



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

Date:	13 April 2023, Thursday / 10.00 - 11.00
Place:	Online Meeting
Participants:	
Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA)	Mr. Erineç Sağkan, President of UTBA Mr. Murat Yalkın, Director of International Relations and EU Center Ms. Gülşah Gülen Çiftçi, Project Assistant
T.R. Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	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 and Humanitarian Assistance Mr. Özgür Tek, National Program Officer
Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Ms. Gülhanım Erol, Strategy and Budget Specialist Mr. Aşkın Çetinkaya, Strategy and Budget Specialist Assistant Mr. Mert Can Selver, Strategy and Budget Specialist Assistant
United Nations Development Programme Türkiye Country Office (UNDP)	Ms. Louisa Vinton, Resident Representative Mr. Miodrag Dragisic, Deputy Resident Representative Ms. Esra Ulukan Fettahoğlu, RBM / Programme Analyst Mr. Orhun Yurtvermez, Project Manager Ms. Gülgün Şerefoğlu, Project Assistant Ms. Eda Şenel, Project Assistant

Agenda

I. Opening Remarks

II. Results achieved and suggested modifications for post-disaster recovery support

III. Decisions Taken and Closing Remarks

I. OPENING REMARKS

- Ms. Louisa VINTON (UNDP), started her opening speech by greeting 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 Strategy and Budget, thanking all sides for their cooperation. She stated sadness and extended condolences for the victims of the earthquake and thanked all parties for the flexibility they have shown for post-disaster activities. She indicated that the project is resuming strong momentum, mentioning that the programme is adjusting to commence all needs. She concluded her opening speech by emphasizing the greater need for legal aid services in line with partnerships together with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in the earthquake response.

- Mr. Erinç SAĞKAN (UTBA), greeted all participants and highlighted the importance of the project in terms of it being the first project implemented in the field of legal aid in Türkiye. He summarized the achievements and progress of the project so far and mentioned that all activities of the second phase are being closely followed by their management. He emphasized that lawyers working in the field of legal aid must be equipped with strong knowledge in order to successfully achieve providing legal aid, also mentioning that the proper use of code of conduct is essential in this regard. He further stressed the serious nature of the situation after the earthquake, especially in terms of access to justice. He indicated that hundreds of lawyers lost their lives and thousands lost their homes or offices. He gave brief information on the damages the earthquake caused on the bar association buildings in the disaster areas. He indicated that legal aid for disadvantaged groups is urgent after the earthquake disaster and expressed that they are thankful for the quick and positive response on using part of the Project budget for helping the demolished bar associations. He concluded his speech by indicating that the cooperation between all parties in achieving its goals is of valuable importance and expressed that they are happy with the results so far.
- Ms. Malin STAWÉ (SIDA) started her opening remarks by greeting all sides and passing condolences and respect for all the lives lost and damaged during and after the earthquakes. She stated that it is inspiring to see the adaptation of the Project to the urgent needs of the country in the post-disaster setting in Türkiye. She further explained that the legal aid system has been damaged and is struggling to get back, which is why all sides must be more committed more than ever to provide help on legal aspects and especially for women victims. She stated that assisting bar associations in Hatay and Adiyaman symbolizes Sweden's solidarity with Türkiye. She emphasized the importance of the upcoming information campaign in getting centers in pilot provinces known and functional. Moreover, she said that establishing the distance learning platform for lawyers and engaging with CSOs through regional meetings are important for implementation of the project. Ms. STAWÉ concluded her speech by expressing that they are glad to be cooperating with project partners with full dedication to make the best possible use of resources.
- Ms. Gökçe Bahar ÖZTÜRK (MoJ) started her speech by expressing their sadness about the earthquake. She greeted everyone and thanked all sides for the cooperation and achievements of the project. She especially thanked United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sweden for their efforts in earthquake recovery, indicating that they would also like to take part in any work that is carried out in this regard. She indicated that MoJ is continuing work and legal services from containers and tents which serve as courthouses in Hatay and Adiyaman. She further explained that the MoJ is trying to strengthen and structure their work in areas affected by earthquakes. She briefly explained that there are 300 volunteering public prosecutors who have taken the duty of helping the victims in the affected areas, emphasizing that they are trying their best to prevent any sort of legal setbacks, while also mentioning the need for trainings related to trauma, interview and approach.

II. RESULTS ACHIEVED AND SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS FOR POST-DISASTER RECOVERY SUPPORT

- Mr. Orhun YURTVERMEZ (UNDP), gave a presentation (Annex II) on the Current Status in Implementation, Achievements, Activity Plan, Budget and Plans for Earthquake Recovery explaining the following topics:
 - Current Status in Implementation and Results/Achievements: The details of on-going and completed activities were shared with the committee regarding all 4 components of the Project. In addition, some statistical data that emerged as a result of the implementation were presented.
 - Post-disaster Support and Recovery Plan: The post-disaster situation of the affected areas and emerging needs, specifically in terms of human rights and access to justice, were shared. The recovery plan set, the estimated budget, and the repurposing of the budget were explained.

- Activity Plan: The activity plan for the activities to be carried out during the remaining period of the project and their planning were shared with the committee. Also, the changes in the activity plan was explained in accordance with the post-disaster recovery planning.
- Budget: The financial status of the project was presented as expenditures, remaining budget, and delivery ratio.
- Mr. Murat YALKIN (UTBA), indicated that the translated lawyer profession ethics materials were very useful for UTBA. He emphasized that the activity for lawyers' performance automation system and ethic code is one of the most important outputs of the project. He mentioned that UTBA will revise and update the lawyers' ethic code soon. He further explained that conducting field visits alongside the information campaigns for centers in pilot provinces will be important for operationalization.
- Ms. Gökçe Bahar ÖZTÜRK (MoJ), indicated that the Ministry of Justice would also like to support and take part in field visits with UNDP and UTBA for operationalization of centers in pilot provinces.
- Mr. Özgür TEK (SIDA), explained that there is limited time to carry out all activities and thanked everyone for their efforts in terms of the post-disaster recovery planning. He mentioned that they will soon have a coordination meeting with all partners of SIDA. He indicated that the foreseen plan for the earthquake within the project has been shared with their headquarters in Stockholm and that they are waiting their positive response on it. He further explained that SIDA attaches great importance to stick with the activity plan and realize the outcomes as much as possible for the remaining project period.

III. DECISIONS TAKEN AND CLOSING REMARKS

- Repurposing of the project and planning for post-disaster recovery support was accepted by all project partners.
- Field visits will be conducted to pilot bar associations for the operationalization of the centers. UNDP, UTBA and MoJ will take part in the field visits.
- SIDA will inform all parties about the final approval of repurposing of the project budget by authorities in Stockholm.
- Project implementation will continue as presented in the activity plan during the meeting.

Annexes:

Annex I - Participant List

Annex II - Presentation

ANNEX I – Participant List**FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

No	Name-Surname	Institution	Title	E-mail
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