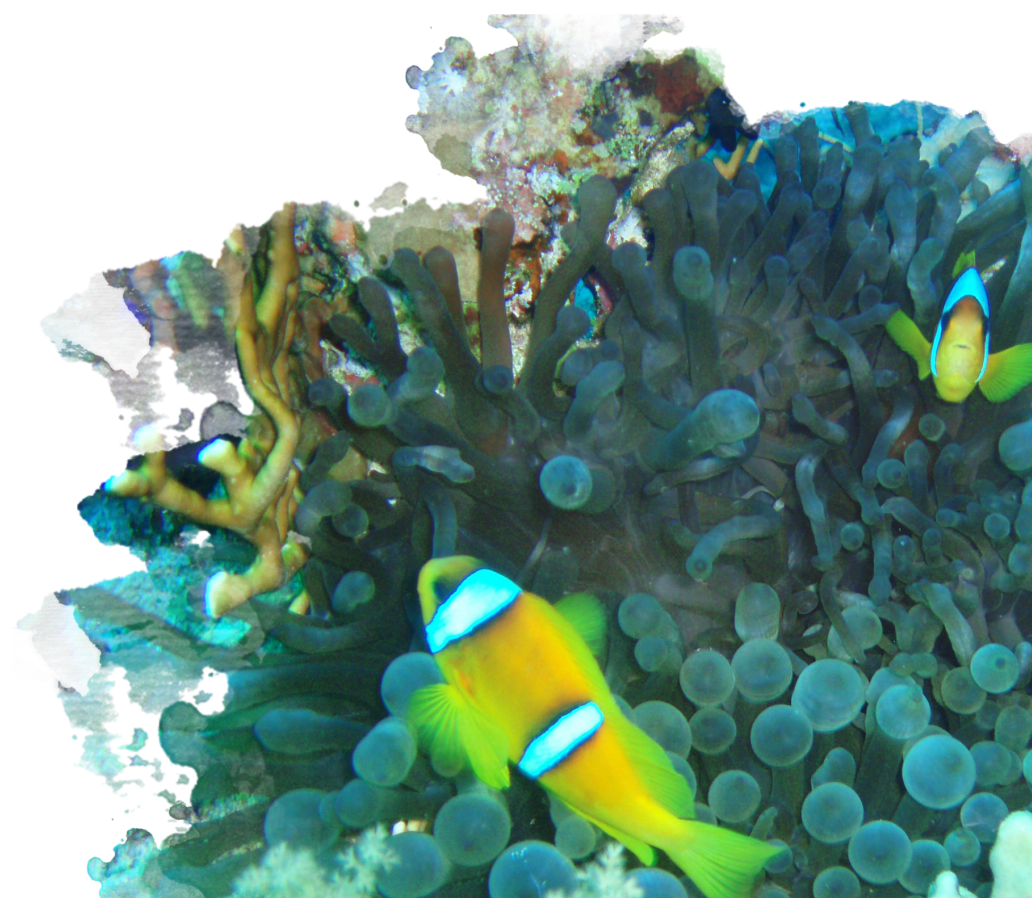


"Marine ecosystems are of major importance."

Together with financial support from the Global Environmental Finance (GEF) and the coordination of the General Directorate for Nature Conservation and National Parks of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the United Nations Development Programme is starting a new project to battle these species in the Seas of Turkey. The opening meeting for the "Utilizing Invasive Alien Species' Threats at Key Marine Biodiversity Areas" project was held in Ankara on the 22nd of November 2018.

UNDP Deputy Country Director Sukhrob Khojimatov stated that marine ecosystems are of major importance in terms of climate change, fresh water cycle and biodiversity.

"This project will implement the development of legal and institutional infrastructure, capacity enhancement and raising the awareness of public as well as marine restoration and battling invasive alien species all together."

