



unicef
for every child

**TURKEY – UNICEF
COUNTRY PROGRAMME
OF COOPERATION
2016-2020**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2019**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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INTRODUCTION

Turkey is an upper middle-income country with substantial capacities to uphold child rights and to contribute to child rights beyond its borders. It has well-established institutions and extensive public services, especially in health and education. In the Turkish population, absolute poverty is virtually non-existent, infant and child mortality have fallen over the years, standing at 9.3 and 11.4 per thousand live births in 2018. The overall immunisation rate for major communicable diseases was 98% in 2018 and school enrolment between the ages of 6 and 13 is over 98%. Enrolment in preschool and secondary education has also improved over time. However, significant regional, socioeconomic and gender disparities remain which impede the realization of rights for all children in Turkey, and special efforts are still required 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 girls at risk of child marriage.

Turkey continues to host the largest registered refugee population in the world which puts additional strain on national systems and resources. There are 3.6 million Syrian refugees with temporary protection status in Turkey, including 1.6 million children. There are also close to 400,000 registered asylum-seekers and refugees from other countries, about a third of whom are children. Meeting the needs of all these children for protection and access to services remains a major challenge, and they face specific and urgent difficulties due to the high levels of poverty of their families, persistent trauma due to the experience of war and prolonged displacement, language barriers, and a lack of social inclusion. Moreover, some irregular migrants, including children, continue to 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 2019. Turkey entered 2019 in recession, following the lira's sudden depreciation in 2018. However, GDP growth resumed in the third quarter with a year-on-year increase of 0.9%. Inflation declined, standing at 11.84% in December. Unemployment and youth employment rates improved but remained high at 13.3% and 24.5% respectively in November.

The Government continued to lead the response to the refugee situation and remained the largest provider of humanitarian aid. The overall number of refugees in Turkey remained stable, but temporary accommodation centers (camps) for Syrians under temporary protection

were consolidated, reducing from 20 to 7, and the proportion of Syrians under temporary protection living in temporary protection centres (camps) fell further, to under 2%.

The number of Syrian refugee children included in formal education reached 684,728 as of December 2019, representing an increase of 6.5% by comparison with the 2018-19 school year and 39% with the 2016-17 school year. Integration into the national school system continued to accelerate, with 96% of refugee children attending Turkish public schools. Despite this significant progress, about 400,000 Syrian refugee children, particularly adolescents, remained out of school.

The Eleventh National Development Plan (2019-2023) was adopted in July. It articulated key national priorities relevant to social aspects of development, including sections on education, health, the family, women, children, and youth.

A sub-committee on the Rights of the Child was established in July under the Human Rights Investigation Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (Parliament). The sub-committee is mandated to monitor child rights issues and translate them into legislative actions.

The updated Judicial Reform Strategy was published in May. It includes proposals for children in contact with the law, including alternatives to imprisonment for first-time offenders and a conciliation model specific to children. In October, related legislation reduced the maximum durations of pre-trial detention, expanded some diversion measures for children, and clearly regulated the child-friendly interview rooms, developed with UNICEF support, which became mandatory for child victims of sexual abuse.

The results of the 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey were published, providing important new information on women and children in Turkey. Data on the Syrian refugee population and on young child care and development were obtained for the first time.

The new 'Children's Special Needs Health Report' was formally adopted by the ministries of Health and Family, Labour and Social Services to improve early identification and classification of children with special needs so that they can be provided with appropriate support and services from as early an age as possible.

The results of the 2018 OECD Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA) tests were announced, with improvements for Turkish students as compared to 2015. Among 79 countries, they ranked 40th in reading, 42nd in mathematics and 39th in science.

multi-
faceted
support



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, the UNICEF Strategic Plan and other relevant 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;
- 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). Contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey, and in particular making the principle of "leave no one behind" a reality, is at the heart of the Country Programme.

At the same time, the Country Programme outcomes contribute to the Syria 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.

The Programme is being implemented in cooperation with the Government of Turkey and through a large number of partnerships with key government ministries and institutions, municipalities, academia, civil society organisations and the private sector. A wide range of strategies are employed to achieve the Programme targets, from the delivery of services to strengthening of national systems and engagement in policy dialogue.

In 2019, the annual financial throughput of the Country Programme reached USD205 million, compared to USD181 million in 2018, USD151 million in 2017 and USD103.7 million in 2016. The total number of staff in UNICEF's offices in Ankara and Gaziantep reached 125 in total. These additional resources allowed the Country Programme to expand the scale of its support to partners and advance the child rights agenda for all vulnerable children in Turkey.

In coordination with the Government of Turkey and the United Nations Country Team, preparations are underway to develop a new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNDSFC) as well as a new UNICEF Country Programme for the period 2021-2025.



KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN IN 2019

The capacity of the education system was further enhanced to provide inclusive, quality education for all girls and boys, from early childhood to adolescence, including children with disabilities, refugee children and other vulnerable children. The Remedial Education Programme for children unable to achieve 3rd and 4th grade basic literacy and numeracy learning outcomes was revised and rolled out nationally, reaching 302,000 children. Following the development and implementation of a training programme in inclusive education for teachers and school administrators across the country, additional training modules were delivered to 24,000 school administrators and teachers, including a module on teaching Turkish as a foreign language. School counsellors received training on an improved psychosocial support module for students with trauma, as a preparation for its introduction throughout the country. Training and public awareness activities were conducted to increase the effectiveness of counselling and research centres (RAMs) in the provision of special education and counselling for children with special needs. In addition, preschool teachers were trained to make use of a new assessment framework which will help them to provide higher-quality early childhood education and primary education services for children with special needs, while the development

of a comprehensive set of educational materials to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in early childhood education was completed. Counselling materials and youth empowerment modules were introduced to increase the access and retention of vulnerable children in technical and vocational education programmes, and the first Design Schools Labs were established in upper secondary schools.

The Country Programme contributed to the continuing increase in the number of Syrian refugee children enrolled in formal education. The number of Syrian refugee children in formal education reached 684,728 (336,722 girls and 348,006 boys), and the proportion in Turkish public schools increased from 86% in the 2018-19 school year to 96% in the 2019-20 school year. The number of children benefiting from the extension of the Conditional Cash Transfers in Education (CCTE) to refugees rose from 410,740 in December 2018 to 562,016 in December 2019, with the program now covering 80% of all refugee children in school. Additional top-up payments were introduced for children at lower/upper secondary school level to better address the specific needs faced by older children. Incentives and training continued to be provided for



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12,245 Syrian volunteer education personnel (SVEP). Increasingly, SVEP are taking on new roles in education, administration, outreach and counselling to support the integration of refugee children into the national education system. Meanwhile, 26,195 girls and 28,079 boys who were out of school were identified and referred to relevant available education opportunities as a result of community-based outreach campaigns.

Vulnerable refugee children were given a second chance through non-formal education. The Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP), which provides certified learning opportunities to out-of-school refugee children, continued to expand. Between the launch of the programme in 2018 and the end of 2019, 17,492 children (47% girls) have benefited from the programme. Of these, 48% had already successfully completed the relevant ALP cycle and been referred to the formal school system. Coverage of Turkish language classes supported by UNICEF in Youth Centers and other locations throughout Turkey also expanded, with 11,937 children (47% of them girls), benefiting in 2019.

The capacity of the national child protection system to provide quality care and protection services was enhanced with the development of new initiatives and programmes. The Child Development Training Programme, which was developed to support the psychosocial, cognitive and emotional development of children in residential care, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), reached 2,688 children – 20% of all children in residential care – and will be further scaled up in 2020. Further technical support and training was provided for the development of a much-needed short-term foster care system to prevent institutionalisation of children. Support for fifteen additional Family Support outreach teams (ASDEP), including training, tools and additional human resources, was provided to improve the capacity of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services to reach, identify and support children in need of protection at community level. In provinces with large refugee populations, these teams assessed 9,395 children and referred 917 to specialist services. Capacity to provide psychosocial

support services in emergency and disaster situations was enhanced, and 2,019 field workers from relevant institutions and organizations were trained with the support of UNICEF. In 2019, trained field workers reached 4,795 individuals affected by small-scale emergencies, such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, fire and mine accidents in various provinces of Turkey.

Coverage of community-based child protection services for both refugee and Turkish children continued to expand. A total of 255,297 children received community-based psychosocial support and other essential child protection services. UNICEF support for case management processes contributed to the identification, assessment and planning of individual support for 78,199 children. A total of 4,063 children with disabilities benefited from multi-disciplinary services in safe spaces. Separately, the child protection component of the Conditional Cash Transfer in Education (CCTE) programme reached 18,844 children, of whom 1,654 were referred to specialised services. Psychosocial and case management services for unaccompanied and separated children in residential care, including best interest assessments, were provided to over 100 children.

National capacities to prevent and respond to child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence were enhanced. Training on identification, referral and case management for child marriage was provided to 700 members of the security forces and 100 NGO staff. Awareness sessions were held for 1,710 parents and empowerment workshops were held for 637 children (513 girls), and 276 staff of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policies were trained in community mobilisation. Awareness raising about gender-based

violence reached 40,653 individuals. Syrian and Turkish adolescent girls were supported and referred to specialised services where necessary through Girl Safe Spaces and community-based services, as well as through cooperation with municipalities.

Implementation of the National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Labour was supported. Training on child labour reached staff of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS), covering 90% of all labour inspectors in Turkey, as well as vocational and training schools and apprenticeship centres, municipalities, the Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TESK), and civil society organisations. Training was also provided to the private sector and civil society organisations on mobilising agricultural intermediaries in preventing child labour. Civil society partners provided psychosocial support to 1,197 refugee and Turkish children (693 boys, 504 girls) at risk of child labour in Adana, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, and Diyarbakır.

The capacity of the justice system for child-friendly procedures was enhanced, and the use of some child-friendly procedures increased. The DENGE Juvenile Probation Programme for children in conflict with the law was strengthened and 874 children benefited. This programme will now be implemented in all the 81 provinces of Turkey to lower the number of children in prison and reduce reoffending. The number of child-friendly Judicial Interview Rooms in courthouses increased from 59 to 65, and over 5,000 children benefited. Arabic-language translators received training on child-friendly judicial interviews. Efforts to improve legal aid for children continued with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations.



