



Ref: UNDP-TUR-2021 **0729-0010489**

Submission date: 30 July 2021

Dear Embassy of Sweden Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency,

Subject: “Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey Phase II” Project

Annual Progress Report

Reference is made to the contribution agreement between The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and UNDP for the project “Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey Phase II” effective 1 June 2019.

I am pleased to submit herewith the **Annual Progress Report** for the abovementioned project.

The report summarizes the progress of the project between 1 June 2020 and 30 June 2021 and provides an overview of the achievements, challenges, lessons learned, interim financial status and way forward.

I thank SIDA for its contributions to UNDP and look forward to strengthening our partnership in support of development in Turkey.

Orhun Yurtvermez
Project Manager
UNDP Turkey CO

Attached:

Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey Phase II
Progress Report

Ms. Malin Stawe
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Ankara, Turkey

Reporting Period	June 2020 – June 2021
Donor	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Country	Turkey
Project Title	Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey Phase II
Project Locations	Antalya, Balıkesir, Denizli, Mardin, Nevşehir, Rize, Samsun
Project ID (Atlas Award ID) Outputs (Atlas Project ID and Description) Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes	Project ID: 00113501 Output ID: 00111621 Description: Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of the Bar Associations for Improved Access to Justice for all in Turkey. CPD Outcomes: 2.1.1. Transparent and efficient judicial system providing better access to justice and redress for all, especially groups facing vulnerabilities 2.1.3. Enhanced capacity of civil society actors for participation in policy making and monitoring 3.1.1. Capacities of national gender equality machinery strengthened to promote women's rights and gender sensitive policies including local level
Implementing Partner(s)	Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA)
Project Start Date	1 June 2019
Project End Date	1 June 2022
LPAC Date	17 April 2019
Steering Committee/Project Board Meeting Dates	1 st Steering Committee Meeting: 11 March 2020 2 nd Steering Committee Meeting: 09 July 2021
SDG linkages	SDG 5: Gender Equality 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
GEN marker	GEN 3
2021 Delivery to Budget Ratio	41%
2021 Annual Work Plan Budget	450.000 USD
Total resources required	1.407.859 USD
Revenue received	1.044.194,41 USD
Unfunded budget	363.664 USD
UNDP Contact Person	Orhun Yurtvermez Project Manager UNDP Turkey CO E-mail: orhun.yurtvermez@undp.org Tel: +90 533 469 95 07

I. Executive summary

During the second year of the project, between June 2020 and June 2021, implementation was focused on the first three outcomes. A concise brief on the progress towards the project outcomes are summarized below:

Under Outcome 1 the following activity was implemented:

The 2nd Regional Meeting was organized (Activity 1.1) on 18 June 2021. Feedback was received from pilot Bar Associations and NGOs for enhancing local coordination. The meeting had an important impact on NGOs in terms of raising awareness and facilitating their networking with Bar Associations. The analysis of the ideas produced by NGOs and Bar Associations were consolidated in reports produced by project experts (Annex 1, Annex 2).

Under Outcome 2 the following activities were implemented:

- 6 Violence Prevention Centers (VPCs) were established in 6 pilot provinces despite the delays experienced because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The establishment of the 7th VPC in Nevşehir was delayed due to the management change in the Nevşehir Municipality.
- A new logo was designed for the project and a new website for the project was completed. The project website is updated on a regular basis.
- Tailor made and ToT trainings were completed in June 2021.

Under Outcome 3 the following activity was implemented:

The training needs assessment was completed and approved by Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA). The assessment forms the basis for the 5 priority modules which will be developed for UTBA's distance learning system. The assessment proposes the following 5 subjects for the modules:

- Foundations of human rights
- Notions of legal profession
- Practical internet applications for lawyers
- Effective advocacy in practice
- Basic accounting, financial literacy and office management for lawyers

The Project continues to prioritize gender mainstreaming and ensures that it is applied throughout the implementation of activities. Reports and communication materials are all produced with a gender-sensitive approach. Most importantly, the project serves SDG 5 by setting up VPCs that will be instrumental in combatting of violence against women and girls in Turkey. Implementation currently focuses on strengthening relevant institutions, promoting rule of law as well as accountability and transparency in institutions, which also serves relevant targets of SDG 16.

II. Background Information

Based on the achievements and results of the "Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey Phase I", the Project aims to develop more coordinated, qualified, and systematic approach into legal aid practices in Turkey and build awareness on the operationalization of performance management tools and mechanisms to enhance the efforts to ease access to justice. This will be achieved through developing mechanisms towards gaps for better coordination and improving networks among legal aid service providers (Union of Turkish Bar Associations, Bar Associations, and lawyers), women NGOs and civil society, as well as increased capacity of lawyers through online training. With the aim to develop a systematic and structured approach, the Project will implement pilot practices for specialized legal aid services towards gender-based violence victims. The Project will also address the implementation of the policy recommendations for improved legal aid services generated in Phase I and

will further support the institutional needs of Bar Associations through the dissemination of performance criteria and evaluation mechanisms that are introduced to ensure an effective, coordinated and monitored legal aid system in Turkey.

III. Progress Review

Outcomes and Outputs:

Outcome I: Enhanced coordination between women NGOs, civil society organizations, public bodies, lawyers and bar associations to improve the legal aid system in Turkey.

Within the scope of Outcome I, the Second Regional Workshop was completed on 18 June 2021 with the participation of Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), pilot bar associations, NGOs working in the field of combatting violence against women and United Nation Development Programme (UNDP). Project experts delivered the workshop reports. The Second Regional Workshop was held online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. 41 participants representing bar associations and NGOs were involved in the workshop. 34 females and 7 male.