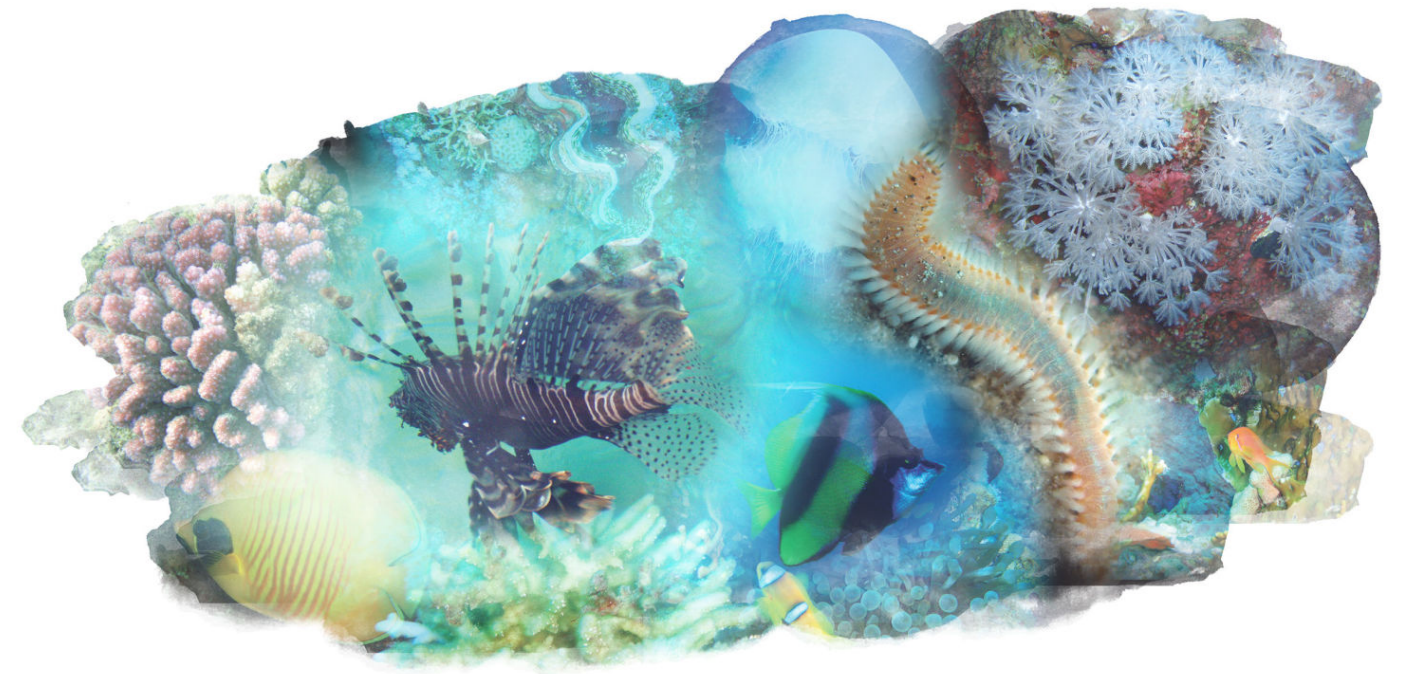


As the only marine project of the GEF VI period in the world, the project will continue being implemented in the pilot areas of İğneada Floodplain Forests National Park (Nautical) (Black Sea), Ayvalık Islands Nature Park (Aegean Sea), Marmara Islands (Marmara Sea) and Hatay-Samandağ Seal Living Space as well as the Sea Turtle Nesting and Egg Laying area (Mediterranean Sea), with the objective of preventing the entry of alien species to Turkish seas, eliminating the existing alien species, and taking measures to protect native species and habitats.

By battling invasive alien species in the scope of the project, the protection of biological diversity as well as marine ecosystems will be ensured, and this will contribute to the Aichi goals along with the Sustainable Development Goals, which are aimed to be achieved by 2030.



Önemli Denizel Biyolojik Çeşitlilik Alanlarında İstilacı Yabancı Türlerin Tehditlerinin Değerlendirilmesi Projesi



WOMEN BASKETBALL PLAYERS SAY “STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!”



Before the EuroCup match between Ormanspor - Mersin BŞB, the players came out to the field with orange t-shirts to support the “16 Days of Activism to Combat Violence Against Women” campaign.

In the match between Ormanspor - Mersin BŞB, that took place on November 28, female basketball players took the field with t-shirts saying "End Violence Against Women". The players who painted the field orange before the match, expressed their happiness to support such an important campaign. The players repeated their support in social media and gave the message "Don't stay silent".

“Women must be everywhere”

Dr. Ahu Pakdemirli, the wife of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Dr. Bekir Pakdemirli, was also present. Pakdemirli said, “Women should be in every field, not just in sports. No form of violence is acceptable.” and expressed her support for the campaign.