Large numbers of Turkish and refugee adolescents and young people took part in activities designed to promote their meaningful engagement and enhance social cohesion. 94,024 adolescents and young people, including 49,094 girls, took part in adolescent engagement and social cohesion programmes, consisting of peer-to-peer trainings on mediation, communication, respect for differences, project design and peer learning, and then jointly developed activities to be led by adolescents in their communities. Multi-sectoral services for young people were expanded through the cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, offering life skills, recreational activities, language courses and psycho-social support and counselling in 45 Youth Centres throughout Turkey.

Support to early learning for vulnerable children. At national level, work began on developing early childhood education materials to assist parents in supporting their children's cognitive and socio-emotional development through play and creative activities to be conducted at home. To enhance the availability of quality ECE learning spaces, UNICEF provided 39 container classrooms, furniture and learning materials that will serve approximately 3,900 children every year. At local level, community-based early learning programmes for children in marginalised communities were expanded, reaching 23,087 children.

Contributions were made to support the health and nutrition of vulnerable young children. UNICEF provided 91 Vaccine Tracking System packages to help

increase vaccination rates among refugee children. Turkish and Syrian health professionals working in primary health care were trained to promote positive infant and young child feeding practices among vulnerable groups, including refugees, and 20 training modules were updated.

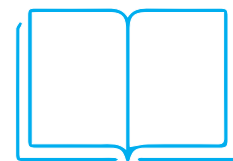
Capacities of local administrations to support children and adolescents were strengthened. Following the local government elections, the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and UNICEF provided staff of 29 municipalities with training and follow-up technical assistance in child-friendly budget and strategy development.

In cooperation with UNICEF, the municipalities of Kilis, Yüreğir and Gaziantep expanded their services for refugee and vulnerable Turkish children. In Kilis, for example, municipal outreach teams reached 6,904 children, who benefited from various forms of education, child protection and psychosocial support.

Child participation was promoted. The 20th Children's Forum was held in Ankara on World Children's Day, bringing together members of the provincial child rights committees established in all 81 provinces. The children presented a declaration to the Speaker and members of Parliament, the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Ombudsperson and the UNICEF Representative, and planted trees to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



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over
684,000
 refugee children
 were enrolled in
 formal education

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). The Ministry of National Education (MoNE) is the main partner of UNICEF, together with child protection and social protection actors, including the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services, Ministry of Youth and Sports, GAP Administration, and civil society partners. Cross-sectoral interventions are of particular importance for vulnerable children and adolescents, particularly those out of school or at risk of drop-out.

Formal education opportunities for refugee children

Different groups of vulnerable children face different challenges in benefiting fully from their right to education. Refugee children are particularly at risk of

not accessing any form of education. At the beginning of the current Country Programme cycle in 2016, only approximately 36% of the school-age refugee population, was enrolled in school, posing a significant challenge for the education sector to accommodate an unprecedented number of additional children in school. By the end of the 2019, the overall gross enrolment rate for refugee children was 63.3%, with 89.3% in primary school, and MoNE made further progress in ensuring sustainability and quality of education by including them in Turkish public schools. As of the 2019-2020 school year, 684,728 refugee children (336,722 girls and 348,006 boys) are enrolled in formal education—up from 643,058 (316,485 girls and 326,573 boys) at the end of 2018. Moreover, the proportion of these children studying in Turkish public schools rather than in refugee-only temporary education centres increased from 86% in the 2018-19 school year to 96% in the 2019-20 school year.



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The Turkey-UNICEF Country Programme contributed to this achievement in several ways. The extension of the Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CCTE) programme to refugee children continued, providing refugee families with cash transfers equivalent to those available to disadvantaged Turkish children, on condition of school attendance (see “Country Programme Achievements in Social Policy”). Support for the training of Turkish teachers continued to enhance the capacity of the school system to address the needs of children with different backgrounds and challenges, and to teach Turkish as a second language (see “Building capacity for quality inclusive education”).

Learning spaces and supplies were provided to address constraints caused by the high numbers of refugee children in the school system (see “Early Learning”, in “Country Programme Achievements in Early Childhood Development”).

Incentives and training continued to be provided for Syrian volunteer education personnel (SVEP). The engagement of trained Syrian volunteers has helped to improve motivation and provide sustainable, safe and protective learning environments for Syrian refugee children. It has also contributed to their transition from temporary education centres to Turkish public schools. As of December 2019, 12,245 SVEP (6,521 females; 5,724 males) were receiving monthly incentives through the MoNE - UNICEF - PTT (General Directorate of Post and Telegraph Organisation) partnership across 23 provinces. In 2019, the amount of the monthly incentive paid to the SVEP increased from TRY1,603 to TRY2,020 in line with the Turkish minimum wage, and further training for SVEPs was provided.



nearly
17,500
children benefited
from

UNICEF supported language courses

more than
17,000
children benefited
from

Accelerated Learning Programme

With the increased integration of Syrian refugee children into Turkish public schools, the role of SVEPs has evolved, as foreseen in the Education Personnel Management Strategy (EPMS) previously developed by MoNE and UNICEF. They are now providing support to education, administration, outreach and counselling services provided through Turkish public schools, public education centres, research and counselling centres (RAM), and provincial and district directorates of National Education.