The workshop was carried out with discussions on judicial mechanisms and preventing violence against women, through various stories and suggestions shared by valuable representatives of NGOs and bar associations. The discussions during the workshop evolved around informative campaigns which are going to be implemented at pilot provinces for raising awareness of VPCs. The Communication Expert engaged workshop participants which consisted of representatives from bar associations and NGOs by exploring innovative ways to apply the informative campaigns and improving coordination among institutions. The creative suggestions presented at the workshop were included in the methodology for campaigns by the Communication Expert.

Activities and dates		Outputs and dates	Result
Activity 1.1			
Second Regional Workshop	Online Zoom Meeting, 18 June 2021	Expert reports on the discussions and findings from the workshop (Annex 1)	New coordination and informative methods identified for strengthening cooperation between Bar Associations and NGOs.

Output: Expert reports on the discussions and findings from the workshop (Activity 1.1. Second Regional Workshop) (Annex I)



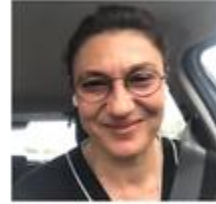
Merkezleri Görünür Kılmak

İLETİŞİM KAMPANYASI

Kampanya Planlanan Hedef Kitleleri



Sizce bu kitlelere ulaşmak için en uygun mecra hangisi?



Outcome II: Development of a systematic and structured approach for legal aid services via implementing and further improving best practices in pilot Bar Associations: Poppy Project Practices

The Tailor-made trainings were held on 28, 29, 30 May 2021, with the aim of training more legal-aid lawyers from the project's pilot provinces: on National and International Legislation (Application of Laws),

Psychology, Gender Equality and Social Services. A total of 138 participants (110 females, 28 male) took part in the trainings.

The first part of ToT, theoretical trainings, aimed to train lawyers on the following topics: Legal Aid for People Subjected to Violence, Gender Equality, Psychology, Social Services and Training Methods and Techniques. Project experts delivered presentations and lectures on these topics. A total of 64 participants (43 females, 21 male) took part in the trainings. The second part of ToT, practical trainings, were held on 7-8 May 2021, with the aim of evaluating lawyers' knowledge and presentation skills on the major topics they were taught (mentioned above) during the theoretical trainings. Lawyers delivered presentations and project experts evaluated them. A total of 56 participants (42 females, 14 male) took part in the ToT practical trainings. A total of 258 lawyers from the project's pilot provinces participated and were trained throughout all trainings; of which 195 were women, and the remaining 63 were men.

Within the framework of the Activity 2.3, it was planned to provide infrastructure support packs for each Violence Prevention Centre (VPC). In this context, office furniture was produced and delivered for all 7 VPCs. The UNDP Project Team monitored the establishment of 6 VPCs despite the restrictions put forward by the Turkish government due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

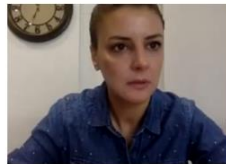
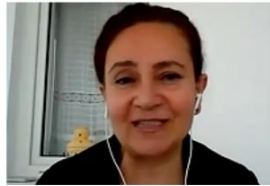
The unexpected situation about Nevşehir occurred following the resignation of the mayor at the end of January 2021, as a protocol between Municipality and Bar Association was expected to be signed regarding the establishment of the VPC (building on the experience of Antalya Bar Association's protocol with Konyaaltı Municipality). The Nevşehir Municipality has a new building constructed for public services and plans to give some rooms for the use of Bar Association to establish the VPC. Following the resignation, it took a couple of weeks for the new Mayor to be assigned and assume his duties; so, the Protocol was delayed and the office space in the building was not allocated. However, the negotiations between Nevşehir Bar Association and Municipality is ongoing. The UNDP Project Team is closely following the situation in Nevşehir. The elections in Nevşehir Bar Association is planned to be held in July 2021, so, it is expected that the signing of the protocol and establishment of the VPC will gain momentum after the election is completed. A visit to Nevşehir by representatives of project partners is being planned in order to accelerate the establishment of the VPC.

Within the scope of the Activity 2.4, the communication expert of the project has prepared a PR Campaign Plan to be implemented at the Violence Prevention Centers at 7 pilot bar associations based on the suggestions made at the Second Regional Meeting. After the approval of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations is obtained, the communication services will be procured, and the implementation of the communication plan will be started.

The project website was established and is regularly being updated by the UNDP Project Team as activities progress and outputs are produced. The website is online as of 21 September 2020. The website hyperlink is <https://ilaprojesi.org/en/>. The website might be modified in the future for the purpose of collection of data from 7 VPCs. Moreover, a separate section could be dedicated to lawyers working at 7 VPCs in order to engage the bars more into collection of data and having a clearer picture in each province for tracking progress.

Activities and dates	Outputs and dates	Result
Activity 2.3		
Infrastructure Support and Upgrading of Pilot Bar Associations	<p>6 out of 7 VPCs is functional as of June 2021. All VPCs were established except Nevşehir.</p> <p>A protocol was signed between Antalya Bar Association and Konyaaltı Municipality in Antalya. The protocol covers the cooperation between two institutions. (Annex 4)</p>	The establishment of 6 VPCs enhanced the legal aid services provided in pilot bar associations. Most importantly, these centers strengthen local violence prevention mechanisms by providing legal support to people subjected to violence.

