

UNDP Turkey Monthly Magazine

# NEW HORIZONS

MAY 2019 - ISSUE: 161

2019 YEAR OF VOLUNTEERISM  
LAUNCHED

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IMPACT ACCELERATOR  
FOR GLOBAL GOALS

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OUR LESSON IS TURKISH  
OUR LESSON IS HOPE

GOODWILL AMBASSADOR MERT FIRAT  
VISITS SYRIANS LEARNING TURKISH

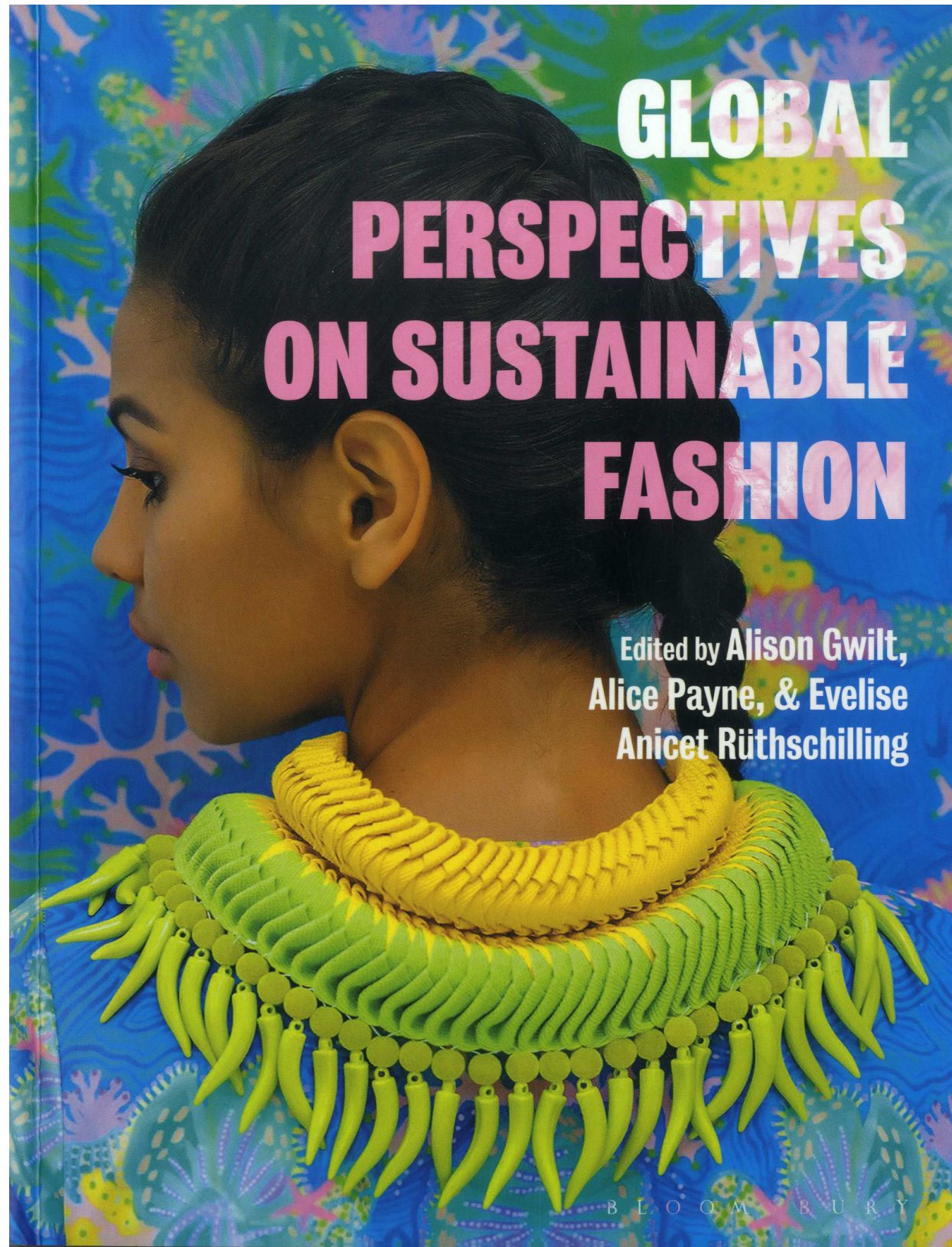
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## SUSTAINABLE ANATOLIA: CRAFT-CENTERED DESIGN