Meanwhile, 26,195 girls and 28,079 boys who were out of school were identified and referred to relevant available education opportunities as a result of outreach campaigns conducted by community-based teams in 24 provinces in partnership with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), Kilis Municipality and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).

Informal and non-formal education for refugee adolescents

While significant progress has been made in enrolling refugee children in formal education, MoNE and UNICEF are also committed to developing specialised

support and learning pathways for out-of-school children, particularly adolescents, whose education has been interrupted for several years and who may face difficulties in resuming formal education, such as language barriers and having to study alongside younger children.

Two main alternative pathways to learning for refugees were supported by the Country Programme in 2019. The Accelerated Learning Programme is a non-formal education programme specially designed to support the transition of out-of-school refugee children into formal education. It 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. Available through a network of public education centres in 12 provinces, it offers certified learning with a curriculum approved by MoNE. The Programme continued to expand in 2019. Between the launch of the programme in 2018 and the end of 2019, 17,492 children (47% girls) have benefited from the programme. Of these, 48% successfully completed the relevant ALP cycle and have been referred to the formal school system.



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Turkish Language Classes are designed to address the language barrier to participation in education both for out-of-school children and for those at risk of drop out. They are offered together with life-skills, arts and sports, and social cohesion activities at Ministry of Youth and Sports youth centres in 24 provinces. They were launched in 2018 and expanded further in 2019. By the end of 2019, 11,937 children (8,275 aged 6-13 and 3,662 aged 14-17), 47% of them girls, had benefited from these UNICEF-supported language courses.

Homework support, transport and school supplies were provided to assist the access of out-of-school children to these non-formal education opportunities. ALP learners were also able to benefit from the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) programme for refugees for the first time in 2019.

Capacity for quality inclusive education

In 2019, MoNE and UNICEF continued to collaborate in areas such as education policy and practice, professional development and learning assessment systems with a view to enhancing the quality of education, particularly its inclusiveness for different groups of children.

The Inclusive Education Teacher Training Programme was further developed, and new modules were delivered to approximately 24,000 school administrators, primary and preschool teachers and Turkish language teachers to enable them to create a more inclusive school environment, provide counselling in classrooms and teach Turkish as a second language. This programme will benefit the most vulnerable students, including but not limited to refugee children.

The Remedial Education Programme, 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, was revised in the light of lessons from its pilot phase. Full implementation started with the 2019-2020 academic year, covering 302,000 3rd graders across the country.

The Psychosocial Support module was revised to improve the capacity of the education system to support refugee and other students for whom different types of trauma are causing learning difficulties. The training of school-based counsellors in the implementation of the module continued as preparation for its adoption nationwide.

Efforts continued to strengthen the capacities of counselling and research centres (RAM) to improve the quality of special education and counselling provided to children with special needs in schools. A total of 732 Turkish counsellors and 170 Syrian volunteer education personnel received training, public awareness seminars were held and 20,000 brochures were distributed explaining RAM services in Arabic and Turkish.

A review of the student assessment system in Turkey conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in collaboration with MoNE and UNICEF was completed and published, containing recommendations for all aspects of learning assessment from national examinations to classroom assessment practice.

Support for Secondary Education and adolescent skills development

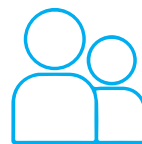
For the 2018-19 school year, MoNE data shows a net enrolment of Turkish children of 88.22% for 14-17 year-

olds. Despite the overall increase of enrolment in upper secondary education and the near elimination of the gender gap at national level, situations regarding educational access vary by region. The majority of refugee children in this age group are also still out of school. Therefore it is important to ensure relevant, inclusive, quality learning opportunities for adolescents considering their backgrounds and challenges.

In addition to the interventions in the areas of inclusive education and refugee education described above, MoNE and UNICEF collaborated to strengthen vocational training centres (VTCs). Counselling materials and youth empowerment modules tailored for use with VTC students were developed, and all VTC counselling teachers received training, in an initiative to increase the access and retention of vulnerable children in technical and vocational education programmes. In addition, the first Design Schools Labs were established in eleven upper secondary schools in an innovative effort to lower the number of students not attending or dropping out. The approach was aiming to provide more conducive learning environments where innovative learning approaches are employed to promote problem-solving, critical thinking, productivity, teamwork, and social-emotional literacy among adolescents. School principals and teachers were trained in the use of DSL materials and approaches.

With regards to out of school children, a comprehensive study on out-of-school Turkish and refugee children was initiated to inform future efforts to identify and monitor Turkish and refugee children who are excluded from educational opportunities and develop innovative solutions to bring them back to learning.





COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN CHILD PROTECTION

over
255,000
children
received psycho-social support &
child protection services

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 the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), other national institutions and UNICEF 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 and protection systems

MoFLSS and UNICEF continued to collaborate to further strengthen national systems for child care and justice for children.

