



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

Date:	11 March 2020, Wednesday / 14.00-16.00
Place:	Yıldız Kule, Ankara, UNDP Turkey Country Office, 17th Floor Meeting Room
Participants:	
Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA)	Ms. Sinem Doğan Küngerü, UTBA International Relations and EU Center Coordinator Mr. Murat Yalkın, Head of UTBA International Relations and EU Center
T.R. Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	Mr. Ramazan Gürkan, General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Head of Department of Victim Rights Unit Ms. Sevilay Karagöz, General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Department of Victim Rights, Rapporteur 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. Gülüzar Güleç, Assistant Specialist Ms. Halime Yılmaz, Strategy and Budget Expert
United Nations Development Programme Turkey Country Office (UNDP)	Ms. Seher Alacacı Arner, Assistant Resident Representative (Programme) Ms. Gözde Ata, Inclusive and Democratic Governance Portfolio Manager Ms. Zeliha Aydın, Law and Human Rights Expert Mr. Orhun Yurtvermez, Project Manager Ms. Gizem Bal, Project Assistant Mr. Eren Korkmaz, Project Implementation and Coordination Assistant Ms. Eda Şenel, Project Clerk Mr. Musa Toprak, Law Expert Mr. Ömer Ünlü, Infrastructure Monitoring Expert

Agenda

- I. Opening Remarks*
- II. Presentation of project activities carried out so far*
- III. Discussion on alternative Project logos and name suggestions for Violence Prevention Centers*
- IV. Decisions Taken / Closing Remarks*



I. OPENING REMARKS

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Assistant Resident Representative (Programme) Ms. Seher ALACACI ARINER, commenced her opening speech by welcoming all participants and expressing her gratitude to 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 for the continuous support they have provided throughout the project implementation.
- Head of UTBA International Relations and EU Center, Mr. Murat YALKIN welcomed the participants and conveyed UTBA Vice President Mr. Ünsal Toker's regards. He emphasized that the SILA project, the foundations of which were laid in 2015, had great impacts both on a regional and national scale. He stated that the ILAP project, which is the second phase of the SILA project, aims to further advance the well-functioning parts of the system and that future cooperation in this context is important.
- Ministry of Justice (MoJ), General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Head of Department of Victim Rights Unit, Mr. Ramazan GÜRKAN, stated that the activities such as furnishing, planning and expert recruitment have been carried out within the scope of the first and second component of the project so far. He also stated that they especially attach great importance to activities such as developing training modules and delivering trainings which will happen in the later stages of the project, and that these activities will contribute greatly in areas such as the establishment of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CMK) list. He emphasized the importance of establishing Violence Prevention Centers in order for ongoing violence cases to not repeat and get resolved, and he indicated their expectations that the ILAP project will be successful in this direction. He indicated that the Ministry of Justice visited the judges in Ankara and stated that the enforcement circular of Law No. 6284 was prepared and presented. Regarding the approach to victims and the access of disadvantaged groups to justice, he indicated that it is necessary to work in coordination with the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services and the Ministry of Interior. Recalling that the Ministry of Justice always cares about the effective follow-up of the issue and the information of the interlocutors, he emphasized that repeated cases of violence in the field are monitored and followed. He mentioned that coordination meetings will be useful in similar field visits planned in the ILAP project. He stated that they expect the project to contribute to the promotion of both Violence Prevention Centers and Judicial Support Centers (ADM) and Judicial Interview Rooms (AGO).
- Embassy of Sweden in Ankara, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Counsellor/Head of Pre-Accession & Humanitarian Assistance Ms. Malin STAWÉ indicated that the steering committee meeting is important in terms of determining the state of the project and what is planned and wanted to be achieved within the scope of it.

II. PRESENTATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT SO FAR

- UNDP Project Manager Mr. Orhun YURTVERMEZ, gave a presentation about the activities carried out so far within the scope of the project. He emphasized that in line with the feedback of bars, the directive could be concluded in a healthier way.



- UNDP Infrastructure Monitoring Expert Mr. Ömer ÜNLÜ, explained that as a result of the visits made for the planning of Violence Prevention Centers, it was concluded that there are no problems and bars have suitable places within their own facilities for this establishment in 5 of the 7 pilot provinces. He indicated that Antalya bar expressed how they have an issue related to transportation and Nevşehir has not yet showed an available area for the violence prevention center. He mentioned that the specifications for each province is ready and stated that he thinks that work can be done for both of these provinces by adding office supplies.
- UNDP Project Manager Mr. Orhun YURTVERMEZ indicated that the first Advisory Committee Meeting has been held and an agreement has been made with a communication company for the establishment of the project website. He then described the activities to be completed until the Second Steering Committee meeting. Please see Annex-3 Project Activity Presentation for details.

