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for every child

TURKEY – UNICEF
COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF
COOPERATION 2016-2020

ANNUAL
REPORT
2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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INTRODUCTION

Turkey is an upper middle-income country with well-established institutions and extensive public services, especially in health and education. It has substantial capacities to uphold child rights and, indeed, to contribute to child rights beyond its borders. Among Turkish citizens, absolute poverty is virtually non-existent, infant mortality has fallen to 9.2 per thousand live births (Turkstat, 2017), and school enrolment between the ages of 6 and 13 is over 98%. Nevertheless, regional, socioeconomic and gender disparities continue to affect children's conditions and their access to quality inclusive services. Special efforts are needed to uphold the rights of vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities, children without parental care and in contact with the law, children engaged in economic activities, and refugee children.

There are over 3.6 million Syrian refugees with temporary protection status in Turkey, including more than 1.6 million children, and close to 400,000 registered asylum-seekers and refugees from other countries. Meeting the needs of these children for social protection and access to services remains a major challenge, and they may face additional disadvantages due to trauma, language problems and discrimination. Moreover, some irregular migrants, including children, continue to reach or attempt to reach Europe via Turkey, many risking death at sea. While Turkey is committed to responding to the needs of refugees and has invested significant national resources to provide access to a wide range of services, their difficult conditions and unprecedented numbers continue to require sustained international solidarity.



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Key developments affecting children in Turkey

A number of developments of significance for the Country Programme took place in 2018. Presidential and parliamentary elections were held in June, and the new presidential system of government was fully adopted. Key Programme partners underwent restructuring. The Ministries of Family & Social Policies and Labour & Social Security merged to create a new Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS). The Ministry of Development was abolished and the Strategy and Budget Office (SBO) of the Presidency was established. The finalisation of the 2019-2023 National Development Plan was postponed until 2019.

The Government continued to lead the response to the refugee situation and remained the largest provider of humanitarian aid. The proportion of Syrians under temporary protection living in temporary protection centres (camps) fell further, to about 4%.

The number of Syrian refugee children included in formal education reached 645,140 as of December 2018, representing an increase of 5.7% by comparison with the 2017-18 school year and a 31% increase from

2016-17 school year. This represented significant progress, although about 400,000 Syrian refugee children, particularly adolescents, are still out of school. The 2019 Annual Programme of the Presidency acknowledged the need to increase and diversify the services provided to refugee children and young people in several areas and highlighted the need for more programmes to develop their life skills and enhance social cohesion.

The Ministry of National Education (MoNE) strategy document “For a stronger tomorrow: Education Vision for 2023”, unveiled in October, aims to improve the quality and inclusiveness of the education system by addressing disparities, enhancing student assessment, overcoming the challenges of vocational and technical high schools, and reinforcing the learning of contemporary skills and foreign languages. It also foresees renewed attention and opportunities for children with disabilities (CWDs), and reiterates the government’s commitment to provide at least one year of pre-school compulsory education for all young children.



Country Programme Achievements

The annual financial throughput of the Country Programme reached USD181 million in 2018, as compared to USD151 million in 2017. The total number of staff in UNICEF's offices in Ankara and Gaziantep reached 122. These additional resources allowed the Country Programme to expand the scale of its support to partners and advance the child rights agenda for vulnerable children, both Turkish and refugees.

Significant results were achieved in the areas of Education, Child Protection, Social Protection, Adolescents and Youth Engagement and Early Childhood Development. These are summarised in the following pages.

At the same time, the Country Programme contributed to Turkey's capacity to uphold the rights of its children across all of these categories through support for data generation and the monitoring of the SDGs, through programme communications and advocacy, and by continuing to bring together the many institutions and organisations concerned with children's rights and wellbeing.

UNICEF's Country Programme

The Turkey-UNICEF Country Programme for 2016-2020 was developed in line with the United Nations Development Cooperation Strategy (UNDCS) for 2016-20, the Tenth National Development Plan for 2014-18 and UNICEF global strategies. It is built around four cross-sectoral outcomes:

- Equity through social inclusion and resilience-building;
- Quality data, knowledge and advocacy for child rights;
- Gender equality among children and adolescents; and
- Turkey-UNICEF expanded partnership beyond borders.

These outcomes contribute to eight of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and

Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

At the same time, the Country Programme outcomes contribute to the refugee crisis response in four of the six sectors set out by the Regional Refugee Response Plan (3RP): Education, Protection, Basic Needs and Health. The humanitarian response is fully integrated in the Country Programme, which regards refugee and migrant children as one of the most vulnerable groups of children to be reached with a mix of strategies and opportunities.

