

**The United Nations Joint Programme
to Protect and Promote The Human Rights
of Women and Girls**



Women Friendly Cities

2010

**The United Nations Joint Program
to Protect and Promote
The Human Rights of Women and Girls
TURKEY**

Women Friendly Cities

2010

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**THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT PROGRAM
TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS (UNJP)**

WOMEN FRIENDLY CITIES

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As the spheres of governance closest to the people, local and regional authorities represent the levels best placed to combat the persistence and the reproduction of inequalities, and to promote a truly egalitarian society, they can, through their competences, and through co-operation with the whole range of local actors, undertake concrete actions in favour of equality of women and men.

Council of European Municipalities and Regions
The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life

At the Outset...

ABDÜLKADIRAKSU

Minister of Interior

5 December 2006

The 10th Article of the Constitution, primarily, and many other legislative arrangements including the Law on Municipalities, the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities, and the Law on Special Provincial Administrations all stipulate that women shall benefit more from the local services and play a more efficient role in the determination of such services. Our efforts are aimed at ensuring the effective and lasting realization of laws as soon as possible.

The Joint Program, which we perform together with the United Nations, is initially implemented in six cities. These studies shall constitute an exemplary effort on women's rights led by our country.

It is obvious that these studies would create a backdrop for better representation of women in the decision-making mechanisms of the local governments which constitute the closest public sphere for our people, and play a significant role in redressing the inequalities between women and men. In this respect; I consider the efforts undertaken within the scope of the Joint Program as an important step to remove the inequalities in terms of women's involvement in decision-making at local administrations.

Taken from the opening remarks addressed during the Annual Review Meeting of the United Nations Joint Program to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls, 5 December 2006

Concluding...

BEŞİRATALAY

Minister of Interior

20 January 2010

“Our government places further importance on the issue of women's rights. On the basis of the concept “educated women are emancipated women”, we have been designing projects to multiply the schooling rate of girls. Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) to families which means financial support for each child is a similar effort, unless those children are sent to school. As the Minister of State, I have supported schemes concerning girls more than those aimed at boys and more than a million children benefited from this.”

“This program that is realized in six provinces through the cooperation between the private and public sectors and the United Nations, I find, extremely successful. My Ministry will continue its comprehensive support to Women Friendly Cities. I would like to extend my thanks to all organizations that have supported this Program, and to Sabancı Foundation. Güler Sabancı's contribution to a project on women, not only as a woman herself but as a determined manager and as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Sabancı Foundation is exemplary.”

“Within the framework of the draft law on combating against discrimination we are establishing a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination which will be an independent and powerful authority to handle all sorts of complaints regarding discrimination. It will determine penalties wherever and whenever required and its reports will serve as expert's opinion in the courts of law. I believe that this Committee will also exercise functions on the issue of gender equality.”

Taken from the closing remarks addressed during the Closure Meeting of the United Nations Joint Program to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls, 20 January 2010

At the Outset...

KEMAL DERVIŞ

Head of the United Nations Development Programme and Chair of the United Nations Development Group

7 March 2006

“It is an indispensable practice for all sorts of democratic structures that both women and men take part in decision-making mechanisms. Against this background, no democracy is allowed to exercise 'gender blindness.' Democracy shall ensure the participation of all women and men to decision-making processes.”

“Women's problems in Turkey shall be redressed in Turkey. Yet, global experiences and standards, especially those devised by the UN for the protecting of people from abuse, exploitation and conflicts would serve as catalysts.”

“Experiences in the intensification of women's role in politics, top management and businesses from all over the world shall be cascaded to other countries.”

“Although quotas do not fit every individual country, it is a fact that they can still contribute to solutions in those that successfully strengthen women's representation.”

Taken from the opening remarks addressed during the Inauguration Meeting of the United Nations Joint Program to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls, 7 March 2006

“The only way we can create egalitarian and women friendly cities is to ensure the financial and human resources that the political will and determination demand. Moreover, a functioning monitoring mechanism shall be in place. One of the most crucial tools to support the creation of women friendly cities is to strengthen the dialogue between parties.”

Taken from remarks addressed during the Annual Review Meeting of the United Nations Joint Program to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls, 13 November 2007

Concluding...