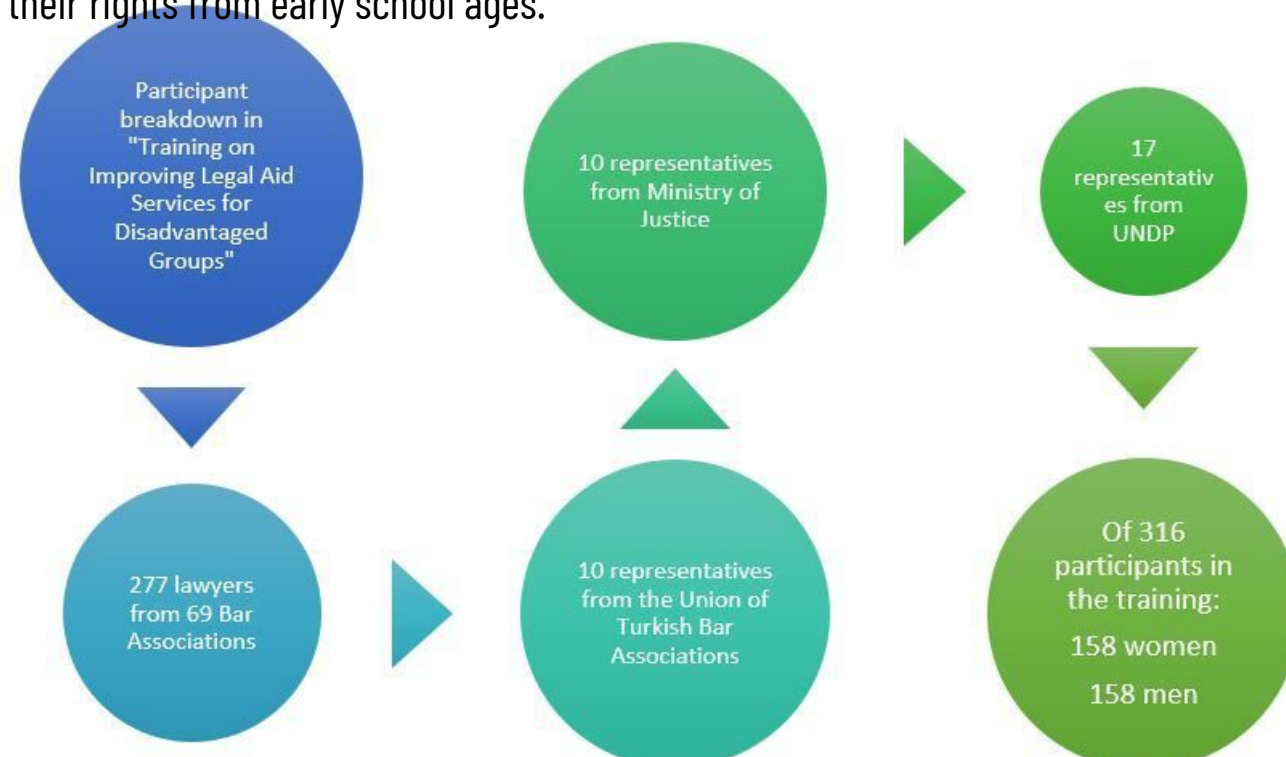
UNiTE's 16-Day Activism Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign, that takes place every year from the International Day for Fight Against Violence against Women on November 25th until November 10th Human Rights Day. It was produced by activists at the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and coordinated by the Women's Global Leadership Centre every year. The UNiTE Campaign, launched in 2008 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, is making a call to raise awareness for the prevention and end of all forms of violence against women and girls all over the world. This call is supported by a wide range of people and organizations worldwide. In its global activities, UNiTE uses the orange as the official color of the campaign, which symbolizes a brighter future where violence against women and girls has disappeared for 16 days.

DISADVANTAGED GROUPS TO BENEFIT MORE EFFECTIVELY FROM LEGAL AID SERVICES

Now on its home stretch of the 3-year run, the SILA Project was devised to promote access to legal aid services. As a comprehensive project, SILA's 2nd and 3rd Components undertake activities to provide better access to legal aid by women, children, refugees, LGBTIQ and other disadvantaged groups.

Under the project, many important steps were taken on preventing trauma, identifying protection needs at the court houses and referring to appropriate services for child victims of domestic violence, women victims of abuse and violence, victims of sexual offences and many others. An elective course of "Law and Justice" was developed so that individuals would have increased awareness of their rights from early school ages.