The comments made following the presentation are below:

- MoJ, General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Department of Victim Rights Unit indicated that the Judicial Interview Rooms are currently used for both children and women who victims of violence, and emphasized how it is important to increase the use of these meeting rooms in terms of victims of violence not facing the suspect.
- UTBA indicated that if the Ministry of Justice shares a letter aimed at provinces related to this, they could share it with bars.
- MoJ, General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Department of Victim Rights Unit indicated that they can send a letter since they already have digital brochures related to this matter, which they would like to disseminate.
- SIDA, indicated that cooperation between different actors could be strong and sustainable. They emphasized that different perspectives of MoJ, UTBA, bars, project team and other institutions enrich the project. They expressed that they are happy to see actors taking steps forward. They stated that the non-governmental organizations that took part in the First Regional Workshop already had experience from the field, but they also gained practical experience at the workshop. They indicated that they are specifically waiting for the report of the workshop. SIDA also emphasized that there is progress towards ensuring long-term institutionalization of violence prevention centers and that it is important to make more reference to the project document during this process, and asked MoJ and UTBA to express their opinions about the sustainability of the Violence Prevention Centers and whether they see any risks related to this matter.
- MoJ, General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Department of Victim Rights Unit indicated that the successful and sustainable implementation of Violence Prevention Centers depends on how many people can apply to these centers, whether there are enough women and victims of violence who can be reached and the guidance of Civil Society Organizations. They indicated that MoJ will support UTBA and bars in pilot provinces and will guide victims who need legal support to Violence Prevention Centers. They also emphasized the importance of the efforts of personnel to be hired in newly establishing Judicial Support Centers and Judicial Interview Rooms.



- UTBA stated that the system which is trying to be established is a new system and four different factors are being worked on; the first one of these is infrastructure - related to the provision of necessary materials and that the project provides this, the second one is institutional capacity - the establishment of a qualified person structure that will ensure the sustainability of the process, and this will be done by the project through the training curriculum and trainers, and the third one is the legislation which the project also covers. The fourth factor one the other hand, was explained as being related to how these procedures will happen and who will be in charge in the pilot provinces. UTBA explained that the project does not have an activity on the fourth factor. They stated that there is a need for personnel who can carry out the activity until the system is fully established and is sustainable in the bar. It was emphasized that that it is important to meet the need for the system to be firmly established and more successful, and that the legal aid budget will be insufficient in this regard, which was indicated as a risk. UTBA also stated that a step was taken during the SILA project period regarding the increase of this budget, a draft law was created with the participation of United Nations agencies and that the legal aid section of the Judicial Reform Document was remembered and that this issue should be mentioned again.
- MoJ, General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Department of Victim Rights Unit indicated that the draft law was carried out together with the Presidency of Strategy and Budget Directorate, that they can help with this issue, but the General Directorate of Legislation should review this.
- UNDP emphasized that it is important to overcome the lack of capacity to ensure the operation of the system and stated that alternative solutions can be produced in this regard and in this context, asked for the views of SIDA representatives.
- SIDA indicated that they want more detailed information when dealing with this issue. They emphasized how in order to ensure sustainability, it is necessary to get detailed explanation related to extra services such as the person who will work there, whether it will be full or part time in the bars or which actors could contribute to the system. In addition, in the event of an additional budget request, they indicated that they would like to learn about the experience in the pre-existing Poppy model which can be taken as an example on how externally provided budgets were integrated into the personnel budget.
- UTBA mentioned about the Poppy experience and indicated that the system to be established has a different directive and will be more advanced and efficient compared to Poppy.
- UNDP stated that justification for an additional budget request could be revised in line with consultations and then get it shared with SIDA.
- SIDA, emphasized that the for future meetings, Turkey Women's Law Commission (TÜBBAKKOM), Ankara Bar, and different actors' involvement in project activities will be good in terms of developing their capacities and sharing good and bad experiences.
- UTBA indicated that Turkey Women's Law Commission (TÜBBAKKOM) participation in the project activities has already been achieved and they have participated in 3 of the 4 meetings.
- UNDP agreed on the importance of the participation of both TÜBBAKKOM and Ankara bar. UNDP proposed that an additional activity to strengthen effective cooperation with TÜBBAKKOM should be created within the scope of the project. In order to discuss this, UNDP suggested a meeting between SIDA, UTBA, MoJ, UNDP, TÜBBAKKOM and Ankara bar.