The Programme is being implemented in partnership with key government counterparts including ministries, and other national and local institutions, as well as academia, civil society and the private sector. A wide range of strategies are employed to achieve the Programme targets, ranging from the delivery of services to strengthening of national systems and engagement in policy dialogue.

multi-
faceted
support

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN IN 2018

The capacity of the education system to provide inclusive, quality education for all girls and boys including the most vulnerable was enhanced.

The Grade 9 School Orientation Programme designed to prevent non-attendance and drop-out reached approximately 1,000,000 students and is to be used by MoNE in all secondary schools. Training in inclusive education was provided to 154,451 teachers and school administrators across all 81 provinces. A total of 87,003 children including 7,684 refugees benefited from a new Remedial Education Programme for children unable to achieve 3rd and 4th grade basic literacy and numeracy learning outcomes. An improved psychosocial support module was developed for students with trauma. The Standardization of Educational Assessment and Diagnostic Tools Programme for children with disabilities was completed. Early childhood education programmes for vulnerable children, including a ten-week summer school programme, reached 16,429 Turkish and refugee children. Gender equality teaching materials were used in 162 secondary schools in all 81 provinces, and 575 teachers and school administrators (218 women and 357 men) received gender equality training.

The number of Syrian refugee children enrolled in formal education reached 645,140 (317,761 girls and 327,379 boys), representing 62% of the refugee population of school age. The Turkey-UNICEF Country Programme contributed to this impressive achievement by the Government of Turkey in many ways. The coverage of the CCTE programme more than doubled. Since 2017, 410,740 children have benefitted from cash transfers conditional on attendance in formal education. A total of 12,994 Syrian Volunteer Education Personnel (SVEP) were receiving monthly incentives as of December 2018, and a strategy is being developed to use SVEP to support the integration and learning of children as they continue to move from Temporary Education Centres to Turkish public schools. Outreach campaigns identified 10,490 out-of-school children and referred them to the education authorities. Financial support was provided to cover the increased maintenance costs of 328 schools, benefiting more than 188,440 refugee and host community children attending these schools. Furnished and equipped container classrooms were provided to enable 900 children to receive early childhood education, and 800,000 school bags and stationery kits were distributed to refugee and Turkish students throughout Turkey.



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The Country Programme also helped to **include vulnerable refugee children in education through non-formal education**. An Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) providing a second chance to out-of-school refugee children aged 10-18 was launched in 70 public education centres in 12 provinces. As of December, 5,616 children were benefiting. Turkish language courses (TLCs) were provided at youth centres in 24 provinces to prepare out-of-school refugee children for learning in Turkish public schools. In December, 4,406 children were attending. The CCTE programme was expanded in 2018 to include children in the ALP.

The capacity of the national child protection system was enhanced through the implementation of self-assessment standards in 172 residential facilities, the further development of child development and psychosocial support/life skills programmes, the development of an operating model for First Assessment Centres, and related staff training in specialized child protection, including a focus on unaccompanied and separated children. The capacities of several national institutions to provide psychosocial support and child protection in emergencies were enhanced through updated training programmes. The capacities of NGOs to contribute to combating violence against children increased.

There were improvements in the capacity of the justice system to implement child-friendly procedures, particularly through the development and introduction of a new risk assessment tool strengthening the probation framework for children and young people, and training and awareness efforts related to the use of child-friendly judicial interview rooms, including for children victims of sexual offences.

The Country Programme contributed to the **adoption by the Ombudsperson's Institution of a new Child Rights Strategy** and enhanced systems to enable children to access the institution.

National capacity for the prevention and response to child marriage, was enhanced through contributions to the development of the National Strategy Document and Action Plan for Combatting Early and Forced Marriages and the dissemination of harmonised guidelines to 1,900 service providers. Over 1,000 service providers, including Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services staff, NGO frontline workers and teachers were trained under a UN joint programme.

Support was provided to the government, civil society and private sector to combat child labour through a multi-sectoral approach. A toolkit was developed for stakeholders to better identify, prevent and respond to cases of child labour. In addition, trainings were given to more than 1,500 labour inspectors, law enforcement officials and front-line workers from several line ministries and municipalities, as well as to 1,500 members of Turkey's largest small and medium enterprises association. Research was also conducted to generate evidence on child labour in the seasonal agriculture, shoemaking and furniture industries.

More refugee and Turkish children benefited from community-based child protection services. For example, about 91,000 children benefitted from structured psychosocial support (PSS) programmes in 74 safe spaces in 24 provinces, and 46,835 refugee children, including 865 children with disabilities, were referred to specialized care services. Trained child protection staff began to identify and assess vulnerable Turkish and refugee children in youth centres. Two "Girls Safe Spaces" supported 8,082 Syrian and Turkish girls and women, including survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).

