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MINUTES OF THE LOCAL APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (LPAC) MEETING
Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey (Phase II)
17 April 2019
UN House – 15th floor meeting room

Chair: Mrs. Seher Alacacı Arıner; UNDP Assistant Resident Representative (Programme) (ARR)

Participants:

- Ms. Gökçe Bayrakçıken Tüzel, Gender Advisor, UNDP
Ms. Esra Fettahoğlu, RBM Programme Associate, UNDP
Mr. Murat Yalkın, Director of International Relations and EU Centre, UTBA
Mr. Özgür Tek, National Programme Officer, Embassy of Sweden, SIDA
Ms. Sezin Üskent, IDG Portfolio Manager, UNDP
Mr. Orhun Yurtvermez, Project Manager, UNDP
Mr. Ünsal Toker, Deputy President of Union of Turkish Bar Associations, UTBA
Ms. Malin Stawe, Counsellor, Embassy of Sweden in Ankara
Mr. Ramazan Gürkan, Head of Department, General Directorate for Criminal Affairs, Ministry of Justice
Ms. Büşra Yıldırım, Social Worker, General Directorate for Criminal Affairs, Ministry of Justice
Ms. Gülüzar Güleç, Assistant Expert, Presidency of Strategy and Budget
Ms. Emine Canan Sarıtaş, Expert, Presidency of Strategy and Budget
Ms. Gülhanım Erol, Expert, Presidency of Strategy and Budget
Ms. Gizem Tülüoğlu, Project Assistant, UNDP

Opening Remarks:

- ARR welcomed participants and expressed thanks for the work of all parties in reaching this stage,
- Ms. Stawe, Counsellor at the Embassy of Sweden to Turkey, welcomed participants and expressed the gratification by their part with this project. Ms. Stawe stated that having been working in the branch of pre-accession aid in the Embassy of Sweden to Turkey during the welcome remark. It was highlighted that Ms. Stawe observed the projections and preparations made by the project experts regarding the future of the project and the coordination between the partners. While the Counsellor expressed the gratification, it was



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mentioned that the preparations for taking the necessary steps for the next phase of the projects have been initiated.

- As Ms. Stawe highlighted that both Turkey and Sweden are members of the European Council which is a good opportunity, given the fact that a common ground is provided while working for legal aid mechanisms for vulnerable groups in Turkey.
- Vice President of Union of Turkish Bar Associations Mr. Ünsal Toker, Esq. stated that they participated in the majority of the field visits and that the team has been working efficiently. The enthusiasm of the bar associations were observed as well as the government agencies had an eager approach to the project. It was mentioned that President of UTBA Mr. Metin Feyzioglu, Esq. had also participated in the coordination meetings of the project and that Mr. Feyzioglu has been following the work of the project closely.

Agenda Items:

Project Document Presentation:

The IDG Portfolio Manager Ms. Sezin Üskent made a brief presentation on the objectives, expected results, planned activities and management arrangements of the project. Additionally to the PowerPoint presentation, in summary:

- UTBA and Ministry of Justice General Directorate of Criminal Affairs continues to be the beneficiaries of the project. The final beneficiaries the project are the groups which participate in the project and those who will be influenced by it.
- The specific objective of the project is to enhance the legal aid system in Turkey with a new approach by establishing coordination between the actors, establishment of the system, capacity improvement for those who will work within the system, enhancement of the monitoring and evaluation.
- The components of the project:
 1. Component: To be more systematic and providing the coordination via necessary tools.
 2. Component: Processes of formal protocols and cooperation, all work regarding the establishment of ŞÖM (Violence Prevention Centre) are included.
 3. Component: Preparation of online training programme and its tests are included.
 4. Component: Awareness raising works to be done involving the performance evaluation criteria.
- The monitoring and evaluation system that is going to be established to track the influence of 2nd component is also preferred to be tested within the scope of this project. The results of field visits that has taken place within 3 months are reflected to the project. Within this framework, a 3-year budget has been prepared where the planned human resource can be seen as well.



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- With the 3 year experience obtained from the 1st phase of the project, existing risks could be foreseen and thus, the risks are worked on to be minimized and risks regarding political changes are included in the risk log as well.
- Valuable contributions from CSOs are also planned to be benefitted from with innovative and effective work, as they are crucial to the project.
- An efficient communication strategy is essential for supporting such objectives. This strategy is going to be updated frequently as much as possible.
- The project contains a Gender Equality Action Plan which will be prepared by Gender Supervisor of the project. Gender Supervisor has been employed with the background knowledge regarding the Poppy project who is also a lawyer.
- The IDG Portfolio Manager finished the presentation.

Discussions as per the Project Results and Outputs

- SIDA shared that shorter text is preferable within the project document. A new study on the usage of the budget is required.
- Ministry of Justice stated that the project document will be appraised in a few days. It had been expressed that there is a lack of information regarding the application of law no. 6284 and informative meetings targeting judges (or targeting judges, prosecutors and attorneys all together) could be arranged in the pilot provinces, since the project is fundamentally and solely focused on attorneys.
- UTBA expressed that they conduct vocational training courses in UTBA and that it is possible for judges and other related actors to be included in these training course depending on the demand.
- UNDP underlined that this issue could be included within the agenda of the meetings to be organized in the scope of 2nd and 3rd components. ARR (P) mentioned that the legal reform strategy has being revised. The aim with the project will be to reflect the policy analysis. The legal aid project generated efficient results and it would be advantageous to see the reflection of lessons learned in this policy. Hence, the new aforementioned strategy could be contributed within the scope of the project.
- Ministry of Justice shared their opinions regarding the benefits of a consecutive project. Mr. Gürkan shared insights regarding the new legal reform strategy. It is underlined that the improvement of service provided to disadvantaged groups and assertion are fundamental topics of this strategy.



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- SIDA underlined the importance of working result-oriented. Initially, a forum discussion was planned, however when it failed it was changed into coordination meetings. As long as it is successful, some elements of the project could be altered and improved in line with specific limits during the implementation of the project.
- Presidency of Strategy and Budget thanked everyone in the team and added that they are in the effort to learn as much as possible from the work of this project. Inclusion of the topics such as legal aid and victim rights into the strategy documents is supported and it is expected that the work is result-oriented and detailed. The legal reform strategy is supported to be added into the other high policy documents as the sector. Sensitivity of Sweden regarding human rights is within the knowledge and there is an effort for improving this issue as well.
- Gender Consultant Ms. Gökçe Bayrakçeken stated that one of the agenda is to empower women. As the team was working on the project document, the monitoring groups of Istanbul Agreement sent their replies to Turkey and defined the next steps for Turkey to take in the coming period. Thus, national and international documents exist which comply with one another which the project can utilize.

CONCLUSIONS

- ARR thanked all parties for attending and for the continued partnership. ARR highlighted that the Phase II can only succeed with effort and close cooperation among the partners and relevant stakeholders involved. Meeting minutes are prepared and sent via formal channels. Subsequently, with partners' signatures Ministry of Foreign Affairs will sign the project document. As this procedure is completed, the activities will begin.
- The LPAC members agreed on the relevance of the project as well as expected results, outputs and activities, which are envisaged in the proposed project document.
- ARR finally stated that it is preferred to make the agreement with SIDA as soon as possible. In order to avoid a gap between the phases, an extension request is possible. UTBA and MoJ also support this issue.

ATTACHMENTS:

Meeting Agenda

Participants list

LPAC presentation