III. DISCUSSION ON ALTERNATIVE PROJECT LOGOS AND NAME SUGGESTIONS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTERS

- UNDP Project Manager Mr. Orhun YURTVERMEZ, briefly presented different logo alternatives designed for the project to the participants and stated that the logo designs will be shared by e-mail after the meeting and opinions will be received.
- Name suggestions for Violence Prevention Centers were briefly presented at the meeting. It was concluded that this issue should be shared via email with the partners and NGOs that took part in the regional meeting and decided that it should be agreed on through consultation.

IV. DECISIONS TAKEN / CLOSING REMARKS

- UNDP will ask UTBA to inform about the support staff which is required under the 2nd Component of the Project.
- After the official negotiations, the budget regarding the personnel support required within the scope of Component 2 of the project will be officially presented to SIDA with the relevant justification text.
- In the next period, more result-oriented, detailed and standardized presentations and reports will be made in project management.
- In order to ensure more effective participation and sustainability of TÜBBAKKOM, it is necessary to understand the structural functioning of the institution. In this context, the design of a separate activity will be evaluated by the project partners, and the more effective inclusion of TÜBBAKKOM will be reviewed.
- UTBA will be consulted through official channels regarding the invitation of Ankara bar (which started the Poppy implementation) to specific activities of the ILAP project.
- Project logo will be shared with project partners via email for feedbacks.
- New suggestions related to a name for the Violence Prevention Centers will be thought of and considered, and these ideas will be exchanged with project partners. In addition, NGOs will be asked about their thoughts on names for the Violence Prevention Centers via a questionnaire or other practice.



ANNEX I – Meeting Agenda

GÜNDEM / AGENDA	
Saat / Time	Konu / Subject
14:00-14:15	<p>Açılış Konuşmaları Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sn. / Ms. Seher Alacacı Arıner <i>Birleşmiş Milletler Kalkınma Programı, Temsilci Yardımcısı (Program)</i> <i>UNDP, Assistant Resident Representative (Programme)</i>- Sn. Av. / Mr. Ünsal Toker <i>Türkiye Barolar Birliği, Başkan Yardımcısı</i> <i>UTBA, Deputy President of Union of Turkish Bar Associations</i>- Sn. / Mr. Ramazan Gürkan <i>T.C. Adalet Bakanlığı, Ceza İşleri Genel Müdürlüğü, Mağdur Hakları Daire Başkanı</i> <i>T.R. Ministry of Justice General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Head of Victims' Rights Department</i>- Sn. / Ms. Malin Stawe <i>İsveç Ankara Büyükelçiliği Müsteşarı / Katılım Öncesi & İnsani Yardım Başkanı</i> <i>Swedish Embassy to Ankara, Counsellor / Head of Pre-Accession & Humanitarian Assistance</i>
14:15-14:45	<p>Proje kapsamında bugüne kadar gerçekleştirilen proje faaliyetlerinin sunumu Presentation on the project activities that have been carried out so far</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sn. / Mr. Orhun Yurtvermez <i>Birleşmiş Milletler Kalkınma Programı, Proje Yöneticisi</i> <i>UNDP, Project Manager</i>
14:45-15:05	<p>Proje Logo alternatifleri ve Şiddet Önleme Merkezi için isim önerileri üzerine istişare Consultation on suggested names for Violence Prevention Centers and Project Logo alternatives</p>
15:05-15:15	<p>Alınan Kararlar Decisions Taken</p>
15:15-15:30	<p>Kapanış Notları Closing Remarks</p>



ANNEX II – Participant List

FIRST 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
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4	Sevilay Karagöz	Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	General Directorate of Criminal Affairs, Department of Victim Rights, Rapporteur Judge	sevilay.karagoz@adalet.gov.tr
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10	Gözde Ata	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Inclusive and Democratic Governance Portfolio Manager	gozde.ata@undp.org
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16	Musa Toprak	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Law Expert	musatoprak@gmail.com
17	Ömer Ünlü	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Infrastructure Monitoring Expert	omerunlu06@gmail.com

ANNEX III – Project Activity Presentation