Positive nutrition practices were promoted. Together with WFP, health professionals in Migrant Health Centres were trained to promote positive infant and young child feeding practices among refugees. 40 staff from NGOs running community centres were trained to detect severe acute malnutrition.

The child protection component of the CCTE programme in 15 provinces reached 53,561 refugee children, of whom 4,853 were referred to specialized services.

Capacity to meet the needs of children on the move was enhanced. Five new child-friendly spaces were established in removal centres for 5,049 children and minimum operating standards were developed. 6,492

children accessed protection services, and 56,823 received hygiene kits.

The capacity of local administrations to support the most vulnerable children and adolescents was enhanced. Under the Child Friendly Cities initiative, guidelines and training materials were developed for online use by municipalities nationwide and support was extended to four key municipalities conducting innovative interventions in accordance with their priorities in areas including child labour, child marriage, community-based services, social inclusion, and social cohesion.

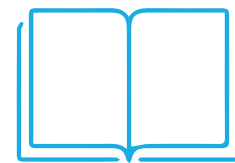
To support **adolescent engagement and social cohesion**, an increased number of refugee and Turkish adolescents and young people participated in social and leadership development activities through national systems. These peer-to-peer activities, reached 98,576 adolescents and young people.

Data was collected for ECD and the SDGs. The 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey included an early childhood development module for the first time, gathering data that can inform new early childhood development (ECD) policies and allowing for the calculation of one SDG indicator currently not measured in Turkey.

Child participation was promoted. Children from all 81 provinces of Turkey took part in the 19th National Children's Forum and made recommendations to President Erdoğan and Parliament. One recommendation, to establish provincial units to combat child labour, was subsequently included in the Government's second 100-Day Action Plan.

Child rights were promoted through public communications and advocacy. Turkey took part in international children's campaigns including the global "Go Blue" initiative on World Children's day and held a fourth International Day of the Girl Child Conference.





Over
645,000

refugee children,
were enrolled in
formal education -
nearly half of them girls

COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

The education component of the Country Programme focuses on access to and quality of education and contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Different groups of vulnerable children face different challenges in Turkey, with refugee children particularly at risk of not accessing any form of education. At the beginning of the current Country Programme cycle in 2016, only about 320,000 refugee children were enrolled in school (approximately 36% of the school-age refugee population), posing a significant challenge for the education sector to accommodate an unprecedented number of additional children in school. At the end of 2018, 645,140 (317,761 girls and 327,379 boys) were

enrolled in formal education, representing 62% of the refugee population of school age. In addition, approximately 13,646 refugee children have participated in UNICEF-supported non-formal and informal education opportunities. This progress is the result of the continuous collaboration between the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), UNICEF and other partners in both formal and non-formal education, and of cross-sectoral interventions involving other entities particularly in the child protection and the social protection sectors. An example of such interventions is the extension of the Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CCTE) programme for refugee children (See 'Country Programme Achievements in Social Policy').





800,000
school kits were
distributed to **refugee and**
vulnerable Turkish students
across the country

Formal education opportunities for refugee children

In order to facilitate access to formal education, UNICEF continued to collaborate with MoNE in strengthening the capacity of education personnel, in improving and expanding learning spaces, and in supporting students with access to essential school supplies.

Ensuring an adequate supply of education services adapted to the needs of refugee students was facilitated by the provision of monthly incentives to Syrian Volunteer Education Personnel (SVEP). As of December, 12,994 SVEP (6,062 men and 6,932 women) were receiving monthly incentives in line with the Turkish minimum wage through a tripartite arrangement between UNICEF, MoNE, and the Turkish Post Office (PTT).

Significant progress was made on the development of the Education Personnel Management Strategy, which will make it possible for SVEP to continue to contribute to the education of children as they transition from the Temporary Education Centres (TECs) serving refugees, to Turkish public schools (TPS). Roles for the SVEP in

education, counselling, administration and outreach support were developed and formalized in partnership with MoNE. They will perform these functions in TECs, TPS and other educational institutions. These new roles meet critical needs and will support the integration and learning of Syrian children within the Turkish national education system.

To expand the supply of available learning spaces, eighteen Early Childhood Education container classrooms were provided along with furniture and equipment, serving 900 children, and financial support was provided to cover the increased maintenance costs associated with hosting refugee children in 328 schools, serving more than 188,440 children.

To reduce families' school-related costs, in cooperation with MoNE, UNICEF distributed 800,000 school kits (school bags and stationery kits) to refugee and vulnerable Turkish students throughout Turkey.