PEER SIEBEN

Representative of the UNFPA

20 January 2010

“No need to say much about the United Nations Joint Program...The success of this innovative project is evident. Yet, I would still like to share with you some lessons learned:

- Administering the process in the right way is no less important than results.
- A bottom-up approach facilitates and speeds up progress.
- Efforts based on full and equal participation of all parties yield better results.
- Once in place, ownership facilitates sustainability.”

“It would not be possible to realize the United Nations Joint Programme without the support, guidance and mere existence of the Ministry of Interior. Similarly, the Joint Programme also benefited from the strong and innovative support of the Sabancı Foundation and University. KA-DER in Ankara must also be mentioned with its substantial contribution at the initial phase. Embassies of Germany, Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada and Norway provided generous financial support to the Programme. Governorates, Special Provincial Administrations, Municipalities and women's organizations in İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van were extremely cooperative with each other and with us; and this was the driving force of the Programme. I firmly believe that our partners will carry the principles and targets of the Programme further. Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all the UN institutions and the executive body, the UNFPA.”

Taken from the closing remarks addressed during the Closure Meeting of the United Nations Joint Program to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls, 20 January 2010

At the Outset...

GÜLERSABANCI

Sabancı Foundation – Chair of the Board of Trustees

5 December 2006

“We have seen this project for the strengthening of women's position on social, political, cultural and economical platforms as an important step towards Turkey's development. Hence our pride and elation for taking part in it. As the most successful projects within the scope of the Joint Program would be supported with the assistance of the Sabancı Foundation and as this would lead to further support for new project initiatives... this was decisive as regards our participation.”

Taken from remarks addressed during the Annual Review Meeting of the United Nations Joint Program to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls, 5 December 2006

Concluding...

GÜLERSABANCI

Sabancı Foundation – Chair of the Board of Trustees

20 January 2010

“We have undersigned a significant partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the UN four years ago; we have identified problem areas with NGOs, prepared local equality action plans in İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van... Then came tangible results of the Programme in 2007, with the Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme. Today, 80 village mukhtars in the villages and neighborhoods of Şanlıurfa are more knowledgeable and more sensitive about the gender issue; hence the community of 35.000. Today, more than 1200 women in Nevşehir are more aware of breast cancer and issues pertaining to women's health. 65.000 people in Trabzon are more sensitive about the visually impaired thanks to the project to support mothers with visually impaired children. The health project that covered seasonal woman and child labor in Şanlıurfa has touched the lives of 200.000.”

“Important steps were taken by the Programme and these need to be widespread. Sabancı Foundation is planning for new grant programs. We wish that more projects flourish in other provinces.”

“Within the framework of the Programme and support from Sabancı University we have organized a gender equality seminar for 1313 high school teachers. 153 high school teachers received Purple Certificates. The snowball effect in education has started and multiplying. So will the Purple Certificate Programme.”

“I would like to extend my thanks to the Ministry of Interior, to UN as well as to Germany, Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada and Norway for their support to the overall process, to the governors, mayors, the representatives of NGOs but mostly to our women and girls who have put in extraordinary effort during the four years.”

Taken from the closing remarks addressed during the Closure Meeting of the United Nations Joint Programme to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls, 20 January 2010

United Nations Joint Programme to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls extends its appreciation to partners, academicians and experts for their most valuable support

- Ministry of Interior
 - Governors' Offices in İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van
 - İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and Municipalities of Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, and Trabzon
 - Special Provincial Administrations in İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van
 - Women's Organizations and NGOs located in İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van
 - UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
 - UN Development Programme (UNDP)
 - UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 - International Labour Organisation (ILO)
 - UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
 - International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 - UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
 - Sabancı Foundation
 - Sabancı University
 - KA-DER Ankara
 - Embassy of Germany
 - Embassy of Denmark
 - Embassy of Finland
 - Embassy of France
 - Embassy of Netherlands
 - Embassy of the United Kingdom
 - Embassy of Sweden
 - Embassy of Switzerland
 - Embassy of Canada
 - Embassy of Norway
 - Chamber of City Planners – Ankara
 - Ankara University – Women's Studies Center
 - Bilkent University - Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design
 - Ege University - Women's Studies Center
 - Harran University - Faculty of Medicine Department of Public Health
 - İstanbul University – Faculty of Politics
 - METU – Department of Political Sciences and Public Administration, Department of City and Regional Planning
 - Kafkas University - Women's Studies Center
 - Karadeniz Technical University – Department of City and Regional Planning and Faculty of Communication
 - Nevşehir University and Semra and Vefa Küçük Vocational School of Health
 - Yüzüncü Yıl University Administration Women's Studies Center
-



THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT PROGRAMME
TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

CALL FOR PROMOTING AND EXPANDING WOMEN FRIENDLY CITIES



Birleşmiş Milletler Kadın ve Kız Çocuklarının
İnsan Haklarının Korunması ve Geliştirilmesi
Ortak Programı

KADIN DOSTU KENT ÇALIŞMALARININ YAYGINLAŞTIRILMASINA YÖNELİK ÇAĞRI

Bizler İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon Valiliği, Belediyesi ve İl Özel İdaresi, Van Valiliği ve İl Özel İdaresi olarak, kadın kuruluşları ve üniversitelerle birlikte BM Ortak Programı kapsamında kentlerimizi kadın dostu kentlere dönüştürme hedefine yönelik çalışmalar yaptık; mevcut çalışmalarımızı geliştirdik, çoğalttık ve çeşitlendirdik.

Kadın kuruluşları başta olmak üzere tüm tarafların tam ve eşit katılımı ile kentlerimizin eşitlik yol haritaları olan Yerel Eşitlik Eylem Planlarını hazırladık; bunları Belediye ve İl Genel Meclislerinden geçirecek kadın-erkek eşitliği konusundaki duyarlılığımızı ortaya koyduk; siyasi irade beyanında bulunduk.

Yerel Eşitlik Eylem Planlarında yer alan çözümleri adım adım yaşama geçiriyoruz. Bu kapsamda;

Kadınların ve kız çocuklarının kentsel yaşamlarını iyileştirmeye yönelik faaliyetleri koordine etmek için ilgili tüm tarafların temsil edildiği İl Kadın Hakları Koordinasyon Kurullarını oluşturduk.

Kadınların ve kız çocuklarının ihtiyaçlarına yönelik yerel hizmet sunumunu sağlamak için Belediye ve İl Genel Meclislerinde Kadın-Erkek Eşitliği Komisyonları kurduk.

Kadınların başvurularını almak, kentsel eşitlik politikaları geliştirmek ve karar organlarına sunmak, karar organlarının kabul edilen politikaların uygulamasını koordine etmek üzere Eşitlik Birimleri oluşturup gerekli görevlendirmeleri yaptık.

Kadınların ve kız çocuklarının insan haklarını tam olarak kullanabilmelerini sağlamak üzere kadın danışma merkezleri kurduk; toplu merkezlerinin sayısını artırdık; yeni kız yurtları inşa ettik; ara istasyonlar ve sığınma evleri açtık; okul öncesi eğitim olanaklarını artırdık. Kadınların çalışma hayatına katılımını kolaylaştırmak için mesleki eğitim kursları açtık.

Olanaklarımız ölçüsünde sokakları, caddeleri daha iyi ışıklandırdık; yeni parklar yaptık; mevcut parkları kadınların ve kız çocuklarının kullanımını sağlamak üzere yeniden düzenledik; caddelerimize kentin gelişmesi için çaba sarf etmiş olan önder kadınların isimlerini verdik.

Toplum tarafından atfedilen roller nedeniyle kadınların ve kız çocuklarının (çocuk, hasta ve yaşlı bakımı vb.) özel kentsel ihtiyaçları olduğunu kabul ederek, bu ihtiyaçları giderecek yerel hizmet sunumunu gerçekleştirmek için hazırladığımız Yerel Eşitlik Eylem Planlarını İl Özel İdaresi ve Belediye Stratejik Planlarına yerleştirdik.

Kadınların ve kız çocuklarının insan haklarının korunması ve geliştirilmesini çalışmalarımızın merkezine aldık ve ortaklıkların teşvik eden, kaynakları birleştiren eşgüdümlü bir çalışma ile etkili sonuçlar elde ettik.

Bizler kentlerimizi kadın dostu kentlere dönüştürme çabalarımızda kadınların güçlendirilmesinin ön şartının iyi yerel yönetişim olduğunu bilerek çalışmalarımıza devam edeceğimizi beyan eder, tüm Valilik ve Belediyeleri benzer çalışmalar yapmaya davet ederiz.