A research study by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şölen Kipöz, a faculty member at Izmir Economy University and a designer renowned for her work on Sustainable Fashion, and Duygu Atalay, a faculty member at Beykent University and a former student of Şölen Kipöz, was included in the book "Global Perspectives on Sustainable Fashion" released by Bloomsbury Visual Arts publications.

The book edited by Alison Gwilt, Alice Payne and Evelise Anicet Rüthschilling is a guide to addressing the development of sustainable fashion in various cultures and geographies.

The chapter "Sustainable Anatolia: Craft-Centered Design" by Kipöz and Atalay in the book treats Turkish fashion in a sustainability perspective for the first time. The authors studied the evolution of sustainability philosophy on a craft-centered design approach in Anatolia i.e. Turkey's cultural, historical and physical geography.

In their article Kipöz and Atalay claim, "Through a reappreciation of local crafts, Turkish designers are challenging the Eurocentric, standardized, global workings of fashion design. They have begun to highlight the need for quality over quantity, diversity over monoculture, the use of local materials and crafts, as well the importance of employing local expertise to create a fairer production process."

In this context, the brand Agrande developed by the designer Hatice Gökçe and supported by GAP Regional Development Agency and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is treated as a social sustainability model.

**OUR LESSON  
IS TURKISH,  
OUR LESSON  
IS HOPE!**

*UNDP Turkey Goodwill Ambassador Mert  
Firat meets Syrians learning Turkish*





In order to meet this important need, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) started providing Turkish language courses for adult Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey, on 25 March 2019, under the "Turkey Resilience Project in response to the Syria Crisis (TRP)", funded by the European Union (EU). A total of 52,000 adult Syrians will learn Turkish at 53 Public Education Centres in 10 provinces of Turkey.

Among them are those who have recently arrived in Turkey as well as those who have recently seized the opportunity despite having lived here for years. They have started to learn Turkish hoping a better life in their new country. Language training is of utmost importance to Syrians living in Turkey. It is the key to reading, writing, working, joining the society, and above all to communicating and therefore existing.

Trainees at Istanbul Zeytinburnu Public Education Centre, one of the 53 centres providing such training, had a pleasant surprise on Thursday, April 11. UNDP Turkey Goodwill Ambassador Mert Fırat visited them at the Turkish language course.

An exciting day was in the making for Mert Fırat and UNDP Turkey team who met at Zeytinburnu in the early hours. They first shot a short video for posting on the social media, then met with Ms. Seden Çetin, one of the teachers at Zeytinburnu Public Education Centre, then proceeded to the Centre.

Syrian trainees at the Centre were excitedly waiting for Mert Fırat's arrival. Close friends Şirin and Dilan said they loved him very much and were impatient to see him. Mert Fırat and UNDP Turkey team finally arrived at Zeytinburnu Public Education Centre and were welcomed by Mr. Orhan Ayyıldız, Director.

Not keeping the already excited trainees in waiting, Mert Fırat visited the class by Ms. Betül Özkan, a trainer, and was joyfully welcomed.



Serving as a trainer for a part of the lesson, Mert Fırat explained pronouns, told about various occupations and countries, and gave examples from his life. He asked questions to and conversed with trainees.

Inquiring the Syrians about their experience to date, what challenges they encountered and why they wanted to learn Turkish, Fırat listened to their dreams which they wished to achieve by the training. Some said they wanted to find a job, some to continue education; but all had definitely wanted to join the society.