The MoFLSS began to implement the Child Development Training Programme, which was developed under the Country Programme to improve the quality of care in residential facilities for children deprived of parental care and to support the psychosocial, cognitive and emotional development of children under state protection, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). The programme reached 2,688 children in 12 provinces in 2019 – 20% of all children in residential care. More trainers were trained for the scaling-up of the programme in 2020.

In order to strengthen family-based care and the de-institutionalisation of children, further technical support was also provided for the development of a short-term foster care system, including the training of 85 service providers for the training of foster families.



The Country Programme continued to contribute to the development of the Family Support Teams (ASDEP) and Social Services Centres (SSC) of the MoFLSS, to increase national capacity to identify, refer and provide services to children with protection concerns at the community level. Work was carried out on standardised service delivery and case management modalities and tools, and 649 ASDEP staff were trained on the prevention of sexual abuse and working with victims of trauma. UNICEF also supported the mobilisation of additional ASDEP teams in the fifteen provinces with the largest refugee populations by recruiting 86 case workers and interpreters. These teams assessed 9,395 children of whom 1,243 were identified as high-risk, and 917 referred to specialist services.

As part of disaster risk reduction efforts, the MoFLSS and UNICEF continued to work towards the standardisation of psychosocial support services in emergencies and disasters. A total of 2,019 social services, education and health staff from MoFLSS, MoNE, AFAD, MoH and TRC received training in psychosocial support. In 2019, trained field workers reached 4,795 individuals affected by small-scale emergencies, such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, fires, and mine accidents in various provinces of Turkey.

strengthening
child care &
protection systems

Support for refugee and migrant children in need of protection

Refugee children and vulnerable Turkish children living in host communities have specific child protection needs, including needs for psychosocial support. To meet these immediate needs and complement the statutory child care and protection services delivered by national systems, UNICEF supports partners to increase the quality and coverage of community-based services. The community-based services are delivered in conjunction with the MoFLSS, municipalities, NGOs and other partners through a network of safe spaces, community centres, outreach services and mobile teams in areas with high concentrations of refugees and provide referrals and facilitation to ensure refugees are effectively accessing national services as required.

In 2019, a total of 255,297 children, including equal numbers of boys and girls, received community-based psychosocial support and other essential child protection services (such as parenting education programmes, legal assistance, assessments and referrals for children with disabilities, and emergency cash assistance) through these community-based channels. UNICEF support for case management processes contributed to the identification, assessment and planning of individual support for 78,199 children, of whom 37,237 were referred to specialised services and legal counselling. A total of 4,063 children with disabilities (1,687 girls; 2,376 boys) benefited from multi-disciplinary services including psychosocial counselling in safe spaces, while seminars aiming to increase awareness about disability and promoting access to services were held in all key service points operated by UNICEF partners.

Starting in 2019, Syrian and Turkish adolescents participating in social cohesion activities (see “Country

Programme Achievements For Adolescents”) or Turkish language courses (see ‘Country Programme Achievements in Education’) were given access to psychosocial support programmes and individual counselling services, 3,019 benefited.

Meanwhile, the child protection component of the Conditional Cash Transfer in Education (CCTE) programme (see “Country Programme Achievements in Social Policy”) reached 18,844 children including 9,093 girls. Of these, 1,654 including 681 girls were found to have medium or high protection risks and were referred to specialised services. This component conducts home visits to CCTE beneficiaries most at risk of not meeting the attendance conditions of the programme and provides child protection support and referrals to specialized services for those in need.

The multi-sectoral services provided to refugee and migrant children and young people through six child-friendly spaces in selected reception, accommodation and removal centres of the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) were improved through provision of supplies, training activities, meetings with families and development of standard operating procedures.

With support from NGO partners, psychosocial support and case management services, including best interest assessments for unaccompanied and separated children, were provided to over 100 girls and boys in MoFLSS residential centres in the provinces most affected by irregular migration.



Prevention of child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence

The results of the 2018 Demographic and Health Survey confirmed that child marriage remains a challenge in Turkey. According to the survey, 14.7% of Turkish women aged 20-24 had married before turning 18 – unchanged from 2013 – while 2% had married before turning 15. This first nationally representative data on child marriage among Syrian refugee women showed disturbingly high figures, with 44.8% of Syrian women aged 20-24 in Turkey having been married before turning 18, and 9.2% before turning 15. Patriarchal cultural norms, legal gaps and limitations in law enforcement are all conducive to child marriage. Poverty and social exclusion also seem to be critical factors, especially in the case of refugee families.

In 2019, UNICEF continued to cooperate with MoFLSS, other UN agencies and civil society to address child marriage. Training on identification, referral and case management was provided to 700 members of the security forces and 100 NGO staff. MoFLSS cascaded the training and reached 16,000 service providers. UNICEF is also leading a UN Joint Programme for the prevention of child, early and forced marriage which includes support for the implementation of national and local action plans, communication for social and behavioural change, data generation, and services for survivors.