MoNE and UNICEF launched the **Accelerated Learning Programme** for refugee children

Informal and non-formal education opportunities for refugee adolescents

While significant progress has been made in enrolling refugee children in formal education, MoNE and UNICEF are also committed to developing specialized support and learning pathways for out of school children (OOSCs), particularly adolescents. In 2018 MoNE and UNICEF launched the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP), which provides a second chance to refugee children aged 10-18 years old who have already been out of school for some time and are not ready to participate in formal education alongside other children in their own age group. ALP is available in a network of 70 public education centres in 12 provinces across the country, offering certified learning with a curriculum approved by MoNE. As of December, the ALP is benefiting 5,616 children (2,613 girls and 3,003 boys).

Language is another major barrier to the participation and retention of refugee adolescents in education. In 2018, UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Youth

and Sports (MoYS) in providing Turkish language courses (TLCs) at youth centres in 24 provinces, where the children can also participate in social activities with their Turkish peers. After completing the first two levels of language courses, they are referred to Turkish public schools. As of December, 4,406 children (2,012 girls and 3,003 boys) were attending TLCs.

In order to expand the reach of these programmes, MoNE and MoYS conducted community-based education outreach campaigns with support from UNICEF and reached 31,839 children (15,054 girls and 16,785 boys). As a result, 10,490 OOSCs (5,309 girls and 5,181 boys) were referred to provincial directorates of National Education for enrolment in formal education. Children and families were provided with information about the relevant education services available and also referred to age-appropriate non-formal and informal education opportunities.



- Pasar ke
- Sala
- Cansamba
- Pensambe
- Cama
- Comar
- Pasar



87,000
refugee and Turkish
children benefited
from the **Remedial
Education Programme**

Building capacity for quality inclusive education

MoNE's new strategy document "For a stronger tomorrow: Education Vision for 2023" identifies important aspects of quality inclusive education for all children in Turkey as key priorities for the education sector. In this context, UNICEF has been collaborating with MoNE in the areas of education policy and practice, professional development and learning assessment systems, and inclusive early childhood education (ECE).

In support of efforts to ensure that learning is inclusive for all children, an Inclusive Education Teacher Training Module was developed and implemented on a large scale to increase the capacity of teachers to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable students. By December, the training had been implemented in all 81 provinces for a total of 154,451 teachers and school administrators (70,121 women and 84,330 men).

A total of 87,003 children (37,920 girls and 49,083 boys), including 7,684 refugees, benefited from the first-year implementation of the Remedial Education Programme, which was developed to support the

significant number of children who are unable to reach the expected 3rd and 4th grade basic literacy and numeracy learning achievement levels. In addition, an improved psychosocial support module, including guidebooks and training for school counsellors and teachers, was developed to improve the capacity of the education system to support students for whom different types of trauma are causing learning difficulties. Training in the use of the new module is ongoing.

The Grade 9 School Orientation Programme, developed in partnership with MoNE, was implemented in all 'general' upper-secondary schools, reaching approximately 1,000,000 students. This programme aims to prevent non-attendance and dropping out among vulnerable adolescents by facilitating students' transition from lower to upper secondary school. Ninth-grade students in 'technical and vocational' and 'religious (imam hatip)' upper-secondary schools will also be included in 2018-2019 school year.



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UNICEF continued to support MoNE in the implementation of the Government's policy to make at least one year of preschool education compulsory in the near future. In addition, UNICEF promoted inclusive early childhood education and supported the access of children with disabilities (CwDs) to mainstream early childhood education programmes and primary education classes. The "One at Least" initiative seeks to improve the development and learning of more than 31,000 children, of whom at least 350 will be CwD, using a multi-pronged approach focusing both on families/caregivers and on education personnel.

The Standardization of Educational Assessment and Diagnostic Tools Programme, completed in April, aims to improve educational assessment processes for CwDs so that they can access appropriate education programmes. An estimated 465,000 CwDs are expected to benefit each year.

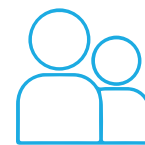
To complement the services available in formal ECE and meet the needs of different groups of vulnerable children, UNICEF also supported community and home-based early childhood education programmes, including a ten-week summer school programme reaching 16,429 Turkish and refugee children (8,077 girls and 8,352 boys) in Southeast Turkey.

Support for gender equality in education

MoNE further strengthened the capacity of its staff to implement an equality and gender-sensitive approach with technical assistance from UNICEF. Teaching staff were provided with gender-specific guidance materials to be used in Grade 9. A total of 575 teachers and school administrators (218 women and 357 men) received gender equality training. A gender equality package was implemented in an initial 162 secondary schools in all 81 provinces.



COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN CHILD PROTECTION



91,000

refugee children

benefited from structured
psychosocial support in **74** safe
spaces across **24** provinces.