Noting that learning Turkish was important for Syrian individuals to empower themselves and participate in social life, and that he was very happy for the visit, Mert Fırat said: "The language problem is the largest barrier for Syrian individuals to living in harmony with the host communities, and earning their lives. I believe that speaking the same language will entail many facilities."

Syrian participants stated that meeting with Mert Fırat was an unforgettable experience, and gave them more strength and motivation for learning Turkish.

Conversing also with the children of trainees, Mert Fırat had many photo shoots with everyone, then bid farewell.

## Turkish language training for adults under the “Turkey Resilience Project in response to the Syria Crisis (TRP)”

Language training is very important for refugees trying to build a new life in a new country. While language is the largest barrier to social and economic integration, language training represents an opportunity to access education and labour markets, self-sufficiency, self-confidence and hope.

The “Adult Language Training Component” of TRP is implemented in collaboration of the General Directorate of Lifelong Learning of the Turkish Ministry of National Education of Turkey and the United Nations Development Programme. The project is funded by the European Union (EU).

The training is delivered at 53 Public Education Centres in 10 provinces of Turkey. Syrians living in Adana, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kilis, Konya, Mersin and Şanlıurfa will be able to attend the courses. The training in Istanbul is delivered in 11 districts. These districts are, Arnavutköy, Bağcılar, Başakşehir, Esenler, Esenyurt, Fatih, Kağıthane, Küçükçekmece, Sultanbeyli, Ümraniye and Zeytinburnu.

It is aimed that 50 percent of the participants across the country should be women so that the training will contribute to empowering Syrian women. Of the 283 master trainers who deliver training to Syrian individuals, 68 percent are women.





## 2019 YEAR OF VOLUNTEERISM LAUNCHED

During the United Nations Volunteers Turkey and Ministry of Youth and Sports' joint event "International Volunteers Day: 2018 State of the Worlds Volunteerism Report Turkey Launch" on 7 December 2018, 2019 was declared as the Year of Volunteerism by the Minister of Youth and Sports Dr. Muharrem Kasapoğlu.

"2019 Year of Volunteerism" launch event was held on 22 March 2019 at the Lütfi Kırdar Convention and Exhibition Center where strategies to develop and strengthen volunteerism were announced in scope of "Sports, Culture-Tourism, Environment, Disaster and Emergency, Education, Health and Social Services" areas and updates on current activities were shared.

The National Volunteering Committee Members, UN Volunteers Turkey Field Unit, academicians and civil society representatives came together at the launch.

In his speech, Minister Kasapoğlu gave references to the "2018 State of the Worlds Volunteerism Report" and emphasized the important role of volunteers in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Minister also announced 6 strategic priority areas for the development of volunteerism in Turkey as follows: strengthening volunteerism culture; more efficient use of technology; improvement of regulations and risk management; strengthening volunteer management and increasing education; strengthening inter-institutional relations; recognition and evaluation of volunteerism.





## IT IS POSSIBLE TO CREATE MORE AND SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANY PEOPLE THROUGH DIGITALIZATION!

*The studies for transforming the demographic, sociological and economic impacts of the conflict that took place in Syria for 9 years are being accelerated. Representatives from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Turkey as well as General Directorate and Provincial Directorates of Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) attended a study visit in Germany between 25-29 March within the context of Employment and Skills Development Project funded by KfW German Development Bank.*

The main aim of the study visit was to support İŞKUR to provide more employment opportunities and sustainable livelihoods through strengthened digital services of İŞKUR by information sharing and exploring

employment policies and digital services of Federal Employment Agency and Federal Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs and establishing cooperation among the relevant institutions.

Mr. Fahrettin Kaya, Head of İŞKUR IT Department; Mr. Bülent Öner, İŞKUR Hatay Provincial Directorate Head of Unit; Mr. Osman Gezer, İŞKUR Kilis Provincial Directorate Head of Unit and 9 staffs from other related departments had the opportunity to discuss best practices and to exchange knowledge and experience with the representatives of Federal Employment Agency, Institute for Employment Research, Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, PwC Experience Center, German Trade Union Confederation, KfW German Development Bank and Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry during the visits held in Nurnberg, Frankfurt and Berlin. As a result, the study visit succeeded in review of best practices to integrate Syrians and Turkish citizens into the active labor market more rapidly through the improved institutional capacity of İŞKUR.

