



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

Date:	14 April 2022, Thursday / 13.30 - 14.45
Place:	Online Meeting
Participants:	
Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA)	Mr. Murat Yalkın, Director of International Relations and EU Center Ms. Gülşah İyigün, International Relations and EU Center, Project Officer
T.R. Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	Mr. Ramazan Gürkan, Head of Judicial Support and Victims' Services Directorate Ms. Gökçe Bahar Öztürk, Directorate of Judicial Support and Victims' Services, Investigator Judge
Embassy of Sweden in Ankara, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	Ms. Malin Stawe, Counsellor/Head of Pre-Accession & Humanitarian Assistance Mr. Özgür Tek, National Program Officer
T.R. Presidency of Turkey Strategy and Budget Directorate	Ms. Gülizar Güleç, Assistant Specialist
United Nations Development Programme Turkey Country Office (UNDP)	Ms. Seher Alacacı Ariner, Assistant Resident Representative (Programme) Ms. Burcu Dıraor Aydın, Inclusive and Democratic Governance Portfolio Manager Mr. Orhun Yurtvermez, Project Manager Ms. Aslı Çoban, Gender Analyst Ms. Öykü Uluçay, Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst Ms. Işıl Erdemli, Human Rights and Access to Justice Expert Ms. Gülgün Şerefoğlu, Project Assistant Ms. Eda Şenel, Project Assistant Ms. Kıvılcım Kardelen Yok, Project Assistant Mr. Gökhan Dinç, Communication Expert Mr. Onur Çağışan, Representative of Communication Campaign Implementing Company

Agenda

- I. Opening Remarks*
- II. Presentation of the Project Activity Plan and Current Status in Implementation*
- III. Presentation of Suggested Activities and Justification for No-Cost Extension Period*
- IV. Closing Remarks*



I. OPENING REMARKS

- Ms. Seher ALACACI ARINER (UNDP), commenced her opening speech by welcoming the representatives of the 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 indicated that the project is being implemented strongly through continuous, effective and valuable partnerships with relevant institutions and then she presented the agenda of the meeting which includes a brief summary of the current implementation situation of project activities, activity plan for the official remaining time of the project, and the suggested planning for the no-cost extension period. She underlined the importance of sustaining the operationalization of the established Support Centers for Victims of Violence and ensuring the monitoring and evaluation of the centers in terms of quality assurance of the services that will be provided at the centers. She indicated that the remaining activities of the project under the third and fourth components are planned to be completed together with the implementation of additional activities.
- Mr. Ramazan GÜRKAN (MoJ), indicated that they attach importance to the centers established within the scope of the project which has been implemented in cooperation with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA) and emphasizing the importance of the benefit of the model that comes with the centers, he stated that they support the expansion of the model and work on violence against children and child advocacy, as well as the field of violence against women. He underlined the importance of the feedback that will be received from the centers as well as the monitoring mechanisms which will address the quality of the advocacy services provided at the centers. He indicated that they have the expectation of supervision and improvement of the quality of the services which also can be enhanced during the no-cost extension (NCE) period. Mr. Gürkan suggested that an activity that can be realized during the NCE for awareness-raising for the lawyers working at the centers within the local mechanisms of the MoJ, Judicial Support and Victims' Services Department which support victims of violence through psycho-social and legal counselling services. He emphasized that raising awareness about the local mechanisms of the MoJ will contribute to lawyers' stronger demand for the use of Forensic Interview Rooms. He indicated that the NCE would be beneficial to organize coordination meetings with the participation of the relevant local units of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior which will also increase the general usefulness of the centers as they will increase the recognition of the centers at the local level. He underlined the importance of the implementation of the performance criteria which will raise the awareness of the victims of violence about the services that lawyers will provide at the centers. He indicated that further steps -such as the third phase of the project- should be taken with bar associations that are willing to implement the performance criteria. He concluded his speech by stating their will to join the field visits.
- Ms. Malin STAWÉ (SIDA) commenced her opening speech by underlining the need for a no-cost extension that has been discussed at the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the project and stating they also agreed on initiation of preparation work for the extension as the donor organization. She stated the opening ceremony of the centers was a joyful and successful event as an important step through focusing on ensuring the sustainability and



continuity of success of the centers as well as their operationalization. She underlined that the key success factor will be the information/communication campaign together with outreach and interaction with the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that have expertise and insight on how to make women and other victims of violence more prepared for and able to seek the legal aid that they need at the local and national level. Ms. Stawe emphasized the importance of monitoring the performance of the centers and working on the outline of the monitoring and evaluation which is already formed by UNDP. She underlined that the current changes in the legislation of the legal aid fees could cause problems in long term, however, the project budget has not foreseen covering the legal aid fees since it would not be sustainable. She concluded her speech by indicating that they are looking forward to assessing the consolidated proposals of UTBA and UNDP together with the budget for the no-cost extension period.

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

- Mr. Orhun YURTVERMEZ (UNDP), gave a presentation on 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,
 - New activities and suggestions for no-cost extension period.