The child protection programme component of the Country Programme targets various groups of vulnerable children who are at risk of being left behind due to a range of protection concerns. It contributes to SDG 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Turkey has a strong tradition of delivering on State responsibilities through extensive public service networks. The longstanding cooperation between UNICEF and the ministries of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and other national institutions focuses on further strengthening national child protection systems for child care and justice for children, with the aim of serving all children living in Turkey, including refugee children.

Improving child care systems

In 2018, UNICEF and the MoFLSS collaborated on further improvements in the national child care system. In order to strengthen the case management process, an analysis of case management practices was conducted and an operating model was developed for the First Assessment Centres (safety/transit centres to serve children in need of protection while risk/needs

assessments are being carried out). In addition, 320 staff received training in specialized child protection.

Compliance with quality assurance mechanisms in MoFLSS residential facilities for children without parental care was strengthened through the implementation of self-assessment standards in 172 facilities. Further guidelines and training modules were developed for the Child Development Programme, which is expected to increase the quality of care in residential facilities for children deprived of parental care, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). The implementation of this Programme is expected to benefit about 12,500 Turkish and foreign children in care facilities.

The MoFLSS and UNICEF also collaborated on the further development of the ANKA programme, a psychosocial support and life skills development programme for children in residential care. In 2018, the programme was adapted to respond to the specific needs of UASC accommodated in 10 of the Ministry's Child Support Centres. The training programme and reference materials were developed, and 193 frontline workers were subsequently trained.



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As part of the efforts to strengthen the capacity of the MoFLSS to respond to emergencies, the Psychosocial Support Guidebook and the Correspondent Training Programme were reviewed and 238 staff of the MoFLSS, Ministry of Health (MoH), Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and the Turkish Red Crescent(TRC) were trained as trainers.

In order to support the development of capacity for the new national protection outreach programme (ASDEP), which is expected to extend the coverage of child protection services for both Turkish and refugee children, an assessment of training needs was conducted for 1,160 ASDEP personnel nationwide and an action plan was agreed to strengthen and standardize the ASDEP case management system and tools.

strengthening child protection systems

Support for refugee children in need of protection

In consideration of the specific child protection needs of vulnerable refugee and Turkish children living in the same communities, the services delivered by national systems are complemented by community-based services supported by UNICEF and delivered in conjunction with municipalities, NGOs and other partners through a network of safe spaces, community centres, outreach services and mobile teams in 32 provinces. In this context, about 91,000 children (51% girls) benefitted from structured psychosocial support (PSS) programmes in 74 safe spaces in 24 provinces. Monitoring showed that approximately 64% of children reported an improved sense of social and emotional well-being following the PSS programme. Through other child protection services, 64,317 refugee children were identified and assessed (including 1,966 children with disabilities – CwDs), of whom 46,835 were referred to specialized care services. Other services included parenting education programmes, legal assistance, assessments and referrals for CwDs, and emergency cash assistance. Meanwhile, trained child protection staff began to identify and assess vulnerable Turkish and refugee children in youth centres located in 25 provinces through a new partnership with the MoYS.

UNICEF and partners also continued to support two “Girls Safe Spaces” in Mardin and Sanliurfa. These spaces provide girls at risk and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) with counselling, tailored PSS, legal counselling and referrals. They reached 8,082 Syrian and Turkish girls and women (78% of them girls) with structured and community-supported activities. Moreover, 29,050 individuals (65% of them girls) participated in community-based interventions for the prevention and mitigation of GBV.

Over
64,000
refugee children were identified
and assessed, of whom nearly
47,000 were referred to
specialized care services

The child protection component of the extension of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) programme to refugees (See ‘Country Programme Results in Social Policy’) was fully operational in 15 provinces and reached 53,561 refugee children (49% girls). The beneficiaries included 4,853 refugee children (43% girls) with medium or high protection risks, who were referred to specialized services. This component complements the cash transfer component of the CCTE and aims at facilitating enrolment and regular attendance among those refugee children who are out of school or most at risk of dropping out. Work continues to ensure the sustainability of this service and its integration into the national social services outreach system in partnership with the MoFLSS.

In addition to implementing a comprehensive response for refugee children under temporary protection in Turkey, UNICEF worked in partnership with the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) and civil society partners to better meet the needs of children and families on the move through Turkey. Five child-friendly spaces were established in DGMM removal centres, benefiting 2,659 boys and 2,390 girls. Operating standards were drafted to support the provision of age-appropriate nutritional, educational, recreational and health services. UNICEF-supported outreach teams identified a total of 6,492 children on the move and assisted them in accessing protection services, including legal and psychosocial counselling. A total of 56,823 children received hygiene kits.