### **4500 Syrians and host community members will benefit from the dynamic mechanisms which will be developed for the Active Labor Market**

During the Study Visit, the sample data were reviewed which would strengthen İŞKUR's employment service delivery tools in Turkey. Federal Employment Agency, which has experienced in developing migration policies, gave examples of the steps taken by the public institutions in Germany in terms of digitalization. Regarding the employment policies and services developed in response to the consequences of the Syrian crisis, ideas were shared on how it could be a model

for quantitative and qualitative growth, covering both Syrians and host community.

Employment and Skills Development Project, a part of the UNDP Turkey Country Office Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Programme aims to improve the capacity of individuals and communities as well as institutions, provides support for the implementation of active labor market policies to İŞKUR which is a key institution for development of employment opportunities. Therefore, support mechanisms will be developed to respond increasing dynamic service request in the provinces which are most densely populated by Syrians as İstanbul, Gaziantep, Kilis, Hatay and Şanlıurfa. Through the digitalized services, 4500 Syrians and 4500 host community members will be registered to İŞKUR system and benefit from the improved employment services of İŞKUR and consultancy services to be provided. The Project aims to strengthen İŞKUR's physical and IT infrastructure in order to integrate Syrians and host community members to active labor market and to develop the employment opportunities in the subject provinces.

Within the scope of the Project, studies for developing opportunities for institutional capacity and delivery of digital services in accordance with İŞKUR's employment services' needs will be implemented until mid-2020; however, the project results and institutional improvements will continue to be an inspiration and play a catalyst role for long-term policy development.



## 2019 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT TO FOCUS ON INEQUALITY

*The report, to be released in the last quarter of the year, will provide a comprehensive picture of the many forms of inequality that are*

Today's world remains deeply unfair. The life and prospects faced by a newborn in a poor country or in a poor household are radically different from those of wealthier children. In all societies, long-standing forms of inequality persist while gaps are opening in new aspects of life. The 2019 Human Development Report will focus on understanding the dimensions of inequality most important to people's well-being, and what is behind them.

“While many believe inequality is critically important, there is much less agreement on why it matters and what to do about it. We need to sharpen measurement to better describe what inequality looks like and to have a deeper understanding of how inequality will change given the economic, social and environmental transformations that are unfolding worldwide. Only then can we design the policy options that could effectively tackle it.” – said Pedro Conceição, Director of the Human Development Report Office at UNDP.

The report will go beyond the dominant discourse focused on income disparities to also consider inequalities in other dimensions such as health, education, access to technologies, and exposure to economic and climate-related shocks. It will use new data and methods that will highlight, in a way that measures based on averages cannot, how inequality affects people's lives; and it will take a long-term view towards 2030 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond.

“We are witnessing both convergence and divergence in human development. For instance, in many countries today, gaps have closed when we talk about access to primary education. But differences between children in poor and wealthy households are widening in both early childhood and quality of education. These inequalities will have lifetime consequences, particularly given the rapid technological changes, which are likely to impact labour markets. This is just one example of why our analysis of inequality must go beyond income, beyond averages and beyond today.”, explained Mr. Conceição.

The 2019 report builds upon the rich history of human development reporting in pioneering new measures of development and upon new partnerships with global experts at the World Inequality Lab, the LIS Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg and others.

For regular updates on the 2019 HDR please visit:  
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/towards-hdr-2019>



## HUGE IMPACT ACCELERATING STEP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed the “Impact Accelerator Pilot Project Document” for Sustainable Development Goals.*

The protocol serves as the basis for developing collaboration between Turkey and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on humanitarian aid and agricultural development and engaging in high-impact work on sustainable development.