Activities and dates		Outputs and dates	Results
Activity 2.1			
Tailor-made Training Programme	28, 29, 30 May 2021	1 Tailor-Made Training Booklet (Annex 2)	138 participants were trained. (110 female and 28 male)
Activity 2.2			
Training of Trainers (ToT)	<p>Part 1 (theoretical) 16, 17, 18 April 2021</p> <p>Part 2 (practical) 7, 8 May 2021</p>	2 ToT Trainings Booklets (Annex 3)	120 participants were trained. (85 female and 35 male)





Activities and dates	Outputs and dates	Result
Activity 2.4		
Communication and Outreach for each Pilot Bar Association	Informative campaign methods were prepared in a communication plan for pilot bar associations and the VPCs (Annex 5)	The campaigns are yet to be implemented; therefore, no results are achieved.

Outputs: 1 Tailor-Made Training Booklet (Activity 2.1 Tailor-made Training Programme) (Annex 2); 2 ToT Trainings Booklets (Activity 2.2 Training of Trainers (ToT)) (Annex 3); Antalya VPC protocol (Activity 2.3 Infrastructure Support and Upgrading of Pilot Bar Associations) (Annex 4); Draft PR campaign plan (Activity 2.4 Communication and Outreach for each Pilot Bar Association) (Annex 5).

Outcome III: Enhanced capacities of lawyers practicing legal aid through a tailor-made training programme

The Training Needs Assessment (TNA) Report was prepared in order to determine the 5 priority online training modules within the scope of Activity 3.1. The TNA report specifies and briefly describes the 5 priority subjects which are going to form the basis for the Learning Management System of UTBA. The TNA report was approved by UTBA and will also be presented at the Second Steering Committee Meeting. Upon approvals, experts will be hired within the scope of Activity 3.2 (*Preparation of Priority Modules on Legal-Aid for Online Training*) and the development of modules' contents will commence.

In order to analyse and determine the technical needs of the distance learning system which will be integrated to UTBA's current hardware infrastructure, a series of meetings were held in April 2021 within the scope of Activity 3.3. IT team of UTBA, UNDP IT Expert and the UNDP Project Team participated in these meetings in order to understand the institutional needs and systemic requirements. A technical specification document was prepared, and market estimation research was conducted by the IT Expert. The UNDP Project Team has presented these documents to SIDA to obtain their approval for allocating surplus budget from completed project activities. Upon their approval the tender will be published immediately.

Activities and dates	Outputs and dates	Result
Activity 3.1		
Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for a tailor-made Online Training Programme on Legal Aid	TNA report. Approved in May 2021 (Annex 6).	The TNA will form the basis for the distance learning system of UTBA. These

		modules will be priority modules and will eventually improve specified skills of lawyers.
Activity 3.3		
Preparation of Software Infrastructure for Online Training Programme	Technical Specification for development of software infrastructure (Annex 7)	No result produced yet.

Outputs: TNA report (Activity 3.1 Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for a tailor-made Online Training Programme on Legal Aid) (Annex 6); Technical Specification for development of software infrastructure (Activity 3.3 Preparation of Software Infrastructure for Online Training Programme) (Annex 7).

Indicator Based Performance Assessment

Using the **Project Results Framework from Logframe of the Project Document** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. **Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.** You should refer to your targets for a given year not “the end of project” target. For that reason, **you should consult your AWP to see what your planned targets were for that year.**

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets ¹	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1: Enhanced Coordination Between Women NGO's, Civil Society Organizations, Lawyers and Bar Associations to Improve the Legal Aid System in Turkey Indicator: Number of protocols signed between Bar Associations and CSOs Baseline: 0 Planned Target for year: 1		Protocols were not signed between CSOs and Bar Associations because of the restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, therefore meetings were not arranged between parties. Additionally, establishment of VVSCs were delayed due to various lockdowns. New meetings will be organized, cooperation between bar associations and CSOs will be further strengthened and the project team will closely follow up developments regarding the protocols.	Protocols signed between Bar Associations and CSOs

¹ Please provide sex/gender disaggregated achieved indicator targets

Output 1.1 Indicator 1.1.1: Number of regional workshops Baseline: 0 (No regional workshops for coordination practices) Planned Target for year: 1	1 regional workshop		1) Workshop participant lists 2) Meeting minutes
Outcome 2: Development of a systematic and structured approach for legal aid services via implementing and further improving best practices in pilot Bar Associations: Poppy Project practices Indicator: Number of provinces structured for legal aid services Baseline: 7 Planned Target for year: 6		The management of both Nevşehir Province Municipality and Bar Association changed recently therefore, the previous agreement about designation of office space for Nevşehir VVSC was temporarily cancelled. Negotiations and developments are continuing with relevant parties for the establishment of the VVSC and following up with the signature of a protocol.	Protocols signed and agreements made between pilot Bar Associations and relevant entities
Output 2.1 Indicator 2.1.1: Number of lawyers participated in trainings Baseline: 0 Planned Target for year: 210	138 lawyers trained	Participation level was low due to several factors: COVID-19 pandemic, less interest due to switch to digital platforms and increase in the workload of lawyers.	Participant list
Output 2.2 Indicator 2.2.1: Number of trainers participated in trainings Baseline: 0 Planned Target for year: 70	120 lawyers were trained	Participation and interest among Bar Associations was high therefore, more trainers were trained considering sustainability.	Participant list