In the context of training modules, two training programmes were delivered on 17-18 March and 30 March-01 April 2018 in Antalya on the following topics: being a woman in Turkey, being child, being a LGBTIQ individual, being a person with disabilities, what is it like being a refugee; what are the roles and responsibilities of lawyers in this context; how should lawyers be represented in the public; how to strengthen the attorney-client relation; what is trauma, how should a lawyer deal with a traumatised client; what are the problems of refugees, things to know when representing a refugee, things to know when representing a child; how is the gender structure in Turkey, how to deal various issues etc.



PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR LEGAL AID SERVICES

Under its last component of the Phase I, the Project brought together lawyers from all provinces in the regional meetings held between 28 September and 23 November 2018 in Antalya, Istanbul, Gaziantep, Samsun, Konya, Ankara and Manisa. The regional meetings served as platforms where lawyers exchanged views and recommendations on addressing the problems in legal aid.

So, what was discussed in these meetings?

The European Commission's Progress Reports on Turkey have for years consistently assessed the quality of legal aid in our country as "inadequate, worrying and low quality". The "Performance Criteria of the Attorneys Performing Legal Aid" being developed under the 3rd Component of the SILA Project set out to address exactly this concern, and aimed to improve the conditions particularly for disadvantaged groups. The criteria are now being finalised with the feedback from lawyers from 79 bar associations who participated in 10 meetings (8 regional and 2 consultation). Emphasising the concepts of monitoring and evaluation, the work will result in increased quality as well as further work motivating the lawyers providing legal aid.

Following the conclusion of the meetings November, Prof. Dr. Gülriz Uygur and Lawyer Musa Toprak, both experts in the Project, defined the criteria as "a basis for professional code of conduct for lawyers who provide legal aid services." Advisory in nature, the text includes core ethical principles guiding the lawyers who provide legal aid services as well as the criteria with which the lawyers training in this area must comply in dealing with applicants including vulnerable groups such as women, children, LGBTIQ individuals, refugees and persons with disabilities.

Monitoring and Evaluation System

While the grant rate of applications requesting legal aid in Turkish bar associations is above 90%, statistics may unfortunately fail to give an accurate picture. Bar associations have to admit the applications selectively due to budget constraints; then, the rate of declined applications appears low. Thereby, statistics show a grant rate much higher than the reality. A Board of Monitoring and Evaluation that is planned to be established under the UTBA and/or bar associations in the context of the Project is projected to play a significant role in providing accurate and quality statistics on this issue.



A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR REFUGEES, HOST COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS: TURKEY RESILIENCE PROJECT IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS (TRP)