As part of the communication for social and behavioural change strategy, UNICEF and its partners delivered awareness sessions to 1,710 parents (1,466 women, 244 men) in 2019 and held “empowerment workshops” for 637 children (513 girls, 124 boys). Additional means of communication (role model meetings, adolescent mentorship programme and inter-generational public gatherings) were developed and reached more than 400

children and youth in Kilis. To scale up these efforts, 276 MoFLSS staff received training on approaches to community mobilisation.

With respect to gender-based violence, the awareness of a total of 40,653 individuals was raised, and seminars with children on “safe touch” remained an integral part of the child-friendly spaces programme. Support continued for Girl Safe Spaces which target girl adolescents at risk of GBV with structured and community-supported services, including PSS and counselling, case management, and referrals, reaching a total of 2,462 Syrian and Turkish adolescent girls.

Efforts to strengthen GBV case management processes in UNICEF-supported centres resulted in earlier detection and improved classification of GBV survivors. A total of 797 children including 549 girls were identified as survivors of different forms of GBV and referred for support including specialised services provided by the state, individual counselling and emotional support groups.

UNICEF also contributed to multiple campaigns and events: International Women’s Day; 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women; 5th International Day of the Girl Child. A child friendly version of the “Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence” was developed through consultations with girls and boys, including Syrian refugee children. UNICEF strengthened the capacities of its partners for child safeguarding and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (see Country Programme Achievement in “Child Protection” under “Improving child care and protection systems”).



Improved systems for justice for children

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data indicate some decline in the numbers of child offenders, court cases against children, and children in detention. However, about 2,500 children are in prison, of whom about 95% are boys. Only about half of all children who go on trial are tried in specialised courts.

In 2019, the Ministry, UNICEF and civil society organisations continued to cooperate to enhance child-friendly procedures in the justice system.

874 children in conflict with the law benefited from the DENGÉ Juvenile Probation Programme, developed by MoJ with UNICEF support. This programme will now

be implemented in all 81 provinces to lower the number of children in prison and reduce reoffending. The programme was improved through the development of specific monitoring tools within the Judicial Information Network Programme (UYAP) to provide better data on the profile of children under probation and their progress as they go through the DENGÉ programme. A workshop on the “Prevention of Juvenile Reoffending” yielded constructive suggestions to strengthen the collaboration between the justice and social welfare sectors to improve specific services for children in contact with the law.



over
5,000
children
benefited from 65
child friendly judicial
interview rooms

The Country Programme contributed to increased use of child-friendly interview rooms for child victims and witnesses. The number of child-friendly Judicial Interview Rooms in courthouses increased from 59 to 65, and over 5,000 children benefited.

A training programme on child-friendly judicial interviews was developed and delivered to 142 Arabic- language translators in provinces with high concentration of refugees in the judicial system.

To improve legal aid for children, a training module was developed and adopted by the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, and a capacity building plan was drawn up for lawyers working with and for children.

Access to redress mechanisms

A memorandum was signed between UNICEF and the newly-established parliamentary sub-committee on the Rights of the Child for collaboration in the areas of legislative review, violence against children and child-friendly budgeting.

Following last year's adoption of the "Child Rights and Outreach strategies" by the Ombudsperson's Institution, UNICEF contributed to their implementation through newly designed tools and awareness raising activities including a peer-learning outreach programme designed for different age groups as well as child-friendly tools for showcasing the mandate and decisions of the OI in a standardised manner.

Collaboration continued with academia, non-government organisations and bar associations for effective child rights monitoring. Following various consultations and training activities, the Network on the Rights of Children with Disabilities submitted a report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Partnership Network for Prevention Violence against Children submitted a report for the Universal Periodic Review.



COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN SOCIAL POLICY



over
562,000
refugee children
benefited from the **Conditional
Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE)
Programme**

The Social Policy component of the Country Programme seeks to address some of the socioeconomic factors which 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 support to national efforts to eliminate child labour. The 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).

According to 2018 data from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), the relative poverty rate (below 60% of median equivalised household income) was 21.2%. Relative poverty among children was higher, at 32.1%. Surveys conducted to monitor the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) for Syrian refugees found that 11.7% of ESSN beneficiary refugee households were living in extreme poverty while 59.18% were living in moderate poverty.

CCTE programme

The Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) programme –a national programme for disadvantaged

Turkish children – was extended to refugee families in June 2017. Since then, the CCTE Programme for Refugees has been implemented jointly 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, and to encourage their enrolment and regular attendance. It is composed of a cash transfer component, whereby families receive bi-monthly payments on a payment card, with amounts adjusted according to the child(ren)'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 of low attendance (see also "Country Programme Results in Education" and "Country Programme Results in Child Protection"). The payments are conditional on regular school attendance. The CCTE programme is also closely aligned with the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, which provides a monthly unconditional grant to families to cover their basic needs, and the two programmes are mutually reinforcing.



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In 2019, the CCTE Programme for Refugees expanded to reach 562,016 children by December, compared to 410,740 in December 2018. Of all refugee children in school, 80% benefit from CCTE. In the 2018-19 school year, 81% of beneficiaries attended school regularly. Vulnerable children accessing non-formal education through the Accelerated Learning Programme implemented by the Ministry of National Education with support from UNICEF, also benefited from the CCTE programme throughout the year.