The protocol was signed at the opening ceremony for the workshop “Innovation in the Humanitarian and Emergency Response Sector” on 10-11 April 2019 hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership between Turkey and Gates Foundation. Aiming to share knowledge and experience in humanitarian response, the workshop was honoured by Ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı, Deputy Foreign Minister and the Director for EU Affairs; Mr. Hassan Damluji, Deputy Director for Global Policy & Advocacy and Head of Middle East Relations of the Gates Foundation; Mr. Claudio Tomasi, UNDP Turkey Resident Representative a.i.; Ms. Aylin Çağlayan Özcan, Director-General for the European Union and Foreign Relations, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Ms. Ebru Ozdemir, CEO of Limak Foundation; Rahman Nurdun, Vice President, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA); and many high-level representatives.

Information was provided at the event on the joint work conducted by Turkey and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to identify potential areas for collaboration and to develop partnership opportunities. The Feasibility Report for the “Impact Accelerator Project” for Sustainable Development Goals was disclosed to the public, and the “Impact Accelerator Pilot Project Document” was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNDP for the piloting phase that started in April.

The document includes the involvement and support of Gates Foundation for the feasibility study and pilot projects implemented by Turkey and UNDP; convening experts from Turkey and the Gates Foundation at a knowledge and experience sharing workshop focusing on humanitarian aid and emergency response; and cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Gates Foundation in agricultural development.



## SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE RESILIENT INSTITUTIONS ARE INCREASING THE QUALITY OF WORK AND SOCIAL COHESION

*UNDP Turkey, public and private sectors gathered for the development of sustainable employment opportunities for both Syrians and host community in the regions where Syrians densely populated.*

The importance of most of the actors have been increasing through the impact of decentralization and rising mobility on the current global agenda. National and local institutions have taken their place as strategic actors in developing immigration policies. Entering the ninth year of the conflict in Syria, İŞKUR was one of the first institutions to respond to the impact of Syrian influx to Turkey which hosts 3.6 million Syrians. In this context, İŞKUR will meet the demands of the employment services by developing more sustainable institutional infrastructures through the support of UNDP Turkey and KfW German Development Bank.

PwC will provide technical consultancy services for institutional and digital maturity assessment of İŞKUR which provides decent jobs for more people taking into consideration the dynamics of livelihood sector through Employment of Skills Development Project funded by KfW German Development Bank. The introduction of the studies of PwC Turkey, UNDP and İŞKUR was made on April 3, 2019 in Ankara. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of creating strong, inclusive, practical and target specific practices in the meeting attended by UNDP Turkey Syrian Crisis Response and Resilience Programme Portfolio Manager Ms. Burçe Dünder, Project Manager Ms. Tuğçe Söğüt, İŞKUR representatives and PwC Turkey Project Team.

**9000 people will be registered in İŞKUR system and 7000 people will benefit from consultancy services**

Livelihood sector will be supported in terms of both supply and demand sides through the Project which will provide employment opportunities and livelihoods for Syrians in Turkey and host community members.

4500 Syrians and 4500 host community members will be registered in İŞKUR system through the improved capacity of İŞKUR. In addition to this, 3500 Syrians and 3500 host community members will benefit from consultancy services provided by İŞKUR.



## UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS FIELD UNIT OF TURKEY WAS AT “PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL COHESION” CONFERENCE

The closing conference titled “Pathways to Social Cohesion” of “The Education Programme for Syrian Refugees and Host Communities” (BILYS) operated by Deutsche Gesellschafts fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with the aim of promoting social cohesion was hosted by Hacettepe University between 10-11 April.

The conference organized by GIZ in cooperation with Hacettepe University Migration and Politics Research Center (HUGO) and Association of Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (SGDD-ASAM)

At the “Volunteerism and Youth as a Shared Identity” panel of the “Pathways to Social Cohesion” conference, UNV Turkey Programme Analyst Nil Memişoğlu presented the key outcomes of the State of Worlds Volunteerism Report - 2018 which was published by United Nations Volunteers Programme. Memişoğlu highlighted how volunteerism plays a core role to ensure social cohesion, the challenges faced and also new approaches. After her presentation, Memişoğlu conducted an informative quiz, prepared by UNV Turkey Field Unit, that audience enjoyed.