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Support for the elimination of child marriage

Many girls in Turkey - especially those from vulnerable groups or low socio-economic status - continue to face pressure to fill traditional gender roles, and are at particular risk of entering into child, early or forced marriage (CEFM). UNICEF provided technical support to the MoFLSS for the development of the “National Strategy Document and Action Plan for Combatting Early and Forced Marriages”. National capacity for improved and harmonised case management was enhanced through the dissemination of the Guidelines for Service Providers on the Prevention of Child Marriage, developed by UNICEF in 2017, to 1,900 service providers from government institutions and NGOs.

The “UN Joint Programme on the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM)” was initiated under the leadership of UNICEF and also includes UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR and IOM. This programme takes a multi-sectoral approach to the challenge of eliminating child marriage. So far, over 1,000 service providers, including MoFLSS staff, NGO frontline workers and teachers have been reached with capacity building programmes. Strategies have also been designed to promote positive social norms and behavioural change at community level.



Over **1,000 judges**
public prosecutors, court experts
and clerks were trained in
child-friendly procedures for children
in contact with the law

Improved systems for justice for children

Cooperation among the MoJ, UNICEF and civil society organizations to enhance child-friendly procedures in the justice system continued. In order to expand the use of alternatives to detention, the probation framework for children and young people was strengthened through the development of a new risk assessment tool empowering probation officers to better assess the needs of children and serve them through supportive intervention programmes. Extensive training was provided, the availability of specialized services for children in probation was mapped, and integration of the development assessment system into the national judicial information management system was ensured so as to guarantee sustainability and facilitate monitoring of the results.

As a result of the collaboration with MoJ and the Child Protection Centres Support Society, the capacities of over 1,000 judges, public prosecutors, court experts and clerks for implementing child-sensitive proceedings were enhanced. Awareness was raised among judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, and social workers concerning the purpose and use of the child-friendly judicial interview rooms (introduced in 2017 with UNICEF support). In November, the MoJ issued a circular on the specialized interview processes concerning sexual offences against children, which reaffirms that children's testimony should be taken only once in the entire judicial process, and that child-friendly judicial interview rooms should be used as required.

Access to redress mechanisms

The Ombudsperson's Institution (OI), with support of UNICEF, developed new mechanisms for managing and investigating complaints, and enhanced systems to improve access for children to the institution.

In October, the OI formally adopted a new Child Rights Strategy, developed with the technical support of UNICEF, which includes specific goals for improving the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, raising awareness in society, and strengthening the capacity of staff to respond to individual cases involving children.

Capacity for combating violence against children

Support was extended to the NGOs Network on Preventing Violence Against Children (VAC) to build the monitoring and advocacy capacity of NGO members on violence against children. The Network prepared a series of advocacy notes on topics related to VAC, in collaboration with local Bar Associations and university-based Child Protection Centres, and initiated an online signature campaign calling for comprehensive solutions concerning cases of sexual exploitation of children.





COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN SOCIAL POLICY

Almost
411,000
refugee children
have received a **Conditional
Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE)**
- over half of them girls.

The Social Policy component of the Country Programme seeks to address the socioeconomic factors that prevent the full realization of the rights of children, or put them at risk of being left behind. It encompasses support for social protection systems, the promotion of child-friendly governance at municipal level, and the fight against child labour. Efforts made in these areas contribute to progress towards several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

CCTE programme

The extension of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) programme - a national programme for disadvantaged Turkish children - was extended to

refugee children in 2017 by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of National Education, the Turkish Red Crescent and UNICEF. This social protection programme aims to alleviate the financial difficulties which constitute one of the main barriers to the participation of refugee children in education.

It is composed of a cash transfer component, whereby families receive bi-monthly payments on a bank card with amounts adjusted according to the child's age and gender, and a child protection component which provides outreach services (including screening, identification and referral where necessary) as an additional form of support to the families whose children are most at risk (See also 'Country Programme Results in Education' and 'Country Programme Results in Child Protection').



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Involving national actors from the education, child and social protection sectors, the CCTE programme is an example of fruitful cross-sectoral cooperation which is producing results for children at scale. It is also closely aligned with the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, which is implemented by MoFLSS, Turkish Red Crescent and the World Food Programme and provides a monthly unconditional grant to families to cover their basic needs. Approximately 83% of CCTE beneficiaries also benefit from the ESSN, which demonstrates the complementarity of the two programmes.