Additional top-up payments were introduced for the 2019-2020 school year to increase the incentive for enrolment and regular attendance among older refugee children, who face extra barriers in accessing education. The top-up payments amount to TRY100 for children in grades 5-8, and TRY150 for children in grades 9-12 and the Accelerated Learning Programme.

Child-Friendly Cities and other Support for Municipalities

Efforts to enhance the capacities of local administrations to promote policies in favour of the most vulnerable children and adolescents continued under the Child Friendly Cities initiative, which seeks to promote child-friendly governance at municipal level. Following the local government elections, the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and UNICEF provided staff of 29 municipalities with training in child-friendly budget and strategy development. Of these municipalities, 20 received follow-up technical assistance in various areas of child rights.

The Union of Municipalities of Turkey and UNICEF continued to mobilise municipal capacities to combat child labour, developing child labour guidelines for municipalities and delivering training to 74 municipal police officers.

Multi-sectoral workplans are implemented with three municipalities which have a combined population of over 1.4 million Turkish citizens and about 600,000 refugees.

In 2019, the partnership with Kilis Municipality was renewed to expand essential multi-sectoral services to refugee and vulnerable Turkish children, with a focus on child protection, education, and adolescent development and participation. By the end of the year, municipal outreach teams had reached 10,291 people including 6,904 children, 5,043 children had benefited from education services (early childhood education, homework support, Turkish language courses, non-formal education, etc.), and 1,513 children had received essential child protection and psychosocial support services. In addition, 1,554 adolescents and young people had benefited from social cohesion activities. A broad-based “social cohesion coordination platform” has been established, chaired by the municipality.

UNICEF continued to support Yüreğir Municipality, which has a large population of seasonal agricultural workers, in combating child labour and expanding early childhood education, and Gaziantep Municipality, in addressing child marriage and child labour, expanding services for GBV survivors, and increasing refugee children’s access to education.

A needs assessment was conducted with Sanliurfa Municipality, focusing on protection and education for adolescent girls and boys.

Building capacity to combat child labour

The Country Programme continued to support the implementation of the National Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour by developing the capacities of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS), vocational and training schools and apprenticeship centres, municipalities, the Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TESK), and civil society organisations.

850 MoFLSS labour inspectors were trained, 90% of the total national number of inspectors. Newly-established provincial child labour prevention teams received training adapted to local needs and needs/service maps were developed. Support to civil society organisations contributed to awareness raising, referrals to social services for thousands of working children and families, as well as psychosocial support to 1,197 refugee and Turkish children (963 boys, 504 girls) at risk of child labour in Adana, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, and Diyarbakır.

In cooperation with MoNE and TESK, training on the prevention of child labour was given to 350 counsellor teachers, coordinator teachers and master trainers in Technical and Vocational Education and Training schools and apprenticeship centres, and guidelines were developed and disseminated.

A report on the Socio-Economic Profiles of Seasonal Agriculture Worker Households was published and disseminated in partnership with Development Workshop. Training on mobilising agricultural intermediaries in preventing child labour was delivered to 75 persons from private sector firms and civil society organisations working in agricultural areas.



COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS FOR ADOLESCENTS



more than
94,000
adolescents &
young people
benefited from
participation
in the
**Social Cohesion
Programme**

Supporting the meaningful engagement, participation and skills development of adolescents is a key objective of the Country Programme because of both the opportunities and the risks presented by this period in the life cycle of children. Vulnerable adolescents in Turkey face a variety of challenges, ranging from non-participation in education to child labour, child marriage and conflict with the law, which are addressed by a range of partnerships and programs across various sectors (see “Country Programme Achievements in Education”, “Country Programme Achievements in Child Protection” and “Country Programme Achievements in Social Policy”).

Adolescent engagement and social cohesion

In 2019, 94,024 adolescents and young people, including 49,094 girls, benefited from participation in the social cohesion programme, run in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, the South East Anatolia (GAP) Administration, non-government organisations and municipalities to promote the meaningful engagement of young people and enhance positive

peer-to-peer interactions between young Turkish and Syrian people. Under this programme, training in mediation, communication, respect for differences, project design and peer learning was provided by master trainers, who are adolescents and young people themselves, and the participants used their new skills to organise events that bring communities together.

With UNICEF support, the GAP Administration organised a “Social Cohesion Experience Sharing and Coordination Mechanism Meeting” in Gaziantep attended by all stakeholders, resulting in commitment to support the establishment of a regional youth social cohesion network. The Administration also organised a “social cohesion circus” festival featuring 50 young performers, which gave 47 performances in Sanliurfa, Adiyaman and Mardin, reaching a diverse audience of 34,521 adolescents and young people.

Structured volunteer activities reached 1,258 young people and 282 adolescents (127 boys, 131 girls) received support in designing and implementing social action projects in their communities.



Education
التعليم

Education
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Health
الصحة

Education
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Education
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Child participation

The 20th Children's Forum was held in Ankara, bringing together members of the provincial child rights committees established in all 81 provinces, to celebrate World Children's Day and the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The children participating visited the Grand National Assembly (Parliament) and presented a declaration to the Speaker and members of Parliament, the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Ombudsperson and the UNICEF Representative. They also participated in a tree planting activity to create a "CRC Forest". In addition, two adolescents represented Turkish children at the

high-level United Nations General Assembly session on the 30th Anniversary of the CRC.