Ocak 2010


Mustafa Cahit KIRACI
İzmir Valisi


Aziz KOCAOĞLU
İzmir Büyükşehir Belediye Başkanı



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Trabzon Belediye Başkanı


Münir KARALOĞLU
Van Valisi

CALL FOR PROMOTING AND EXPANDING WOMEN FRIENDLY CITIES

We, the Governorships, Municipalities and Special Provincial Administrations of İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa and Trabzon and Governorship and Special Provincial Administration of Van, have worked with women's organizations and universities together towards the goal of transforming our cities into women friendly cities; and have improved, proliferated and expanded the existing work of ours towards this goal.

With the full and equal participation of all partners including the women's organizations, we have prepared Local Equality Action Plans (LEAPs) as the roadmaps of our cities for gender equality. By adopting the LEAPs in Municipal Assemblies and Provincial Assemblies, we expressed our sensitivity and commitments towards gender equality.

We are gradually effectuating the solutions put forward in the Local Equality Action Plans. Within this framework;

We have established Women's Rights Coordination Committees in which all the relevant partners are represented in order to coordinate the activities towards improving the quality of life of women and girls in our cities.

We have set up Equality Commissions in our Municipal and Provincial Assemblies to provide local services to meet the needs of women and girls.

We have established Equality Units in our Governorships and Municipalities and provided necessary staff to receive women's petitions, to evolve urban equality policies for decision-making bodies, and to coordinate the implementation of the policies adopted by these bodies.

In order to enable women and girls to fully realize human rights, we have set up women advice centers; increased the number of community centers; built new girls' dormitories; opened women's shelters and improved pre-school education opportunities. We have also started vocational training courses in order to facilitate women's participation in work life.

In line with our resources, we have improved lightings of our streets; constructed new parks; renovated existing parks for better use by women and girls; named our streets after leading women who put forth efforts to improve our cities.

Acknowledging that women and girls have special needs in the city arising from the gender roles assigned to women by the society (childcare, care of the elderly and the ill, etc.), we have integrated the Local Equality Action Plans into the Strategic Plans of Special Provincial Administrations and Municipalities.

We have put protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls right at the center of our work. Thus with cooperative efforts we have achieved efficient results in combining resources and promoting partnerships

We declare that we will continue our endeavors taking that good local governance is the precondition of women's empowerment in transforming our cities into women friendly cities and we urge all governorships and municipalities to engage in similar work in their respective cities.

Governor of İzmir, Governor of Nevşehir, Governor of Kars, Governor of Şanlıurfa, Governor of Trabzon, Governor of Van, Metropolitan Mayor of İzmir, Mayor of Nevşehir, Mayor of Kars, Mayor of Şanlıurfa, Mayor of Trabzon

CIRCULAR BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
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Department of Foreign Relations and the European Union

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A participative democracy, supremacy of Law and protection of human rights are the Ministry's top priority areas. Also, many an exemplary work is being done to ensure gender equality and to empower women.

Within this framework, the Ministry and the United Nations Population Fund implemented the 'Joint Programme to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls' in six provinces (İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van) in 2006-2009.

Within the framework of the Joint Programme, outstanding work was done towards gender equality and protecting and promoting the human rights of women and girls.

I. In the six provinces where the Programme was implemented, through a participatory approach and in cooperation with other NGOs, local administrations and women's organizations prepared, **Local Equality Action Plans** that are believed to guarantee that initiatives prioritizing the improvement of life quality of women and girls. Local Equality Action Plans were later implemented by Provincial and Municipal Assemblies following approval.

Local Equality Action Plans aim to incorporate gender perspective to the local administration concept and to ensure sustainability of practices so that equality of women and men is realized at the local level. These plans are as well integrated with the strategic plans of Special Provincial Administrations and Municipalities. Women's organizations' views were asked for during the preparation of strategic plans in pilot provinces, activities concerning women and girls were included in strategic targets.

II. Institutional frame of local equality policies was established during the process of preparation of Local Equality Action Plans. In this regard, **Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committees** were established in pilot provinces to coordinate and monitor activities concerning equality of women and men.

III. **Equality Units** were established in Governors' Offices and in Municipalities to serve as secretariats to these committees and to receive applications and complaints from women and girls.