In 2018, the extension of CCTE to refugees entered its second school year and the coverage of the programme more than doubled. Since the beginning of the programme, 410,740 children (205,736 girls and 205,004 boys) have benefitted from cash transfers conditional on attendance in formal education. In late 2018 the programme was also expanded to include vulnerable children accessing non-formal education through the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP),

implemented by MoNE with support from UNICEF. Administrative data shows that 76% of CCTE beneficiary children regularly attend school, and programme monitoring reveals that 60% of beneficiary families attribute their children's school attendance directly to the CCTE.

for every
child
education



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More than
750 | **1,500**
government officials | small and medium
enterprise employers
were trained on how to better
identify and address child labour

Building capacity to combat child labour

The Country Programme continued to contribute to efforts to combat child labour through a multi-sectoral strategy involving capacity development, support to services for families at risk, and evidence generation and advocacy in partnership with employer associations, municipalities, NGOs and other UN agencies. The Child Labour Technical Group established by UNICEF and ILO developed a toolkit for identifying, preventing and responding to cases of child labour among Turkish and refugee children, which is being disseminated among different entities working with children. Training was provided to 355 MoFLSS labour inspectors, all 81 deputy provincial directors of National Education, 320 coordinator teachers and 1,500 members of the Confederation of Craftsmen and Tradesmen (TESK).

Research was conducted with an NGO partner on some of the most invisible children and families who are working in seasonal agriculture. The findings are being used for advocacy to improve local policies targeting these families.

In late 2018, the Government adopted a recommendation from children themselves to establish provincial units for combatting child labour (See 'Country Programme Achievements for Adolescents').





Child-Friendly Cities

UNICEF continued to contribute to the promotion of child-friendly governance at municipal level through the Child Friendly Cities initiative, aiming to further enhance the capacity of local administrations to promote policies in favour of the most vulnerable children and adolescents. In 2018, guidelines and training materials were developed and implemented to increase the capacities of municipalities in child participation, child rights programming, prevention of child marriage and child labour, and child focused strategy development and budgeting. UNICEF is also collaborating with the Union of Municipalities of Turkey to make tools and training courses available to a wide range of municipalities across the country via an online platform.

Multi-sectoral workplans are also being implemented with four specific municipalities. These municipalities have a combined population of over 3.6 million Turkish citizens and about 600,000 refugees, including almost 1.3 million children (Turkish and refugees). In Izmit, Turkish and refugee children working on the street are

identified and assessed by a mobile team established to support the My House Child Support Centre, which was opened by the municipality in April to provide psychosocial support services and referral pathways. In Kilis, where about half of the population is made up of refugees, the municipality was able to reach out to previously under-served populations and include them in community-based education, child protection, and social cohesion activities. In Kilis and Gaziantep, where the municipalities have identified child marriage as a key priority, relevant service providers and NGOs received training on positive changes in social norms. These local authorities also implemented the Guidelines for Service Providers on the Prevention of Child Marriage, which were developed through a participatory process coordinated by Gaziantep Municipality and UNICEF. In Yüreğir, where seasonal migrant child labour and social inclusion were identified as key priorities, municipal community centre staff and teachers received training on child rights, child labour and working with vulnerable children.

COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS FOR ADOLESCENTS

Because of the importance of adolescence in the life cycle and the multiplicity of the challenges which vulnerable adolescents may face, adolescents are among the main target groups of the Country Programme. A special focus on adolescent girls and boys is built into the Turkey-UNICEF cooperation in Education (out-of-school children, gender equality in education), Child Protection (community-based services, psychosocial support, justice for children, eliminating child marriage) and Social Policy (Child-Friendly Cities, combating child labour). In addition, the Country Programme has focused on adolescents as positive agents of change and promotes opportunities for meaningful engagement with and between Turkish and refugee adolescents, thereby supporting social cohesion between communities as well as the participation of young people.

Adolescent engagement and social cohesion

In 2018, there was an expansion of the cooperation between UNICEF, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS), the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) and several other government and non-government institutions to ensure increased adolescent engagement through national systems. The result was a significant number of adolescents and young people, both refugee and Turkish, participating in social, peer-to-peer, and leadership development activities. These activities seek to bring adolescents and



Nearly

99,000

Turkish and refugee adolescents and youth benefited from empowerment and social cohesion programmes

young people from refugee and Turkish communities together, and to contribute to increased social cohesion by promoting mutual understanding and enabling these young people to act as agents of change in their communities. Peer-to-peer activities, including services offered in the 'ÇATOM' (Multi-purpose Community Centres) and 'Adolescent Friendly' centres of the MoYS, reached 98,576 adolescents and young people (56,078 girls and 42,498 boys).