Output 2.3 Indicator 2.3.1: Number of VVSCs established Baseline: 0 (None of the pilot bars were designed to implement Poppy practices for legal aid services) Planned Target for year: 7	6 centers established	The Nevşehir VVSC was not established due to the management change at the local municipality and election that took place at the Nevşehir Bar Association.	Infrastructure support packages (office equipment and various other items)
Output 2.4 Indicator 2.4.1: Number of provinces where awareness was raised for VVSCs Baseline: 0 (PR campaigns were unsuccessful and failure of awareness raising for pilot bar associations) Planned Target for year: 7		The public relations campaign strategy and communication plan was approved as of 27 th of July 2021 by UTBA. A technical specification for the tender will be prepared soon and a strategy will be formulated with the selected communication company for implementing campaigns at 7 provinces. UTBA wanted this activity to be implemented possibly until the end of the project duration for maximum impact and raise awareness about 7 VVSCs.	PR campaigns
Outcome 3: Enhanced Capacities of Lawyers Practicing Legal Aid Through a Tailor-made Training Programme Indicator: Number of lawyers trained by UTBA's learning management system Baseline: 0 Planned Target for year 2022: 500		The activities leading to this outcome have just started. Output 3.1 has been completed. Procurement for 3.2 has been initiated. Output 3.3. will only come about after 3.2 is completed. Hence planned targets for this outcome will only be realized by the end of this project.	Assessments of training modules

Output 3.1 Indicator 3.1.1: Number of subjects determined Baseline: 0 (No online training programs developed) Planned Target for year: 5	5 priority subjects were determined		Training Needs Assessment
Output 3.2 Indicator 3.2.1: Number of modules developed Baseline: 0 (No online training programs developed) Planned Target for year: 5		Procurement for 3.2 has been initiated.	Content developed for 5 modules
Output 3.3 Indicator 3.3.1: learning management system developed Baseline: 0 (No online training programs developed) Planned Target for year: 1		Output 3.3. will only come about after 3.2 is completed.	1) Technical specification document 2) UTBA's learning management system
Outcome 4: Awareness raising among bar associations in Turkey on the performance criteria and evaluation mechanism for legal aid services and automation system for appointment of CCP lawyers Indicator: Number of evaluation mechanisms established by Bars Baseline: 0 Planned Target for year 2022: 1		Awareness raising activities have not started as of June 2021 and activities leading to this outcome will have been executed between July 2021 to June 2022.	Evaluation mechanisms

Output 4.2 Indicator 4.2.1 Number of Bars where awareness is raised about performance management Baseline: 0 (No study visits organized) Planned Target for year: 7		Awareness raising activities have not started as of June 2021 and activities leading to this outcome will have been executed between July 2021 to June 2022.	1) Conference participation list 2) Study visits reports
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IV. Contribution to Gender Equality

During each project activity a gender equality expert monitors implementation. After the completion of each outcome, the project team assesses the overall implementation with the project's gender equality expert. In 2020, sex disaggregated data started being collected. In 2020 out of 3985 persons provided with legal aid 3264 were women (81 %). In the first half of 2021 out of 2314 persons provided with legal aid 1849 were women (79,9 %).

Since women organizations and civil society have had limited ownership and knowledge of judicial processes, networking and coordination activity under the first outcome is an important first step. This activity will also feed the target of increasing the cooperation among NGOs, bar associations, lawyers, Judicial Support Directorates which are operational under the Ministry of Justice and experts at courthouses.

The Project contributes to the prevention of gender-based violence under the second outcome, especially violence against women and girls, by the establishment of Victims of Violence Support Centers (VVSC) at 7 pilot bar associations. Strengthening local violence prevention mechanisms is important because by supporting the network between bars, NGOs and relevant public institutions, local mechanisms are going to become sustainable. Furthermore, developing capacities of lawyers in terms of providing quality consultancy services to members of vulnerable groups subjected to violence will contribute to their access to justice and support them during their legal processes.

All training modules (second outcome and third outcome) include information about gender equality by using gender-sensitive language.

Within the scope of the fourth outcome, the performance evaluation system which was developed for lawyers providing legal aid services reflects importance of gender equality through non-discriminatory counselling services provided to clients.

V. Project Risks and Issues

a. Updated project risks and actions *(please highlight new risks in addition to what was already stated in your ProDoc)*

Project Risk 1: Low ownership of pilot bar associations

Actions taken:

- Ensuring continuous commitment of UTBA as a project partner
- Obtaining official written consent from pilot bar associations for their commitment and participation
- Conducting periodic field visits to pilot bars for monitoring implementation
- Maintaining close communication with pilot bars and public institutions
- Consider local dynamics and reputation of bars while implementing project activities such as relationships with institutions and CSOs
- Ensure feasibility and refurbishment is done in accordance with pilot bars requirements and regulations
- Inclusion of pilot bars to the communication plan for raising local awareness

Project Risk 2: Change of presidents and management boards of pilot bar associations

Actions taken:

- Conduct informative field visits with representatives of project partners to pilot provinces about project implementation and methodology
- Ensuring close cooperation with board members and bar president
- Maintaining coordination between NGOs, CSOs, public institutions and bar associations for the sustainability of outputs

Project Risk 3: Weak interest of NGOs and CSOs during implementation of activities

Actions taken:

- Obtaining consent of selected NGOs and CSOs during field visits to pilot provinces for ensuring commitment and participation
- Roles of partners were delegated carefully during project design.
- Ownership of project partners will be ensured during the project.
- Coordination events were incorporated carefully throughout design.
- Conducting periodic field visits to pilot provinces and monitoring implementation from the perspective of NGOs and CSOs
- Reminding NGOs and CSOs about their crucial significance in terms of victims' referral mechanism
- Make sure NGOs and CSOs are effectively taking part in obtaining statistics about legal aid applications
- Understanding concerns of NGOs and CSOs throughout project implementation in order to avoid misunderstandings
- Maintaining close communication with NGOs and CSOs for a stable cooperation network with public institutions and bars
- Consider local dynamics while implementing project activities such as relationships with institutions and CSOs
- Inclusion of CSOs to the communication plan for raising local awareness

Project Risk 6: Adverse feeling against CSOs and Poppy Center from conservatives

Actions taken:

- Correct analysis of current practices and design activities with local situations kept in mind.
- Make sure that circumstances at local levels are feasible for the establishment of legal aid center.
- Official commitment of bar associations was taken previously for establishment of legal aid centers.
- Keep track of the environmental changes and the project team will be prepared for finding different solutions.
- Delegate roles among project partners carefully and ensure ownership of established legal aid service centers locally.
- Ensure coordination among local authorities, institutions and NGO's for an effective referral mechanism for provision of legal aid services
- By using effective communication tools such as local radios, television shows, television series and brochures:
 - a) Clarify the roles of CSOs and NGOs regarding violence prevention
 - b) Explain the efficiency of Poppy Project in Ankara and the results produced
 - c) Explain conciliation and mediation are not durable solutions for the prevention of violence in families
 - d) Disclose negative effects of inequality, violence against members of disadvantaged groups, especially women
- Local security forces such as the police and gendarmerie may inform victims about assistance provided by CSOs and the legal aid services, counselling provided by violence prevention centers (ex: Poppy Center)
- Advertising legal aid services provided by CSOs and violence prevention centers in women shelters, shopping centers, bazaars, hairdressers, schools, education centers and employment agencies.

Project Risk 7: Lack of interest to the project by TÜBAKKOM

Actions taken:

- TÜBAKKOM consists of members from 'Women's Rights Commissions' of bar associations. Throughout field visits during the inception phase these representatives were included in activities and discussions. In the future, these commissions will be further incorporated during project implementation.
- By inclusion of Women's Rights Commissions during implementation of project activities (meetings, workshops etc.), TÜBAKKOM's involvement is going to be ensured.

Project Risk 8: Failure of the communication strategy for performance criteria

Actions taken:

- Acquiring consent of local bar associations higher managements about performance criteria
- Advocating performance criteria by showcasing best practices in other countries
- A communication expert has been included to the project's expert pool for creating an efficient communication strategy and plan
- Implementation of both an internal and external communication plan for covering all aspects of communication and awareness raising gaps.

Project Risk 9: Potential harm may be given to women, children and people with disabilities while trying to access to legal aid

Actions taken:

- Outputs of the project including needs assessment reports, trainings and training material will draw attention to the specific protection measures needed by women, children and people with disabilities during legal procedures and provide recommendations to equip lawyers for possible risk scenarios.
- Security forces at pilot provinces were informed about the project timeline, activities and overall functioning mechanisms
- Both gendarmerie and police forces are committed to assist 'Violence Prevention Centers' in reaching out to people who were subjected to violence
- Security forces gave their consent to help victims safely reach 'Violence Prevention Centers' whenever their assistance is required
- Violence Prevention Centers will be established in protected areas and special attention will be given to not intimidate victims

Project Risk 10: Misunderstanding of project motivation, activities and goals by Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (MoFLSS), especially by ŞÖNİM's (Centers functioning under MoFLSS)

Actions taken:

- Conducting face to face visits to relevant authorities in order to present the project, share the activity plan and highlight the main goal about legal aid services, legal consultation and the referral mechanism.
- Ensuring CSOs and NGOs roles within the referral mechanism.
- Clarifying our aim to work hand in hand with ŞÖNİMs in order to strengthen the prevention mechanism.

Project Risk 11: Continuation of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Actions taken:

- The activity plan of the project was modified in response to the pandemic. Focus shifted towards desk work.

b. Updated project issues and actions

Project Issue 1: Continuation of traumatic incidents against women, children, people with disabilities and refugees due to traditions, societal pressure and local culture.

Actions taken:

- Security forces, governors and prosecutors were informed face to face about the project and their commitments were ensured.
- Through an effective communication plan, societal awareness raising is going to be achieved, more vulnerable people will be informed.

VI. Monitoring Arrangements

1. The Second Steering Committee Meeting was held on 9 July 2021 with the participation of the project stakeholders and the following decisions were taken:
 - The current situation of the project was informed to all partners and new name for the Violence Prevention Centers established within the scope of the project was decided as ‘Support Center for Victims of Violence’.
 - It was decided that the steering committee meetings will now be held every 6 months instead of once a year.
 - The possibility of a no-cost extension was shortly mentioned to be discussed in the future steering committee.
 - The possibility of a third phase for the project was shortly mentioned to be discussed in the future steering committee, as there is no problem in the sustainability of the project, allowing for a better, improved and bigger version of it.
 - Everyone thanked each other for their contributions and the meeting was concluded.
2. The Mid-Term Evaluation of the project has started in June 2021, and it is expected to be finalized at the end of August 2021,.