IV. **Gender Equality Commissions** were established in Provincial and

Municipal Assemblies. Furthermore, work for the inclusion of women's organizations to respective provincial bodies was started.

V. In addition to these efforts and within the framework of **urban services** public centers, dormitories for girls, transit shelters and shelters, kindergartens and baby care and feeding facilities were established as well as pre-school education opportunities for girls were improved. Better lighting of streets and avenues and re-arrangement of parks in a way to allow use of women and girls and construction of new parks were prioritized. Vocational training opportunities were multiplied to support the participation of women to professional life. Trainings were organized to raise awareness of local decision makers and civil servants on the issue of gender equality. Models concerning the provision of health services including seasonal agro-workers and other groups that require special attention.

These activities will ensure that our women and girls are happier and more peaceful in their daily lives as well as will have a positive impact on the process of Turkey's accession negotiations.

Local Agenda 21 that defines a responsibility area for local administrations on issues concerning women and youngest is recognized by the United Nations and Turkey. Hence, activities mentioned above will also ensure that Local Agenda 21 targets concerning active participation of women and youngest to decision-making, planning and implementation processes of local administrations are met.

Similarly, activities such as education of girls, gender equality and empowerment of women as well as other activities to improve women's and mothers' health and to reduce mothers' mortality rate during delivery which are defined in the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved until 2015 and to which Turkey is a part of, will significantly support the realization of these Goals.

Within the framework of the Joint Programme dissemination of these activities at the national level is of great importance.

Hereby, I kindly request that work of pilot provinces are made most of, initiatives concerning the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls are disseminated and that the Special Provincial Administration, District Governors' Offices in your area of jurisdiction and related municipalities informed, implementations start and are monitored.

Zekeriya ŞARBAK
On behalf of the Minister
Deputy Undersecretary

CC:
For Due Action
Governors' Offices (81 Provinces)

For Information:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Secretariat General of the European Union
General Directorate on the Status of Women
Affiliated Institutions
Central Units
UN Population Fund

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1 SECTION

Activities and Outcomes



1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP) to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls was initiated by the United Nations Gender Thematic Group and its implementation was started on 21 November 2005 following the signature of a memorandum of understanding by UN institutions.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the implementing agency of the Joint Programme on behalf of the United Nations has signed a working protocol with the Ministry of Interior in February 2006 and the official inauguration of the Programme took place on 7 March 2006 with the participation of Kemal Derviş, the former Director of the United Nations Development Programme and Şahabettin Harput, the former Under-secretary of the Ministry of Interior.

Within the framework of a memorandum of understanding that was signed on 19 June 2006 Sabancı Foundation and Sabancı University have joined the Joint Programme, both becoming national partners of the UN Joint Programme. Public announcement concerning the participation of these organizations to the Programme took place on 21 June 2006 at the partners meeting by Güler Sabancı the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

Following a memorandum of understanding that was signed between KADER Ankara (Association for Supporting and Training Women Candidates) and the UNFPA on 24 April 2006, the Association took on the responsibility of activities concerning capacity building for women's organizations for the duration of one year.

The duration of the UN Joint Programme that was originally designed as a biannual project was extended twice until 31 December 2009 following the collective demand by local and national partners and the approval of the Ministry of Interior.

The United Nations Joint Programme to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls is a partnership between the United Nations, the government, local governments, NGOs, the private sector and the public and was supported by all of the above.

Although the Local Administrations Reform Package that was approved by the Parliament in early 2000 provided for the participation of the society to local decisions and covered issues pertaining to gender equality,

comprehensive gender equality plans and respective institutional structures were yet to be designed. The UN Joint Programme emerged against such a background.

UN Joint Programme is conceptually defined in line with the human rights principles handled in a series of UN World Conference final documents that also include the Cairo Plan of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action. An empowerment model that demands women's participation to all local and national policy and decision-making processes is hence established.

The UN Joint Programme processes and products are guided directly and explicitly by human rights principles and it seeks to strengthen local administrations and women's organizations through the creation of "Women Friendly Cities". In this regard, the UNFPA considered it amongst the best six human rights based projects and the book to promote these projects was publicized in 2008 in New York on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the ratification of the Human Rights Declaration.

