



PROJECT LESSONS-LEARNED REPORT

Project Title:	Effective Urban Waste Management for Host Communities Phase II; Strengthening Social Cohesion through Participatory Waste Management
Country:	Turkey
Related UNDCS outcome and CPD Output	<p>CPD Output 1.1.2 Solutions developed and applied to improve sustainable management of natural resources and waste</p> <p><u>Indicator 1.1.2.1:</u> # of prototypes and funded partnerships on sustainable management of natural resources and waste; and beneficiary provinces from least developed regions</p> <p><u>Indicator 1.1.2.2:</u> # of integrated waste management solutions for reduced pressure on local systems, tested in camps and urban settings hosting Syrians</p> <p>CPD Output 1.1.4. Citizens, with specific focus on vulnerable groups including in less developed regions have increased access to inclusive services and opportunities for employment</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.4.3: # of additional Syrians under temporary protection with access to employment services including skills trainings (sex disaggregated)</p>
Project Description and Key Lessons-Learned	
Brief description of context	The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the resilience of impacted municipalities in targeted areas to be better able to cope with and recover from the impact of the Syria crisis- particularly the unprecedented increase in demand for municipal services.
Brief description of project	The Project aims to contribute to the social cohesion of Syrians under temporary protection and host communities in the Southeast Anatolia Region. The Project will do so through participatory waste management to improve waste management practices and reduce the negative impact to the local environment and public health. The Project aims to strengthen recycling capacities of municipalities and local communities to improve resource recovery, including community based and participatory waste collection models. The project will also provide vocational trainings in relevant areas, to ensure informed and trained recyclers have the potential to be environmental stewards for the local community. In addition to that, the Project will support community driven and collective incentives to transform the recyclables into new products, adding value to the materials and expanding the capacity of generating income for of Syrians and host communities. This is aimed to provide livelihoods options, bringing Syrians and host community members together over common economic and environmental interests, to improve social cohesion.
Key project successes	<p>With the support of this project;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the capacity of affected municipalities has been strengthened in terms of waste management, - social cohesion between Syrians and host community members increased through the trainings that were implemented in targeted provinces, - Livelihoods options increased through the support of women’s cooperatives
Project shortcomings and solutions	Covid-19 widely affected the whole implementation period of the project, as the nature of the project directly related with awareness raising of the Syrians and host community members, various mitigation measures were implemented on time not to cause any

	<p>delay and not to affect the impact of the project. Such as; face to face trainings were transferred into online trainings not to cause any delay in the project implementation period.</p>
<p>Lessons learned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of Zero Waste Markets has proven to be a successful model to engage the population in recycling activities, this should be further expanded. The municipality of Haliliye has expressed its interest in increasing the number of markets, but this will require financial support. USBPM and UNDP should investigate ways to secure funding for the further expansion. • Interviews with Kilis and Haliliye municipalities confirmed the need for further financing required for the procurement of equipment for waste management. Especially trucks with the capacity of compacting waste (especially paper and cardboard) to reduce the volume are seen as required to manage the huge quantities of waste. USBPM and UNDP supported by the municipalities and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation should investigate ways to secure funding for the procurement of equipment. • The integration of informal waste pickers into a formal system with financial compensation for recyclables collected has solved several issues (transforming an illegal into a legal system, increasing security in neighborhoods, generating income for families of waste pickers). This system should be expanded in cooperation between the municipalities and the recycling companies engaged by the municipalities. • The system of reverse vending automats should be improved by adding the possibility of collecting points with the incentivization cards. This could help in increasing the participation of the population, as the points can be converted into products. The products available can be modified over time, keeping and further increasing the interest of households. • The training activities focused on mostly on the education sector. While this will give positive effects in the medium- and long-term, it fails to directly reach women and men in target households. The social behavior assessment failed to answer the question on how to best approach target households, whether the project contributed to social cohesion and what additional measures and activities are necessary to increase social cohesion. It is recommended to carry out follow-up surveys focusing on those topics. • Extensive training activities have been carried out under the Project and there was a focus on Training of Trainers (ToT), so there was a good basic introduction given on recycling. Two points require follow up: 1) Due to the COVID-19 situation, all trainings were held virtually. This clearly reduces the effectiveness of the training as there is less attention of participants, little interaction between trainees, little discussion. A follow-up of training activities through live trainings is recommended to sustain the capacity of trainers. 2) ToT activities focused mostly on educational institutions, which should lead to medium- to long-term effects. Additional training and awareness activities directly focusing on the key target group (women) would help in sustaining the positive effect of the project. The community warden system should be extended, and further potential wardens should receive the required training. Focus in the next phase should be on wardens who will have intensive contact with women and men in the target area. It is important that municipalities take a lead on this initiative, as they are best placed to understand which groups of persons already have contact to households and can transport recycling topics. • The support of women’s cooperatives has proven successful and has helped in both generating work opportunities for women as well as improving social cohesion. Further initiatives on supporting additional cooperatives should be taken by USBPM and UNDP. • When expanding the community warden system, special care should be taken that gender equality and women’s empowerment issues are considered as waste segregation at household level is linked with women. Such persons should be selected for the community warden system which can establish good contacts to women. • The project has been designed within a timeframe of 18 months, however, for the Projects focusing on waste management, a longer implementation period would have allowed to measure and monitor the short and medium-term impacts of the project and to clearly see the outputs of the project. • The sub- activities of the project should be initially designed to better plan the activities, a detailed workplan of the activities and sub-activities should be integrated to the project document as strong efforts were made to coordinate

