



**Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for  
Access to Justice for All in Turkey Phase II (ILAP)  
Second Steering Committee Meeting**

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| <b>Date:</b>  | 09 July 2021, Friday / 10.00 - 12.00   |
| <b>Place:</b>   | Online Meeting (Zoom program)  |
| <b>Participants:</b>  |  |
| <b>Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA)</b>   | Mr. Murat Yalkın, Head of the International Relations and EU Center  |
| <b>T.R. Ministry of Justice (MoJ)</b>   | Ms. Meral Gökkaya, Head of the Judicial Support and Victims' Services Department   |
| <b>Embassy of Sweden in Ankara, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)</b> | Ms. Malin Stawe, Counsellor/Head of Pre-Accession & Humanitarian Assistance<br>Mr. Özgür Tek, National Program Officer   |
| <b>T.R. Presidency of Turkey Strategy and Budget Directorate</b>                                | Ms. Gülüzar Güleç, Assistant Specialist<br>Ms. Halime Yılmaz, Strategy and Budget Expert   |
| <b>United Nations Development Programme Turkey Country Office (UNDP)</b>                        | Ms. Seher Alacacı Ariner, Assistant Resident Representative (Programme)<br>Ms. Burcu Dıraor Aydın, Inclusive and Democratic Governance Portfolio Manager<br>Mr. Orhun Yurtvermez, Project Manager<br>Ms. Aslı Çoban, Gender Analyst<br>Ms. Gülgün Şerefoğlu, Project Assistant<br>Ms. Eda Şenel, Project Assistant<br>Ms. Kıvılcım Kardelen Yok, Project Clerk<br>Ms. Sema Aksoy, Law Expert<br>Mr. Musa Toprak, Law Expert<br>Mr. Gökhan Dinçer, Communication Expert |

**Agenda**

- I. Opening Remarks*
- II. Presentation of the Project Activity Plan and Current Status in Implementation*
- III. Presentation of Training Needs Assessment and discussion on Name Suggestions for Violence Prevention Centers*
- IV. Closing Remarks*



## I. OPENING REMARKS

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Assistant Resident Representative (Programme) Ms. Seher ALACACI ARINER, commenced her opening speech by welcoming the representatives of Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Embassy of Sweden in Ankara, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Presidency of Turkey Strategy and Budget Directorate. She emphasized how the importance of this project increased after Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. She underlined the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the newly established violence prevention centers and indicated that the project is being implemented strongly through continuous, effective and valuable partnerships with relevant institutions. She then introduced the new Inclusive and Democratic Governance Portfolio Manager Ms. Burcu DIRAOR AYDIN and presented the agenda of the meeting.
- Head of UTBA's International Relations and EU Center, Mr. Murat YALKIN welcomed the participants and conveyed UTBA Vice President Mr. Ünsal Toker's greetings message. He agreed to the importance of the projects activities and continuous strong partnerships, indicating that there will be concrete outputs of all activities. He mentioned that they see no problem with the sustainability of the established centers. He indicated that the important topic to continue talking about is how the centers will work in the upcoming years and what results and feedbacks will be compiled. He indicated that the most important part of the first phase of the project (Legal Aid Phase I) was performance evaluation. He said that by collaborating with staff at the centers to collect data and make analysis will be important for conducting performance evaluation. He said that working on 100 similar type of cases will show what people subjected to violence go through and the processes to find solutions. Mr. Yalkin pointed out that this would help the project in a great way. He ended his speech by saying that they are happy with the ILAP project and its progress.
- Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Head of Judicial Support and Victims' Services Department, Ms. Meral GÖKKAYA, indicated that they are happy to see the successful progression within the project despite the COVID-19 pandemic. She mentioned the importance of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CMK) list for lawyers and the fact that they have been waiting for developments regarding this matter. She indicated they expect lawyers who were trained in the project to start their duty. She emphasized that Ministry of Justice wants to see the progress in terms of combatting violence against women. Ms. Gökkaya said that they are hoping to make their voices heard via Forensic Interview Rooms (AGO), supporting the Violence Prevention Centers and Judicial Support Centers (ADM). She also indicated that the Ministry would like to see concrete steps towards the continuity of the project, the importance of having trained lawyers work in violence against women cases and draft related reports. She indicated that the most needed initiation is judicial support for women and improving their access to justice. Ms. Gökkaya explained that the Ministry of Justice would like bar associations to work in close coordination with the Judicial Support and Victims' Services Department for better results. She mentioned that they would like to talk with UTBA about scaling up the violence prevention centers nationwide.