VII. Lessons Learned

1) Key project successes:

- 6 Violence Prevention Centers out of 7 were established in pilot provinces, despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The project was presented at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey by the President of UTBA. The VPC model set an example for enhancing legal aid services and providing quality legal protection to people subjected to violence in Turkey.
- The project inspired discussions for the access to justice and effective use of legislation section of the Fourth National Action Plan on Combatting Violence Against Women (2021 – 2025).
- Minister of Justice and Union of Turkish Bar Associations is showing full support to the project and there is a possibility to scale up VPCs nationwide. Both parties underline the importance of cooperation and are committed for continuous support.
- The NGOs involved within the project have increased, they are enthusiastic about the activities of the project and even more eager to take part in future work, especially for combatting violence against women and girls.
- Project partners are paying more attention to coordination and are keen on defining new activities for improving coordination among relevant actors. This will eventually contribute to local referral mechanisms within the violence prevention mechanisms.
- Project activities were successfully implemented digitally during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to avoid delays in the activity plan and prevent transmitting the COVID-19 virus.
- The project was promoted together with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in Bonn (HQ) through an article published online (<https://www.unv.org/Success-stories/Building-accessible-justice-gender-based-violence-victims-Turkey>).

2) Difficulties encountered and measures taken:

The seventh Victims of Violence Support Center (VVSC) in Nevşehir was not established. The Nevşehir Municipality agreed to provide office space to the Bar Association for the VVSC but, the management changed at the municipality. This change delayed the establishment of the VVSC and the office space was not allocated to the Bar Association. Later on, Bar Association had to go through elections and their management changed as well. For these reasons, the establishment of the VVSC will have to be discussed again with relevant stakeholders. The problem was communicated to all project partners and representatives of partners all showed maximum interest in the problem. They all are willing to make a “high-level” visit to Nevşehir and make the necessary negotiations. The project team is closely following up the situation in Nevşehir and hopefully the VVSC will be established soon.

VIII. Conclusions and Way Forward

- A new name for the 7 centers was selected. Instead of Violence Prevention Centers, the following name will be used: *(Province name) Bar Victims of Violence Support Center (VVSC)*.
- Third and fourth regional meetings will be added as new activities under Activity 1.1, Outcome 1.
- Cooperation with new NGOs working in the field of women protection and rights will be increased.
- Cooperation with other UN agencies UNWOMEN, UNHCR and UNICEF will be increased in upcoming project activities.
- Steering committee meetings will be organized every 6 months after July 2021 (Second Steering Committee Meeting).
- A no-cost extension might be discussed in the future steering committee meetings (main reasons: 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, might be considered in future committee meetings depending on this projects’ results and willingness of project partners moving forward, especially evolving around scaling up VVSCs nationwide. 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.

IX. Financial Status²

	Budget in Project Document (USD)	Total Expenditure June 2020 – June 2021 (USD)	Remaining Budget as of 30 June 2021
<i>Outcome 1 - Enhanced coordination between women NGOs, civil society organizations, public bodies, lawyers and bar associations to improve the legal aid system in Turkey.</i>	43,650.00	21,893.41	21,756.59
<i>Outcome 2 - Development of a systematic and structured approach for legal aid services via implementing and further improving best practices in pilot Bar Associations: Poppy Project Practices</i>	447,547.80	103,463.88	344,083.92
<i>Outcome 3 - Enhanced capacities of lawyers practicing legal aid through a tailor-made training programme</i>	158,800.00	1,050	157,750
<i>Outcome 4 - Awareness rising among bar associations in Turkey on the performance criteria and evaluation mechanism for legal aid services and automation system for appointment of CCP lawyers</i>	188,150.00	0	188,150.00
<i>Outcome 5 – Project Management</i>	430,635.00	199,268.3	231,366.7
<i>Direct Project Cost (DPC) 3%</i>	37,119.98	34,062.47	3,057.51
<i>General Management Support (GMS) 8%</i>	101,956.22	24,660.53	77,295.69
TOTAL	1,407,859.00	384,398.59	1,023,460.41

² Disclaimer: Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. All financial provided above is provisional. Disclaimer: UNDP adopted IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) on 1 January 2012, cumulative totals that include data prior to that date are presented for illustration only.

Resources:

EXPECTED RESULTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME			RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET			REALIZED		
		Y1	Y2	Y3		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (USD)	Expenditure	Remaining Budget	Notes
Outcome I - Enhanced Coordination Between Women NGO's, Civil Society Organizations, Lawyers and Bar Associations to Improve the Legal Aid System in Turkey	1.1 Networking and coordination practices	X			UTBA UNDP	SIDA	Experts (28 m/days)	8,550	5,919.41	2,630.59	
							Travel	15,600	0	15,600.00	
							Accommodation & Meeting Costs	18,720	15,974.00	2,746.00	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	780	0	780.00	
Outcome II – Development of a systematic and structured approach for legal aid services via implementing and further improving best practices in pilot Bar Associations: Poppy Project practices	2.0 Baseline studies for establishment	X			UTBA UNDP	SIDA	Experts (29 m/days)	9,050	2,792.56	6,257.44	
							Travel	8,400	2,476.65	5,923	
							Accommodation & Meeting Costs	13,600	5,637.42	7,962.58	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	400	0	400	
	2.1 Tailor-made Training Programme	X			UTBA UNDP	SIDA	Experts (70 m/days)	22,250	21,850	400.00	
							Travel	9,450	0	9,450	
							Accommodation & Meeting Costs	77,700	917.06	76,782.94	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	500	0	500	
		X			UTBA	SIDA	Experts (42 m/days)	15,950	14,916.81	1,033.19	