He summarised all completed and ongoing activities within the scope of the project, such as the situation of the expert hiring process and establishment of the distance learning system, and bringing forward the activities within the scope of the fourth component in consultation with UTBA which are important regarding performance management. He mentioned the expectations of project partners and pilot bar associations regarding the operationalization of the established and opened centers in 6 provinces. He emphasized the importance of joint field visits which will be realized for working on the center directive with the participation of UTBA representatives, preparation of monitoring and evaluation framework of the centers, and further enhancement of the local outreach activities within the scope of the communication campaign. Mr. Yurtvermez presented the below-listed issues which are foreseen to be completed within the scope of the project for the assessment and decision of the Steering Committee:

- Decision about the 7th pilot province and the furniture and technical equipment procured for this center,
- Re-evaluation of the organization of international study visits within the scope of the fourth component of the project.



On behalf of the UNDP, he suggested the below-listed activities for the no-cost extension period:

- Piloting 150 violence cases at the centers,
- Organization of two additional trainings (online) for capacity development of the lawyers who will work at the centers (Training of Trainers and Tailor-Made Trainings)
- Developing the monitoring and evaluation framework for the centers in consultation with UTBA,
- Upgrading of the interview rooms at the centers in line with the trauma-informed approach,
- Organization of joint field visits to accelerate and improve the operationalization of the centers,
- Organization of two additional online regional meetings,
- Hiring new NGO, law, and monitoring and coordination experts,
- Transition of the centers' name in English: using "Support Centers for Violence Victims" instead of "Victims of Violence Support Centers",
- Organization of monthly coordination meetings with the participation of the UTBA and pilot bar associations,
- Increasing the frequency of Advisory Board Meetings and Steering Committee Meetings.

III. BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNICATION/OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

- UNDP Communication Expert Mr. Gökhan DİNÇ presented a brief introduction of the ongoing planning for the communication campaign. He emphasized the main target of the campaign is to inform the victims of violence about the centers through local media tools including local TV channels, radios and websites. He indicated that the presidents of the pilot bars and the related commissions' presidents within the pilot bars will be the faces of the campaign. He stated that the campaign will be conducted in cooperation with NGOs as well as the municipalities at the local level, and with the support of the goodwill ambassadors of the UNDP and other UN Agencies at the national level. Mr. Dinç then answered the questions of the participants and underlined the sub-activities of the campaign including the organization of meetings with the representatives of local NGOs, and the website that will be established to provide campaign-specific information that can be disseminated for the use of local actors working in the field of violence against women.

IV. DECISIONS TAKEN / CLOSING REMARKS

- Mr. Murat Yalkın (UTBA) emphasized that measures should be taken to strengthen the Victims of Violence Support Centers and ensure their functionality, and stated that they want to pave the way for these works and to support pilot bar associations within the scope of the project. He underlined that the final decisions regarding the implementation of the activities related to the performance criteria within the scope of the fourth component should be taken until December. He emphasized that the UTBA will present the updated professional rules for lawyers in December which could be an opportunity in terms of presenting the results of the activities under the fourth component to the relevant commissions in the UTBA. He underlined that this project is the only source that can provide the relevant data for performance management of the lawyers, thus they demand to bring forward the activities and studies on performance criteria to present a model in this context. Mr. Yalkın concluded his remarks by underlining that they want the



implementation of the project to speed up in the remaining period and the project activities to be completed within the next year.

- Ms. Malin STAWÉ (SIDA) suggested that the additional regional meetings should be held face to face to enhance the coordination between local actors.
- Ms. Seher ALACACI ARINER (UNDP) stated that they want to complete the project activities on the basis of quality and in a sustainable manner with the strong ownership of the project partners. She underlined that the project implementation will be pursued by revealing a system for the future and evaluating the effectiveness of the project. She stated that the preparations for the no-cost extension period, which is also demanded by UTBA and welcomed by SIDA, will be completed within April 2022. She underlined the importance of the effective operations of the project boards (Advisory Board and Steering Committee) and all project partners' allocation of time for the board meetings of. She indicated that the comments and suggestions of the committee members regarding the presentation of project manager Mr. Orhun Yurtvermez will be received through meeting minutes. Ms. ARINER then briefly introduced Ms. Aslı ÇOBAN, Gender Analyst at UNDP, and Ms. Öykü ULUÇAY, Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst at UNDP, who are and will be involved with the project activities in line with their expertise.
- Ms. Aslı ÇOBAN (UNDP) emphasized that UNDP is planning several activities to establish and enhance the centers' cooperation and relationship with all actors at the local level. She stated that they are eagerly waiting to start working in the field.
- Ms. Burcu DIRAOR AYDIN (UNDP) emphasized the draft studies have been conducted by UNDP to enhance the coordination at the local level and to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the centers. She introduced Ms. Işıl ERDEMLİ who recently joined IDG Portfolio as the Human Rights and Access to Justice Expert and contributed to the draft reporting framework of the centers.
- The representatives of the Ministry of Justice stated their demand for participating in the field visits.
- The current situation of the project was presented to all partners and all participants agreed on the future activity and implementation plan.
- The English transition of the name of the centers changed to “*Support Center for Violence Victims*”.
- Third and fourth regional meetings will be added as new activities considering the active participation of non-governmental organizations.
- The no-cost extension proposal will be consolidated and sent to SIDA for their assessment and approval within April 2022.
- Meetings will be held to increase the cooperation between the centers, provincial representatives of Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Family and Social Services to raise awareness among lawyers.



ANNEX I – Participant List

THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING PARTICIPANTS

No	Name-Surname	Institution	Title	E-mail
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