- Embassy of Sweden in Ankara, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Counsellor/Head of Pre-Accession & Humanitarian Assistance Ms. Malin STAWÉ indicated the importance of involving more Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the project, especially for multilateral communication. She hopes that the parliament report will be good in terms of preventing violence against women and girls. She explained that Sweden and the European Union are greatly concerned about Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. Ms. Stawé also mentioned that they are satisfied about national actors contributions to this project. She indicated that the discussion about spreading the project to all bar associations around Turkey would be good through strong collaboration and coordination between partners and institutions, mentioning that working with Judicial Support Centers (ADM), Forensic Interview Rooms (AGO) and other help desks would highly support the violence prevention mechanisms and violence prevention centers. Ms. Stawé also mentioned that they would like to hear the experiences of lawyers during the visit to pilot provinces. She also stated that the independent evaluation report could put forward new ideas for future initiations. She also indicated that the Second Regional Workshop was good in terms of the interaction between partners and CSOs, and that they would like to see more of these regional meetings, with the involvement of more CSOs such as Purple Roof and KAMER, as well as other UN agencies like UN Women, UNHCR and UNICEF. She indicated that it is important to put forward a model for performance evaluation. She emphasized that the current focus of the project should be ensuring the sustainability of the centers. Ms. Stawé concluded her speech by saying that they are excited for the newly established centers and they are going to participate in the opening ceremony whenever it is organized.
- UNDP Law Expert Ms. Sema AKSOY, indicated that the sustainability of the centers must be ensured. She said that it is important for judges and prosecutors to be informed about using Judicial Support Centers (ADM) and Forensic Interview Rooms (AGO). She mentioned the importance of focusing on the Fourth National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women.

## **II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITY PLAN AND CURRENT STATUS IN IMPLEMENTATION**

- UNDP Project Manager Mr. Orhun YURTVERMEZ, gave a presentation about the Project Activity Plan and Current Status in Implementation explaining the following topics:
  - The current situation in implementation and results,
  - Future planning in the scope of the activity plan,
  - Budget situation analysis,
  - Risk evaluation,
  - Developments and new activity suggestions.

He shortly summarised all activities completed within the scope of the project, such as the Training of Trainers and Tailor Made Trainings, establishment of 6 of the Violence Prevention Centers and the situation of the 7th Pilot Province, Nevşehir. He emphasized that the discussion about scaling up violence prevention centers nationwide is a very important development which indicates that project partners are strongly owning and supporting the project. He mentioned that the legal aid services provided at the centers will be coordinated with the Ministry of Justice, Judicial Support and Victims' Services Department so that vulnerable groups access to justice is improved. He also emphasized the importance of signing protocols with institutions.



### III. DISCUSSION ON NAME SUGGESTIONS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTERS

- UNDP Communication Expert Mr. Gökhan DİNÇ presented the names suggested for violence prevention centers.
  - Support Center for People Subjected to Violence,
  - Judicial Support and Advice Center,
  - Legal Aid and Trust Center,
  - No Violence Society Center,
  - Justice Center against Violence,
  - Judicial Advice and Solution Center,
  - End Violence Against Women Center,
  - Supporting Women Victims of Violence Center,
  - Zero Tolerance to Violence Against Women Center,
  - GÜNYÜZÜ (A metaphorical name which indicates that the women subjected to violence will find the light, meaning they will find peace).
- All participants gave their feedbacks and '*(Province name) Bar Victims of Violence Support Centers*' was selected as the official new name of the centers in 7 pilot provinces. The name will begin with the provincial bar's name and by this way the name will carry its formal identity.

### IV. PRESENTATION OF TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- UNDP Law Expert Mr. Musa TOPRAK, explained about the learning management system and online platform which will be established within the scope of the 3rd component of the project. Mr. Toprak made a presentation about the 5 priority modules which he identified by his Training Needs Assessment (TNA) which he drafted for Activity 3.1. He explained that the TNA was drafted based on the previous fields visits and findings during this project's inception phase. Mr. Toprak mentioned that in 2010 there were 70 thousand lawyers in Turkey and in 2021 there are 143 thousand lawyers, indicating that this number will increase even more within the upcoming years, raising the need for more trainings that include both on-the-job vocational trainings and internships for lawyers in Turkey. He explained that he prepared the TNA with creating a brand new online training system in mind which will get lots of attention from lawyers. He emphasized that the system will be user-friendly and accessible via computer, mobile and other platforms, allowing lawyers to easily listen to modules anywhere they want. He also indicated that this system will create a platform that will be sustainable and easily usable for new initiations. He emphasized that inexperienced lawyers should be supported in the field and contributing to their skills/capacity developed is crucial for the profession.
- UNDP Assistant Resident Representative (Programme) Ms. Seher ALACACI ARINER, indicated that within the scope of the ILAP project, the National Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women could be supported especially with this distance learning system, suggesting that courses on combatting violence or legal aid could be added. On the other hand, she mentioned that gender equality trainings could be provided to lawyers. She also mentioned the Violence Against Women (VAW) Project, coordinated together with the