	2.2 ToT Training Programme				UNDP		Travel	10,500	0	10,500	
							Accommodation & Meeting Costs	68,200	2,131.30	66,068.70	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	600	0	600	
	2.3 Infrastructure Support and Upgrading of Pilot Bar Associations	X			UTBA UNDP	SIDA	IM Expert (50 m/days)	7,500	1,480.00	6,020.00	
							Infrastructure support packs	70,000	30,855.6	39,144.4	
							Travel	6,300	2,068.64	4,231.36	
							Accommodation	4,200	0	4,200	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	1,050	0	1,050	
	2.4 Communication and Outreach for each Pilot Bar Association	X			UTBA UNDP	SIDA	PR Campaigns	66,500	12,841.1	53,658.99	
							Experts (34 m/days)	10,200	1,000	9,200	
							Travel	9,450	4,496.74	4,953.26	
							Accommodation	6,300	0	6,300	
Outcome V – Project Management		X			UNDP	SIDA	Project Manager	30,000	36,918.63	63,641.37	
		X			UNDP	SIDA	Project Clerk	15,600			
		X			UNDP	SIDA	Project Associate	24,000			
		X			UNDP	SIDA	Project Assistant	14,400			
		X			UNDP	SIDA	Human Rights and Rule of Law Projects Coordinator	16,560			
		X			UNDP	SIDA	Rent	15,960	0	15,960	
		X			UNDP	SIDA	Audit & Evaluation Costs	18,525	0	18,525	
		X			UNDP	SIDA	Project Steering Group & Advisory Meetings (4)	4,000	57.10	4,000	
		X			UNDP	SIDA	Visibility	1,500	39.05	1,465.39	
		X			UNDP	SIDA	Translation Services	3,000	174.4	2,825.6	

						<i>Miscellaneous</i>	N/A	42.66	-42.66	
<i>Direct Project Cost (DPC) 3%</i>		X			UNDP	SIDA	17,215.35	0	17,215.35	
<i>General Management Support (GMS) 8%</i>		X			UNDP	SIDA	47,284.83	3,711.61	43,573.22	
TOTAL							669,795.18	166,300.65	503,494.53	

EXPECTED RESULTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME			RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET			REALIZED		
		Y1	Y2	Y3		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (USD)	Expenditure	Remaining Budget	Notes
<i>Outcome II – Development of a systematic and structured approach for legal aid services via implementing and further improving best practices in pilot Bar Associations: Poppy Project practices</i>	2.5 Monitoring and Review of Local Poppy Practices (annual for 2020-2021)		X		UTBA UNDP	SIDA	Experts (19 m/days)	6,200	0	6.200	
							Travel & accommodation	7,000	0	7.000	
							Meeting Costs	1,400	0	1.400	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	100	0	100	

Outcome III – Enhanced Capacities of Lawyers Practicing Legal Aid Through a Tailor-made Training Programme	3.1 Training Needs Assessment for a tailor-made Online Training Programme on Legal Aid		X		UTBA UNDP	SIDA	Experts (13 m/days)	4,050	1,050	3,050	
	3.2 Preparation of Priority Modules on Legal-Aid for Online Training		X		UTBA UNDP	SIDA	Expert (6 m/days)	2,050	0	2,050	
							Long Term Agreement	48,750	0	48,750	
	3.3 Preparation of Software Infrastructure for Online Training Programme						Experts (13 m/days)	4,050	0	4,050	
							Services	100,000	0	100,000	
Project Manager			X		UNDP	SIDA		30,000	78,701.61	21,858.39	
Project Clerk			X		UNDP	SIDA		15,600			
Project Associate			X		UNDP	SIDA		24,000			
Project Assistant			X		UNDP	SIDA		14,400			
Human Rights and Rule of Law Projects Coordinator			X		UNDP	SIDA		16,560			
Rent			X		UNDP	SIDA		15,960	15,960	0	

<i>Audit & Evaluation Costs</i>			X		UNDP	SIDA		18,525	24,000	-5,475.00	
<i>Project Steering Group & Advisory Meetings (4)</i>			X		UNDP	SIDA		4,000	52.46	3,947.54	
<i>Visibility</i>			X		UNDP	SIDA		1,500	8.44	1,491.56	
<i>Translation Services</i>			X		UNDP	SIDA		3,000	902.08	2,097.92	
<i>Direct Project Cost (DPC) 3%</i>			X		UNDP	SIDA		9,511.35	34,062.47	-24,551.12*	
<i>General Management Support (GMS) 8%</i>			X		UNDP	SIDA		26,124.51	15,876.76	10,247.75	
<i>TOTAL</i>								352,680.86	170,613.82	182,067.04	

EXPECTED RESULTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME			RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET			REALIZED		
		Y1	Y2	Y3		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (USD)	Expenditure	Remaining Budget	Notes
Outcome II – Development of a systematic and structured approach for legal aid services via implementing and further improving best practices in pilot Bar Associations: Poppy Project practices	2.5 Monitoring and Review of Local Poppy Practices (annual for 2021-2022)			X	UTBA UNDP	SIDA	Experts (19 m/days)	6.200	0	6.200	
							Travel & accommodation	7.000	0	7.000	
							Meeting Costs	1.400	0	1.400	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	147,80	0	147,80	
Outcome IV – Awareness raising among bar associations in Turkey on the performance criteria and evaluation mechanism for legal aid services and automation system for appointment of CCP lawyers	4.1 International Study Visits to Best Practices			X	UTBA MoJ UNDP	SIDA	Experts (5 m/days)	1.750	0	1.750	
							Travel & accommodation	64.000	0	64.000	
							Interpretation Costs	8.000	0	8.000	
							Meeting Costs	21.600	0	21.600	
	4.2 Implementation of Communication Plan for Awareness Raising on Performance Management and Automation System			X	UTBA MoJ UTBA	SIDA	Expert (15 m/days)	4.750	0	4.750	
	4.2.1 One-day National Conference			X	UTBA MoJ UTBA	SIDA	Expert (35 m/days)	12.250	0	12.250	
							Travel & accommodation	27.500	0	27.500	
							Meeting Costs	10.000	0	10.000	