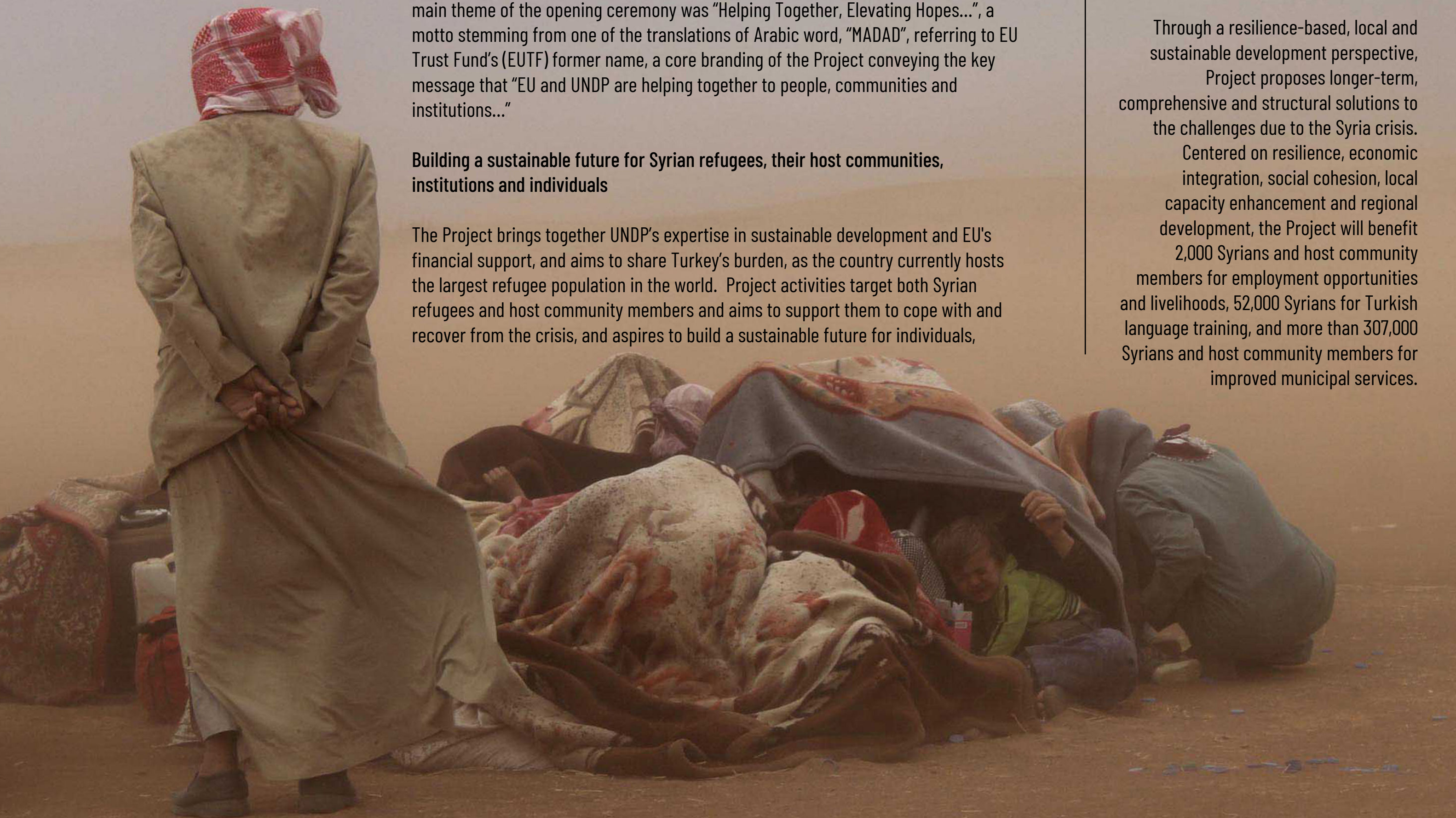
Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis (TRP), financed by European Union (EU) and implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was officially launched in Cer Modern Ankara with a high-level event. The two-year Project with 50-million-euro budget focuses on promoting jobs creation, strengthening municipal services and delivering Turkish language trainings in 11 provinces of Turkey.

The event gathered over 190 participants from various United Nations (UN) agencies, representatives of UNDP, high-level members from government and public bodies, implementing partners of the Project, universities, non-governmental organizations, national and international organizations active in the field of humanitarian aid and development, business community, private sector and media representatives. The main theme of the opening ceremony was "Helping Together, Elevating Hopes...", a motto stemming from one of the translations of Arabic word, "MADAD", referring to EU Trust Fund's (EUTF) former name, a core branding of the Project conveying the key message that "EU and UNDP are helping together to people, communities and institutions..."

Building a sustainable future for Syrian refugees, their host communities, institutions and individuals

The Project brings together UNDP's expertise in sustainable development and EU's financial support, and aims to share Turkey's burden, as the country currently hosts the largest refugee population in the world. Project activities target both Syrian refugees and host community members and aims to support them to cope with and recover from the crisis, and aspires to build a sustainable future for individuals,

Through a resilience-based, local and sustainable development perspective, Project proposes longer-term, comprehensive and structural solutions to the challenges due to the Syria crisis. Centered on resilience, economic integration, social cohesion, local capacity enhancement and regional development, the Project will benefit 2,000 Syrians and host community members for employment opportunities and livelihoods, 52,000 Syrians for Turkish language training, and more than 307,000 Syrians and host community members for improved municipal services.



No one Choses to be a refugee

Opening speeches at the ceremony were made by Ms. Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Claudio Tomasi, UNDP Turkey Country Director and Ambassador Christian Berger, Head of the EU Delegation to Turkey. Delivering the opening remarks in the event, Ms. Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano stated that the challenges faced by today's world could only be responded through solidarity, cooperation and common will and underlined that being a refugee is not a choice, and no one choses to be a refugee. *"Being a refugee does not mean being abandoned by the entire world. Our objective is to ensure that 'No one will be left behind'. Hence it is our duty to provide refugees with a family environment, to help them recover from their wounds"* Ms. Vojáčková-Sollorano stressed that Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis (TRP) aims to help and support Syrian refugees and Turkey, who shows outstanding generosity.