Ministry of Justice, UTBA and CSOs. She continued her speech by mentioning the work done together with other UN entities within the scope of gender groups. In addition to these, considering the impacts of the project besides its judicial aspect, she emphasized the necessity of working in effective cooperation with the Ministry of Interior on law enforcement, the Ministry of Family and Social Policies on ŞÖNİMs and accordingly she suggested meeting and consulting with the aforementioned public institutions and organizations, CSOs, UNWomen, UNICEF, as well as UNHCR at project advisory committee meetings. She concluded her speech by stating that UNDP supports the 100 case studies proposed by UTBA, which will constitute a pilot application for performance evaluation criteria.

## V. DECISIONS TAKEN / CLOSING REMARKS

- The current situation of the project was presented to all partners and all participants agreed on the future activity and implementation plan.
- The new name for the 7 centers was selected. (*Province name*) *Bar Victims of Violence Support Center*.
- Third and fourth regional meetings will be added as new activities.
- The TNA was presented and accepted by the committee.
- The following entities will be invited to the advisory committee meetings: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Family and Social Policies, UNWomen, UNICEF and UNHCR. Advisory Committee meetings will be held every 6 months.
- Steering committee meetings will be held every 6 months.
- A no-cost extension can be discussed in future steering committee meetings (Surplus budget, new activities and/or preparation (inception) for Phase III).
- The possibility of a new project, which could be deemed as Legal Aid Phase III, could be considered in future committee meetings depending on this projects results and will of project partners. All project partners explained that if the sustainability could be ensured and considering the fact that UTBA and MoJ wants to scale up the centers nationwide, another project could be planned.



## ANNEX I – Participant List

### SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING PARTICIPANTS

| No | Name-Surname         | Institution  | Title   | E-mail                         |
|----|----------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 1  | Murat Yalkın         | Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA)             | UTBA International Relations and EU Center Coordinator                            | murat.yalkin@barobirlik.org.tr |
| 2  | Meral Gökkaya        | Ministry of Justice (MoJ)                            | General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Head of Department of Victim Rights Unit | meral_ozturk@adalet.gov.tr     |
| 3  | Malin Stawe          | Swedish Embassy / SIDA                               | Counsellor/Head of Pre-Accession & Humanitarian Assistance                        | malin.stawe@gov.se             |
| 4  | Özgür Tek            | Swedish Embassy / SIDA                               | National Program Officer  | ozgur.tek@gov.se               |
| 5  | Gülizar Güleç        | Presidency of Turkey Strategy and Budget Directorate | Assistant Specialist  | gulizar.gulec@sbb.gov.tr       |
| 6  | Halime Yılmaz        | Presidency of Turkey Strategy and Budget Directorate | Strategy and Budget Expert  | halime.yilmaz@sbb.gov.tr       |
| 9  | Seher Alacacı Arıner | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)          | Assistant Resident Representative (Programme)                                     | seher.alacaci@undp.org         |
| 10 | Burcu Dıraor Aydın   | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)          | Inclusive and Democratic Governance Portfolio Manager                             | burcu.diraor@undp.org          |
| 11 | Orhun Yurtvermez     | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)          | Project Manager   | orhun.yurtvermez@undp.org      |
| 12 | Aslı Çoban           | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)          | Gender Analyst  | asli.coban@undp.org            |



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|----|-----------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 13 | Gülgün Şerefoğlu      | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Project Assistant    | gulgun.serefogu@undp.org |
| 14 | Eda Şenel             | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Project Assistant    | eda.senel@undp.org       |
| 15 | Kıvılcım Kardelen Yok | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Project Clerk        | kardelen.yok@undp.org    |
| 16 | Musa Toprak           | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Law Expert           | musatoprak@gmail.com     |
| 17 | Sema Aksoy            | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Law Expert           | av.semaaksoy@hotmail.com |
| 18 | Gökhan Dinç           | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Communication Expert | gkndinc@gmail.com        |