In addition to local decision makers the target community of the UN Joint Programme also includes governors' offices, municipalities, special provincial administrations, women's organizations, NGOs and the locals in İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van. Programme provinces were identified on the basis of local administrations' willingness, capacity and their requirements that were handled during preparation visits. These provinces were chosen to demonstrate how and to what degree services could be varied and developed, how resources could be multiplied and how lives of women and girls could be improved through an approach that prioritizes a participation, coordination and inter-sectoral cooperation.

The UN Joint Programme is the first project that was implemented at local levels and that included all related partners. During the 4-year implementation period of the UN Joint Programme a total of 77 meetings –including 35 training sessions and workshops- were held in İstanbul, Ankara and six pilot provinces. According to minutes available a total of 3420 people attended these events; including 4 local meetings per province. This figure does not include other local meetings.

More than 300 local partners have either directly or indirectly participated to daily activities of the UN Joint Programme.

The number of people that were either directly or indirectly contacted by the 34 projects that were implemented within the scope of the Joint Programme and supported by the Sabancı Foundation is estimated to be around 300.000. Also, 1313 high school teachers were covered by the Purple Certificate Programme of Sabancı University.



Preparation and implementation of LEAPs (Local Equality Action Plans) that especially focus on the realization of gender equality with adequate supervision provides the foundation of the UNJP. LEAPs are thematic plans to promote equality of women and men; and thematic plans can not be designed as tools for a single public institution. They also cover other areas in which other partners such as universities, NGOs and the private sector need to shoulder responsibilities. In this regard, the very first task in İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van, for the preparation of LEAPs has been to determine the parties/participants as active participants to the LEAP preparatory phase would be the basic actors well-equipped to launch these plans. So, active participants of the LEAP preparation phase are, namely, governors' offices, municipalities, women's organizations, other NGOs, universities, professional organizations and the private sector.

This Programme being the very first example of such local initiatives in Turkey and as it required both the partnership of diverse parties with varying expectations and the amalgamation of such a variety of perspectives in related activities, the initial act that the UNJP needed has been to focus on capacity building of parties. As a result of this need, trainings and workshops were organized to address local administrators and women's organizations. Within this framework, KA-DER Ankara organized training and workshop sessions for women's organizations and the UNJP team and consultants prepared similar sessions for local administrators. The objective of these sessions was to support the development of local perspectives on gender equality and on women's problems. Through the process, participants were also collectively trained on three series of project cycle management and on gender-sensitive budget preparation. In addition to these training and workshop activities, other activities concerning the integration of LEAPs into strategic plans at the provincial level were held with the participation of 1040 local partners.

Within the scope of capacity building efforts, local women's organizations were also equipped with computers and Internet connection to facilitate communication between parties. 16 beneficiaries of this support were identified by women's organizations among themselves. In addition to existing material and material produced, an opinion poll about the status of women at the local level and about women's perspective on local services were also used during training sessions.

LEAPs were based on output from the above mentioned trainings and the LEAP preparation process that had started on 20-22 December 2006 in Ankara ripened further through a series of activities extending over a year in provinces. These activities were later presented during visits, to governors and mayors for their approval. LEAPs were also submitted to and approved

by municipalities and provincial assemblies in all provinces starting January 2008.

LEAPs are UNJP's major tools and they are designed to embed the gender equality perspective into local policies and administration. In order to achieve this goal, LEAPs must include principles that facilitate women's daily lives that increase women's participation to local mechanisms and service models to ensure that these principles are put into practice as well as institutional components to coordinate such efforts. In this context, LEAPs were developed under these concepts: participation to local decision-making mechanisms, urban services, violence against women, economic empowerment and professional life, education and health services, migration and poverty and awareness raising. LEAPCOMs (Local Equality Action Plan Coordination/Supervision Committees) that are established in each province ensured a coordinated implementation of efforts. These committees during the implementation phase were transformed into provincial coordination committees and later into provincial women's rights coordination committees.

LEAPs are defined as local equality policies due to two reasons: they aim at the empowerment of women and the elimination of obstacles that prevent women's participation to their city's cultural, social, economic and political life; and they envisage allocation of local resources and a service model that is at once based on cooperation between public institutions and citizens and on gender equality principle. In this regard, LEAP principles and targets are incorporated in the strategic plans of special provincial administrations and municipalities in three provinces and in one of the Programme provinces they are incorporated in the special provincial administration strategic plan. Remaining two provinces that will be reviewing their strategic plans in 2010 or 2011 reiterated their guarantees.