Emphasizing that the world's refugee crisis needs both humanitarian in short term, and longer-term development-based response, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative said that 65 million people worldwide are displaced by various reasons and developing countries host around 90 per cent of them.

Underlining that the response to the refugee crisis would a test for humanity's collective conscience, Ms. Vojáčková-Sollorano asked *"If a country today is affected by an influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees or, by even ten or twenty thousand, what should the international community do to assist this country? How it will make a difference? What tangible difference will the international solidarity make in the lives of refugees or the communities that host them? These are the questions that the global community is asking..."*



“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another...”



UNDP Turkey Country Director, Mr. Claudio Tomasi said that the Project aims at sharing the burden of Turkey through UNDP's more than 50 years of expertise in the area of development. Mr. Tomasi stated that Turkey has been faced with an unprecedented migration challenge which no country could ever be prepared for enough and added that over the years, Turkey put in place a number of policies, coordinated among many different actors, and provided a multifaceted response to a complex question, which is the greatest humanitarian tragedy in modern history. Saying that Government of Turkey and Turkish people have shown tremendous generosity and hospitality to Syrian refugees, since the beginning of the crisis, UNDP Turkey Country Director underlined that many voices have praised Ankara not only for its resilience facing such an influx, but also for the open-door policy, the quality of camps, and the positive steps taken toward assisting Syrians in need.

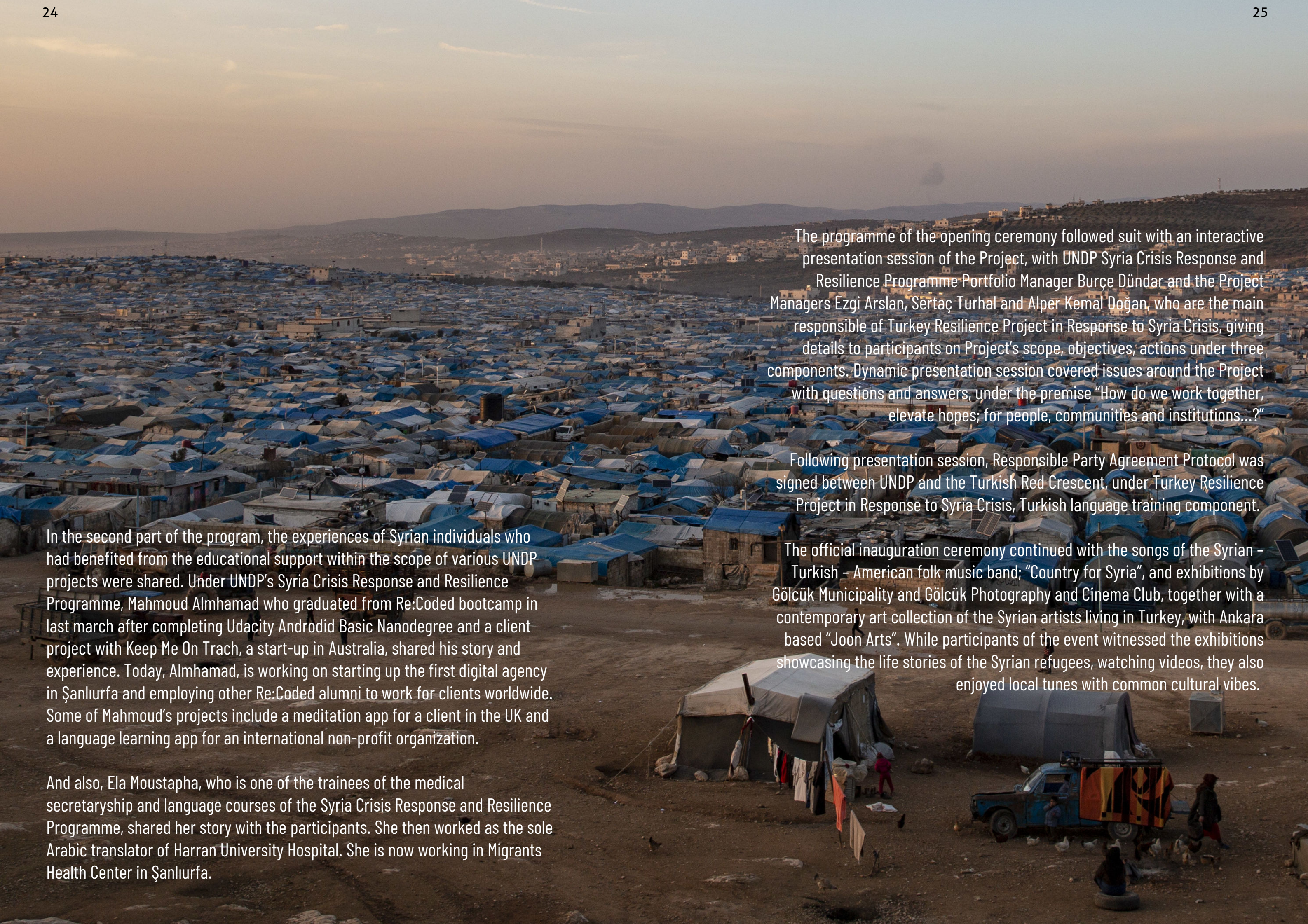
UNDP Country Director also quoted from Charles Dickens; ***"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another"***. He stressed that the UNDP and EU are working together to lighten the burden of Turkey, Syrian refugees and their host communities to build a new future for all. Emphasizing that the objective of Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis (TRP) is to suggest a resilience-based and long-term approach, Mr. Tomasi pointed out that there is a direct link between development, humanitarian response, rehabilitation, reconstruction, resilience and stability and added: ***"The most effective global response to future crises in our world, would most likely to be through integrating humanitarian aid and development goals, in a way that one complements the other."***