The closing conference of “The Education Programme for Syrian Refugees and Host Communities” (BILYS) titled “Pathways to Social Cohesion” brought together representatives from politics, academia, civil society and international organizations operating in the field of social cohesion.





## STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF HATAY MUNICIPALITY BY ADDRESSING WASTE WATER CHALLENGES

*Following the Syria crisis, Hatay population increased by 30% in a short period of time which exacerbated already existing strains on municipal service capacities to respond to the increase in demand. This has been particularly noticeable with respect to solid waste and waste water management, which led to increased health and environmental risks, if left untreated. UNDP Turkey works closely with Hatay and other municipalities to address those challenges through infrastructure investments and technical support. UNDP was one of the first actor to respond to municipal service related challenges and is the only UN agency providing direct support to municipalities in terms of solid waste and wastewater management; benefitting over 307,000 Syrian and Turkish nationals in host communities with access to quality services. The new construction process of the Hassa Waste Water Treatment Plant kick started in April 2019, is one of the examples of a series of municipal investments realized by the UNDP Turkey and funded by the EU.*

According to recent data, around 30% of the population in Hatay province are Syrians under Temporary Protection, who have fled the tragedy in their home country and took shelter in the bordering Hatay. The sudden and significant increase in population have worsened the existing challenges and have led to even higher levels of underserved communities, risking further deterioration of social cohesion as well as significant health and environmental risks as a result of poorly managed waste and waste water.

On the other hand, recently released metropolitan municipality regulations have also expanded metropolitan municipalities responsibilities to cover district and village level firefighting services, which has added new pressure to the demand side. Municipalities in the Southern provinces have indicated a significant increase in terms of the demand for municipal services, particularly in urban settings.

April 2019 marked another important milestone of the Municipal Services Delivery Component of the European Union (EU) funded "Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis (TRP)". The construction of a waste water treatment plant in Hassa was kicked off, which will process 4,000 cubic meters of wastewater in a day. The facility will ultimately serve to the population residing in Amik plains; both local communities and Syrian population, and is expected to contribute in eliminating waste water related challenges, health risks and pollution in the district.

The ribbon cutting ceremony, was held in Hassa district of Hatay on April 11th 2019, on the occasion of the sod-turning for the construction of Hassa waste water treatment plant, as an important mile-stone of the EU funded "Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis (TRP) - Municipal Service Delivery Component. Hassa Wastewater Treatment Plant is being constructed in cooperation with Hatay Metropolitan Municipality and ILBANK, under Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis (TRP), which is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and financed by the European Union (EU).

The ceremony for Hassa Wastewater Treatment Plant construction, which will be the 5th waste water treatment facility for Amik Plains, was honoured by Assoc. Prof.Dr. Lütfü Savaş, Hatay Metropolitan Mayor; Mehmet Çaparalı, Director-General of HATSU; Sukhrob Khojimatov, UNDP Turkey Assistant Country Director; Haydar Ergüneş, District Chair of Republican People's Party (CHP); Hüsna Karayazgan, Deputy Director-General of HATSU, department heads from the Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, representatives of local civil society, business world, many citizens from Hatay and its neighbours.

Waste water treatment plant in Hatay is a good example of close cooperation between the Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, ILBANK, EU and UNDP, with overall budget around 3,3 million USD. The facility will have a capacity of 4000 m<sup>3</sup> at the first stage and it is expected to serve a provincial population of 60.000 people in Hassa district of Hatay. The additional capacity to collect and process waste water, will reduce potential health and environmental risks, including ground water pollution. The use of this newly established waste water treatment plant is expected to improve municipal services.