The Country Programme also contributed to the establishment of a child participation assembly in Kilis Municipality.

A child- and youth-friendly training module on the role of the Ombudsperson Institution was developed and 50 adolescent master trainers were trained to deliver it to adolescents via a peer-to-peer format.



COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN ECD



over
23,000
children
benefited from
community and
home-based
ECE Programmes

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. UNICEF advocates for more attention to be paid to early childhood development in the national agenda and for a more integrated and multi-sectoral approach. 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 results of the 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey have provided additional data on young children in Turkey, including Syrian refugee children. Among Syrians under temporary protection, the survey puts the infant and under-five mortality rates at 22 and 27 per thousand live births respectively, while mortality among Turkish children rates was 9.3 and 11.4 per thousand live births in 2018 according to Turkstat. 60% of young Syrian children had received all age-appropriate vaccinations comparing to 98% among Turkish children in 2018 according to MoH. The rate of stunting (low

height for age) was 17.4% among Syrian children under five while it fell to 6%, albeit with regional variations, for Turkish citizens.

Data and policy

An additional module was included in the 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey to measure indicators of early childhood development for the first time, based on UNICEF's global Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) methodology. According to the results, 74% of children aged 36-59 months were developmentally on track in four domains (literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, learning). Girls were more likely to be on track than boys.

In the light of this information, a new partnership was established with the Association for Child Development and Education Specialists to support the development of a draft national early childhood development (ECD) policy in collaboration with relevant stakeholders including the ministries of Health, National Education, and Family Labour and Social Services, and the Strategy and Budget Presidency under the Presidency of Turkey.

FEN MERKEZİ



Early learning

For the 2018-19 school year, net enrolment of Turkish children was 68.3% for age 5 (preschool), with lower percentages for younger age groups. For refugee children enrolment was 33.9%. The national objective is to achieve 100% enrolment among five year-olds by 2023. This will require the inclusion of children of all backgrounds. The inclusion of children with disabilities in early learning is of great importance for the development of their full potential. Inclusion of refugee children is also essential to support language acquisition and school readiness.

MoNE and UNICEF completed an assessment framework to underpin efforts to provide higher-quality early childhood education and primary education services for children with disabilities. By the end of 2019, the training of teachers to implement the early childhood education module was well under way, and an e-module was being developed based on the results of the pilot implementation.

In addition to the assessment framework mentioned above, MoNE and UNICEF completed the development of a comprehensive set of education materials to promote the inclusion of young children with disabilities in early childhood education. A total of 1,100 teachers were trained, a communication campaign was launched, and pilot implementation of the materials began.

UNICEF provided and equipped 39 equipped container classrooms to the Ministry of National Education, to

enable 3,900 children to participate in early learning every year. In 2019, the Ministry of National Education and UNICEF also began to develop early childhood education (ECE) materials including a home-based journal to assist parents in supporting their children's cognitive and socio-emotional development through various activities, such as playing music together, creating toys using recyclable materials, learning basic math skills with common household items, and others.

In partnership with the Development Foundation of Turkey and Yüreğir Municipality, community and home-based ECE programmes for children in marginalised communities were expanded, reaching 23,087 children, including 11,536 girls.

Health and nutrition

In order to help increase vaccination coverage among refugee children UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health Migrant Health Centres with 91 Vaccine Tracking System packages for the monitoring of vaccine logistics and the cold chain on-line.

The Ministry of Health and UNICEF continued to build the capacities of Turkish and Syrian health professionals working in primary health care to promote positive infant and young child feeding practices among vulnerable groups, including refugees, and 20 training modules were updated.



COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN KNOWLEDGE AND DATA FOR CHILDREN

Knowledge and data generation

In January and February 2019, the Country Programme supported the collection of data in Syrian refugee households for the 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey. This was the first nationwide survey in Turkey to generate official data disaggregated for the Syrian refugee population. In addition, UNICEF technically supported the integration of a module to measure ECD indicators for the first time (See “Country Programme Achievements in ECD”).

The Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and UNICEF signed an agreement for the implementation of the National Official Statistics Programme 2017-2021 with respect to child statistics and collaborated in the design of the upcoming national child labour survey. The list of indicators included in TurkStat’s annual publication “Statistics on Children” has also been expanded.

Support was extended for the conduct of research by civil society concerning the most vulnerable groups of children. In this respect, in 2019, the Network on the Rights of Children with Disabilities finalised a Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities. The study on the Socio-Economic Profiles of Seasonal Agriculture Worker Households developed by the NGO Development Workshop with UNICEF support was published and disseminated.

As reported under “Country Programme Achievements in Education”, a review of the student assessment system in Turkey conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in collaboration with MoNE and UNICEF was completed and published, and a comprehensive study on out-of-school Turkish and refugee children was initiated.

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

MoD – Ministry of Development

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
- SVEP** – Syrian Volunteer Education Personnel
- 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

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