Delivering the opening speech at the official inauguration of the Project, that the European Union (EU) is supporting with 50 million euros, Ambassador Christian Berger, Head of EU Delegation to Turkey said that the priority is to ensure self-sufficiency and resilience of Syrian refugees and their host communities in the long run. Ambassador Berger noted that with right framework and right policies, we could create a favourable environment for refugees where they could be part of the society and contribute. ***“Refugees are not a problem, they are also an important opportunity with their contributions to their host country and communities”*** said Ambassador Berger, underlining the importance of accessing to livelihood opportunities and employability. Ambassador also added that the EU will continue to support Turkey in the response to this massive humanitarian crisis.



In his speech, Mr. Halil H. Afşarata, Chief Coordinator of the FRIT Funds at the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, emphasized the importance of the ongoing cooperation with UNDP, and its experience and expertise in development to be very important in the response. Mr. Afşarata underlined that to fully respond to longer-term and substantial needs due to Syria Crisis, close cooperation among partners is highly crucial and partnerships with organizations with high operational capability in the field is highly appreciated.

Three Deputy Ministers from the implementing partners of the project; Ministry of Industry and Technology, and Ministry of National Education also attended the inauguration ceremony. Deputy Ministers of Industry and Technology, Çetin Ali Dönmez and Mehmet Fatih Kacır, Deputy Minister of National Education Reha Denemeç, all underlined the importance and value of the activities under three components of the Project in their speeches. Emphasizing the longer-term positive impact of the Project and development-based approach, Deputy Ministers expressed their appreciation for UNDP's support, expertise and contribution in the response to Syria Crisis. Deputy Minister of National Education Reha Denemeç noted that the response to refugees in need should entail sustainable development goals, and should respond in the areas such as education, language training, health, local and municipal services, livelihood opportunities. ***“Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis in that sense, is very important, since the Project aims to achieve social and economic integration and development goals, through providing Turkish language skills, new livelihood and job opportunities for refugees and strengthening municipal services, under its three components.”*** said Deputy Minister Denemeç.



In the second part of the program, the experiences of Syrian individuals who had benefited from the educational support within the scope of various UNDP projects were shared. Under UNDP's Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Programme, Mahmoud Almhamad who graduated from Re:Coded bootcamp in last march after completing Udacity Androdid Basic Nanodegree and a client project with Keep Me On Trach, a start-up in Australia, shared his story and experience. Today, Almhamad, is working on starting up the first digital agency in Şanlıurfa and employing other Re:Coded alumni to work for clients worldwide. Some of Mahmoud's projects include a meditation app for a client in the UK and a language learning app for an international non-profit organization.