	<p>and make the required linkages between the activities for the successfully completion of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collaboration between local government institutions has a great potential to increase the effectiveness and impacts of the Projects • In the absence of municipal capacity in data collection, reporting on actual achievements such as Percentage of savings per ton of solid waste achieved or “Percentage of point to product conversion as a marker for active participation to incentivization programme” becomes difficult to track and report. Municipal capacity for generation of reliable waste statistics is key to demonstrate the viability of community-based recycling initiatives in the long run. More capacity building activities for municipalities should be designed and executed from the beginning of such projects so that municipalities can generate such statistics in the long run. • Community recycling initiatives are undertaken in a copy-paste manner without considering whether their Theory of Change (ToC) is robust and whether such initiatives do pay off. One clear assumption of this project was that community-based recycling is possible via awareness raising plus an incentive system to make it more appealing. However, a discussion with Kilis Municipality reveals that it is the previous 200 informal waste pickers (now formally recognized by the municipality with their vests and continuing this task under a more recognized formal arrangement) who are bringing the most to Civic Amenity Centers in return for cash (and not necessarily requesting products)¹. While the intervention is supposed to be a community-based initiative, it seems it is still more relevant for informal waste pickers. As long as informal waste pickers are treated in a right-based manner, they may be more efficient than a full-scale community initiative and ToCs of future projects should be based on extensive field work to claim the contrary. • Training and awareness raising programs reach critical number of SuTPs and host communities, but their effects remain largely unknown. Impact assessments should be more rigorous and carefully planned ahead of the activities. Quality of consultants is key in that regard. Sampling size, profile of the sample should be more carefully planned and executed to get reliable estimates of impact. If awareness raising activities are not meaningfully reaching the total population of pilot cities, IAs should only be executed with the segments that were properly targeted by trainings
<p>Follow-up Actions</p>	<p>As PRM’s focus is on humanitarian activities, any development interventions has to have a humanitarian aspect to it such as livelihoods and social cohesion. PRM tries to fill the funding gaps in areas which are under-funded and this regards waste management is not a priority as EU invests large sums in this area, hence UNDP proposes to continue partnership with PRM in livelihoods and social cohesion activities. The focus for future partnership would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaling up and expanding the livelihood components of previous PRM funded projects on supporting women cooperatives • Focusing on Digital Livelihoods, Agricultural Development, and Social Cohesion & Protection • Targeting the most vulnerable refugee women (Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi and other) <p>UNDP received demand from Hatay and Akçakale/Şanlıurfa municipalities in support of women cooperatives which UNDP proposes to address by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting 400 local women - refugee and host community member - in building technical skills for production, income generation, marketing, and life skills such as communication, financial literacy, and language • safe environment for women for resilience building and enhancing social cohesion through psychosocial support and social events • Establishing, supporting and facilitating integration of new and/or existing women cooperatives to national, regional and global markets

Project Information	
Award ID:	00105448
CO Focal Points:	Syria Crisis Resilience and Response Portfolio
Partners:	Kilis and Şanlıurfa Haliliye Municipalities
Project resources:	
Report prepared by:	Öykü Uluçay / Beyza Onal
Date:	11.10.2021