							Miscellaneous Expenses	500	0	500	
	4.2.2 Five Local Study Visits to Best Practicing Bar Associations			X	UTBA MoJ UTBA	SIDA	Expert (8 m/days)	2.800	0	2.800	
							Travel & accommodation	22.500	0	22.500	
							Meeting Costs	10.000	0	10.000	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	2.500	0	2.500	
Project Manager				X	UNDP	SIDA		30.000	41,931.76	58,628.24	
Project Clerk				X				15.600			
Project Associate				X	UNDP	SIDA		24.000			
Project Assistant				X	UNDP	SIDA		14.400			
Human Rights and Rule of Law Projects Coordinator				X	UNDP	SIDA		16.560			
Rent				X	UNDP	SIDA		15.960	0	15.960	
Audit & Evaluation Costs				X	UNDP	SIDA		18.525	0	18.525	
Project Steering Group & Advisory Meetings (4)				X	UNDP	SIDA		4.000	0	4.000	
Visibility				X	UNDP	SIDA		1.500	0	1.500	
Translation Services				X	UNDP	SIDA		3.000	480.11	2,519.89	42,411.87
Direct Project Cost (DPC) 3%				X	UNDP	SIDA		10.393,28	0	10.393,28	
General Management Support (GMS) 8%				X	UNDP	SIDA		28.546,89	5,072.16	23,474.73	

TOTAL								385,382.97	47,484.03	337,898.94	
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Note: The expenditures have been in line with the activity plan so far. There have not been any modifications, therefore, the notes column is left empty.

EXPECTED RESULTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME			RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET			REALIZED		
		Y1	Y2	Y3		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (USD)	Expenditure	Remaining Budget	Notes
Outcome II – Development of a systematic and structured approach for legal aid services via implementing and further improving best practices in pilot Bar Associations: Poppy Project practices	2.5 Monitoring and Review of Local Poppy Practices (annual for 2021-2022)			X	UTBA UNDP	SIDA	Experts (19 m/days)	6.200	0	6.200	
							Travel & accommodation	7.000	0	7.000	
							Meeting Costs	1.400	0	1.400	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	147,80	0	147,80	
Outcome IV – Awareness raising among bar associations in Turkey on the	4.1 International Study Visits to Best Practices			X	UTBA MoJ UNDP	SIDA	Experts (5 m/days)	1.750	0	1.750	
							Travel & accommodation	64.000	0	64.000	
							Interpretation Costs	8.000	0	8.000	
							Meeting Costs	21.600	0	21.600	

performance criteria and evaluation mechanism for legal aid services and automation system for appointment of CCP lawyers	4.2 Implementation of Communication Plan for Awareness Raising on Performance Management and Automation System			X	UTBA MoJ UTBA	SIDA	Expert (15 m/days)	4.750	0	4.750	
	4.2.1 One-day National Conference			X	UTBA MoJ UTBA	SIDA	Expert (35 m/days)	12.250	0	12.250	
							Travel & accommodation	27.500	0	27.500	
							Meeting Costs	10.000	0	10.000	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	500	0	500	
	4.2.2 Five Local Study Visits to Best Practicing Bar Associations			X	UTBA MoJ UTBA	SIDA	Expert (8 m/days)	2.800	0	2.800	
							Travel & accommodation	22.500	0	22.500	
							Meeting Costs	10.000	0	10.000	
							Miscellaneous Expenses	2.500	0	2.500	
Project Manager				X	UNDP	SIDA		30.000	41,931.76	58,628.24	
Project Clerk				X				15.600			
Project Associate				X	UNDP	SIDA		24.000			
Project Assistant				X	UNDP	SIDA		14.400			
Human Rights and Rule of Law Projects Coordinator				X	UNDP	SIDA		16.560			
Rent				X	UNDP	SIDA		15.960	0	15.960	
Audit & Evaluation Costs				X	UNDP	SIDA		18.525	0	18.525	

<i>Project Steering Group & Advisory Meetings (4)</i>				X	UNDP	SIDA		4.000	0	4.000	
<i>Visibility</i>				X	UNDP	SIDA		1.500	0	1.500	
<i>Translation Services</i>				X	UNDP	SIDA		3.000	480.11	2,519.89	
<i>Direct Project Cost (DPC) 3%</i>				X	UNDP	SIDA		10.393,28	0	10.393,28	
<i>General Management Support (GMS) 8%</i>				X	UNDP	SIDA		28.546,89	5,072.16	23,474.73	
<i>TOTAL</i>								385,382.97	47,484.03	337,898.94	

Note: The expenditures were all in line with original activity plan. There were no modifications made therefore, the notes column was left empty

X. Annexes

Annex-1: Expert reports on the discussions and findings from the II. Regional Workshop

Annex-2: 1 Tailor-made training booklet

Annex-3: 2 Training of trainings booklets

Annex-4: Antalya VPC protocol

Annex-5: Approved Communication (PR) plan

Annex-6: Training needs assessment

Annex-7: Technical specification for development of software infrastructure

Annex-8: Approved project activity log

Annex-9: Draft Second Steering Committee Meeting Report