And also, Ela Moustapha, who is one of the trainees of the medical secretaryship and language courses of the Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Programme, shared her story with the participants. She then worked as the sole Arabic translator of Harran University Hospital. She is now working in Migrants Health Center in Şanlıurfa.

The programme of the opening ceremony followed suit with an interactive presentation session of the Project, with UNDP Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Programme Portfolio Manager Burçe Dünder and the Project Managers Ezgi Arslan, Sertaç Turhal and Alper Kemal Doğan, who are the main responsible of Turkey Resilience Project in Response to Syria Crisis, giving details to participants on Project's scope, objectives, actions under three components. Dynamic presentation session covered issues around the Project with questions and answers, under the premise "How do we work together, elevate hopes; for people, communities and institutions...?"

Following presentation session, Responsible Party Agreement Protocol was signed between UNDP and the Turkish Red Crescent, under Turkey Resilience Project in Response to Syria Crisis, Turkish language training component.

The official inauguration ceremony continued with the songs of the Syrian – Turkish – American folk music band; "Country for Syria", and exhibitions by Gölcük Municipality and Gölcük Photography and Cinema Club, together with a contemporary art collection of the Syrian artists living in Turkey, with Ankara based "Joon Arts". While participants of the event witnessed the exhibitions showcasing the life stories of the Syrian refugees, watching videos, they also enjoyed local tunes with common cultural vibes.

TURKISH BUSINESSES CREATED THE WORLD'S LARGEST NETWORK AGAINST DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (TURKONFED) introduces the international platform "Connecting Business initiative (CBI)" to Turkey to strengthen businesses against natural disasters and complex emergencies including particularly earthquakes, fires, floods and refugee crises.

Officially launched with the signature ceremony in Hatay on 16-17 November, CBI Turkey will work to enable businesses to limit the damages of disasters and complex emergencies, and recover speedily in the aftermath.

The Connecting Business initiative (CBI), launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016, aims to transform the way the private sector engages "before, during and after" emergencies, increasing the scale and effectiveness of the response in a coordinated manner.

Supported worldwide in 13 countries including Turkey and jointly operated by UNDP-OCHA, CBI

platforms constitute a solidarity platform between international crises management structures and local and national networks. The newly established network in Turkey will be jointly managed by TURKONFED and UNDP Turkey.

CBI Turkey will work to enhance the private sector capacity for "risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery" in disasters and crises, and increase its engagement in such processes. The initial objective is to outreach businesses affiliated with federations under TURKONFED that has a broad nationwide network.

CONNECTING BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Many companies in Istanbul and Anatolia have in recent years been hit by such natural disasters as floods due to climate change. In addition to responding to natural disasters, CBI Turkey will also respond to migration and refugees, also called "human-induced crises".

The outcomes of activities undertaken in cooperation by the public and private sectors and civil society are expected to add value to businesses, society, region and national economy.

The global economy lost 320 billion dollars to disasters and emergencies in 2017. Disasters mostly hit the poor and other vulnerable groups. In the past 30 years, more than 2.5 million lives and nearly 4 trillion dollars were lost due to such complex emergencies as earthquakes, cyclones, floods and armed conflicts. The private sector was also deeply hit.

Economic losses suffered by the entire range of businesses from big multinationals to SMEs due to disasters and emergencies increasingly threaten business continuity and sustainability.

The private sector can have a critical role in saving lives and property, in speedy recovery of national economies from shocks, and help prevent potential market failures due to

emergencies.

CBI Turkey Platform aims to develop a suite of solutions to strengthen the resilience of the Turkish sector against disasters and emergencies.

CBI will serve as a platform operating to protect the Turkish private sector's own businesses and employees against disasters and emergencies. Through CBI Turkey's work, businesses will help strengthen their local communities, speedily recover in the aftermath of a disaster or emergency, and resume contributing to local economies.

CBI Turkey will work to identify the needs and capacity of the private sector and strengthen businesses against disasters and emergencies, enhance knowledge-sharing, make businesses more resilient, increase the private sector contributions to disaster-hit areas. The signature ceremony for CBI Turkey in Hatay was honoured by Mr. Orhan Turan, TURKONFED President; Ms. Irena Vojáčková Sollorano, United Nation Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Turkey; and Mr. Claudio Tomasi, UNDP Turkey Country Director.

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