**"Wastewater which used to flow into the plains now returns to our dining table through food"**

Noting that the plains had a population of approximately 500,000 and all wastewater from such population was discharged to ducts or streams, Assoc.Prof.Dr. Lütfü Savaş said: "The wastewater discharged were used as irrigation water in the spring, summer and fall. Our waste used to return to our dining tables through food grown in the plains. Sewer means problems, microbes, illnesses. Hatay is a city of history, culture and civilisation. Civilisation begins with infrastructure; we cannot talk of civilisation at a place without infrastructure."

**Plant to treat 4,000 cubic meters of wastewater a day**

Providing technical information on the treatment plant, Director-General Mehmet Çaparalı noted that Hassa Wastewater Treatment Plant was designed to treat 4,000 cubic meters of wastewater a day or 46 litres per second based on the principle of Extended Aeration Activated Sludge. Çaparalı stressed that once the plant is commissioned, the treatment will be 90%, thus eliminating the pollution and odour problem at Tiyek Creek.



### Treatment plants critical for hygiene and health

Sukhrob Khojimatov, UNDP Turkey Deputy Country Director, said: “We believe that it is so important that this great facility will be constructed here; responding to the need of the generous people of Hatay and Syrians under Temporary Protection living in the district. Turkey is showing great generosity in responding to the ongoing

Syria crisis, and we as UNDP are honoured to be a part of the response. Employing 60 people, the plant will provide serious benefits of environment, hygiene and health once completed in September this year.” In his speech, Mr. Khojimatov extended gratitude to the EU, underlined the value of EU – UNDP cooperation in mitigating risks and flourishing opportunities in regions where affected by the ongoing Syria crisis.

Ninety six percent of Syrians in Turkey live mostly in urban areas of Southeast provinces and metropolises such as Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Bursa. One of the biggest impacts of the sudden population flux is on municipalities and public services. The population growth due to the Syrian crisis led to a major rise in demand for the services of local governments and municipalities including waste and wastewater management and firefighting services.

UNDP’s added value is to go beyond supporting municipalities with infrastructure and equipment but to leverage the support and introduce transformative changes in the management of municipal services. UNDP also supports technical capacities of municipalities to improve strategic planning, use of existing resources, and mobilization of external funding. This unique partnership with municipalities is crucial to strengthening their resilience and their ability to emerge stronger from the impact of the Syria crisis. Based on this successful EU supported project, UNDP is looking into scaling up its support on municipal services, in collaboration with EU and other partners- in Hatay and other municipalities.

The main objective of Municipal Service Delivery component of the Project is to strengthen the resilience of municipalities in those provinces most affected by the influx of the Syrians to be better able to cope with and recover from the impact of the large-scale displacement. UNDP uses a resilience-based development approach which focusses on investing in existing national and local systems to ensure they can adequately serve both host and Syrian communities.

Municipal service delivery component is the largest and most critical part of the Project in objectives, scope and budget, and gathers the largest number of team members working under the component. The municipal service delivery component partners with İlbank, the Turkish local development and investment bank.

**It is expected that more than 307,000 Syrians and host community members to benefit improved municipal services Project.**





## May 2019 Calendar

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**May 1** -> International Labour Day

**May 2-3** -> "I Can Manage My Business" Project's Launch Event in Adana

**May 2-3** -> 3rd Sivil Düşün (Think Civil) Forum in Ankara

**May 2-4** -> UN SDG Action Awards Ceremony - Bonn, Germany

**May 3** -> World Press Freedom Day

**May 5-6** -> G7 Environment Meeting - France

**May 6** -> UN Global Compact Turkey General Assembly - Zorlu PSM

**May 11** -> World Migratory Bird Day

**May 15** -> World Climate Change Day

**May 16** -> International Day of Living Together in Peace

**May 19** -> Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day in Turkey

**May 21** -> World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

**May 22** -> International Day for Biological Diversity

**May 25-27** -> Sustainable Living Film Festival - Bodrum

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Resilient nations.*