Child participation

The MoFLSS and UNICEF continued to cooperate to support institutional mechanisms for children's participation, including the work of provincial child rights committees and the national Children's Forum. The Children's Forum is held annually on the occasion of World Children's Day and includes a visit to Parliament by child leaders. In 2018, the 19th National Children's Forum organized by UNICEF and the MoFLSS focused on child labour. As a result, child representatives from all over Turkey, including Turkish and refugee children, presented a list of recommendations to eliminate child labour to President Erdoğan and to Parliament. The key recommendation – to establish provincial units for combatting child labour – was subsequently included in the Government's second 100-Day Action Plan announced in December.



COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



'Children's Special Need's Health Report' was developed by MoH with UNICEF's support

Early childhood is a crucial time in children's lives and quality early childhood development (ECD) is vital for the achievement of child rights with equity as well as for the achievement of national development goals in the longer term. The efforts made under the Country Programme to enhance capacity for the healthy growth and development of young children contribute to progress towards SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

The 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey included for the first time an additional module to measure indicators on early childhood development, based on UNICEF's global Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) methodology. This allows calculation of one SDG indicator currently not measured in the country and will generate new data on the health and development of 0-5 year-old children that can inform new early childhood development (ECD) policies, an increasing priority in Turkey.

Meanwhile, a situation analysis of CWDs (not limited to early childhood) is being finalized in collaboration with the NGOs Network for the Rights of CWDs, and will inform further efforts in this area.

Detection of disabilities

The timely detection of disabilities among children, and consequent early intervention, would remove a critical barrier to the realization of the rights of children with

disabilities. UNICEF contributed to the work of the Ministry of Health (MoH) on the preparatory phase of the roll-out of a new regulation on the 'Children's Special Need's Health Report', which is to be implemented in public hospitals nationwide starting in 2019, and of a Guide to Monitoring Child Development for use in the health care system. The Guide is expected to contribute to an increase in the technical skills of relevant health professionals and facilitate awareness raising among parents.

Positive nutrition practices

Together with WFP, work was carried out to enhance capacity for positive nutrition practices and nutrition monitoring, particularly among refugee children, who are most at risk of missing out on their right to health. 40 staff from NGOs running community centres acquired knowledge and skills for the early detection of cases of severe acute malnutrition.

Care for development

Work conducted under the Country Programme also contributed to the development of a 'Care for Child Development' training package, designed to prepare health providers and community and frontline workers dealing with families of young children to promote their healthy growth and psychosocial development.



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFAD - Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority

ALP - Accelerated Learning Programme

ASDEP - Family Social Support Outreach Programme

C4D - Communication for Development

CCTE - Conditional Cash Transfer for Education

CEFM - Child Early and Forced Marriage

CFC - Child-Friendly City

CP - Child Protection

CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child

CSFE - Child Social and Financial Education

CSO - Civil Society Organisation

CwDs - Children with Disabilities

DGMM - Directorate General of Migration Management

ECD - Early Childhood Development

ECE - Early Childhood Education

ENOC - European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

EPMS - Education Personnel Management Strategy

GAP - Southeast Anatolia Project

GBV - Gender-Based Violence

ILO - International Labour Organisation

I/NFE - Informal/Non-Formal Education

IOM - International Organisation for Migration

MoFLSS - Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services

MoH - Ministry of Health

MoJ - Ministry of Justice

MoNE - Ministry of National Education

- MoYS** - Ministry of Youth and Sports
- NDP** - National Development Plan
- NGO** - Non-Government Organisation
- OI** - Ombudsperson Institution
- PTT** - Turkish post office
- PSS** - Psycho-Social Support
- REP** - Remedial Education Programme
- RET** - Refugee Education Trust International
- SASF** - Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation(s)
- SBO** - Strategy and Budget Office
- SDG** - Sustainable Development Goal
- SOP** - School Orientation Programme
- TESK** - Confederation of Craftsmen and Tradesmen
- TKV** - Development Foundation of Turkey
- TEC** - Temporary Education Centre
- TPS** - Turkish public school
- TRCS** - Turkish Red Crescent Society
- TurkStat** - Turkish Statistical Institute
- UNFPA** - United Nations Population Fund
- UNHCR** - United Nations Refugee Agency (United Nations High Commission for Refugees)
- UNICEF** - United Nations Children's Fund
- UTBA** - Union of Turkish Bar Associations
- VAC** - Violence against Children
- VQI** - Vocational Qualifications Institution
- WFP** - World Food Programme
- WHO** - World Health Organisation
- YOBIS** - Education Information Management System for Foreigners

The programme activities described in this report were made possible thanks to the generous support of the following partners:

Governments

Government of France
Government of Germany
Government of Japan
Government of Kuwait
Government of Luxembourg
Government of Norway
Government of Sweden
Government of the United States

The European Union

The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)
The Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood and
Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

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