Sabancı Foundation has launched a Grant Programme to support the implementation of LEAPs within the framework of the UNJP. The grant Programme that was implemented in 2007-2009 supported 18 public (including 5 universities) and 16 civil society projects in line with LEAP principles and objectives. Projects that focused on various aspects of gender equality ranging from increasing women's employment to improving women's participation to politics benefited from the Grant Program. Grant Program Experience Sharing Meetings in 2007 and 2008 in Trabzon and Nevşehir provided project implementing local partners with an empowering platform. Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Grant Programme is estimated to be 300.000. On the other hand, the Grant Programme also ensured an unwavering local partner attention to the UNJP.



In addition to its awareness raising efforts on gender issues for civil servants in six provinces, UNJP also worked to raise similar awareness in the community, even at lower levels. Purple Certificate Programme that was launched by Sabancı University in 2007 focused on raising the awareness of high school teachers; 1313 teachers were covered, 153 were granted Purple Certificates.

The Essay Competition on "Women Friendly Cities" for high school students in the six provinces and the "Competition on Women Friendly Urban Space Model" for university students in related departments of universities are further examples of awareness raising efforts.

Bilingual web pages www.bmkadinhaklari.org and www.protectingwomen.org were used to disseminate information and news concerning UNJP in English and Turkish. The Turkish web pages of the Program at www.bmkadinhaklari.org.tr were hit 57.500 times between 2007-2009. Similarly, English pages at www.protectingwomen.org.tr received 4500 hits in the same period.

A total of 150 news articles concerning UNJP appeared in national newspapers. Number of those in local press has reached approximately 700.

Within the framework of the Joint Programme 18 books and booklets –including 4 by KA-DER Ankara-, 15 posters, 6 provincial brochures, bilingual and continuously renewed information notices and 13 newsletters –including 1 special edition- were published.

The executive body of the Joint Programme is the UNFPA. The organizational structure of the UNJP includes a national coordinator who is appointed by the Ministry of Interior, a programme manager in Ankara, a financial and administrative assistant and 6 local coordinators.

The UNJP was initially designed as a two-year project (Dec. 2005 – Dec. 2007); upon the demand of both national and local partners its duration was extended for the first time for one year (until 2008) and then it was extended a second time until 31 December 2009 due local elections.

The total four-year budget of the UNJP was 2.334.062 \$. Sabancı Foundation has been the major donor of UNJP. Its contribution constitutes 51,1 percent of total budget. 25,6 percent of Foundation's contribution was allocated to the Grant Programme while 22,4 percent went to Sabancı University's Purple Certificate Programme.

With the ongoing implementation of both the Grant Programme and Purple Certificate Programme, the contribution of the Foundation has reached up to 1.664.590\$ of which 39 percent spent through Grant Programme and 23

percent spent through Purple Certificate Programme.

Also, the UNJP received expertise and financial support from the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees), ILO (International Labor Organization) and IOM (International Organization for Migration). Although it does not have a country office in Turkey, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) also supported the UNJP. Share of UN Organizations in total budget was 27,3 percent and half of this amount comes from the executive body of the Programme, UNFPA.

Embassies of Denmark, Finland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland and Norway were the first six embassies to provide financial support, later followed by the embassies of Canada, Germany, France and Netherlands, reaching 21,6 percent of total budget of UNJP. In 2009, the final implementation year of the Joint Programme, many activities including the closing meeting were realized by the financial support of embassies of Netherlands and Finland.

UNJP activities were monitored by the Extended Monitoring Committee established by all partners including funding embassies. The Committee has two annual meetings. Limited Monitoring Committee that was established during Programme implementation by representatives from the Ministry of Interior, UNFPA, UNDP and the Sabancı Foundation has gathered trimestrially to evaluate progress. Extended Monitoring Committee meetings in the four-year period were held in Ankara (2006), İstanbul (2006), Şanlıurfa (2007), İstanbul (2007) and Kars (2008). Other committee meetings took place in Ankara.

The closing meeting of the UN Joint Programme was held in Ankara on 20 January 2010 under the auspices and with the participation of Beşir Atalay, the Minister of Interior; Shahid Najam, UN Country Coordinator; representatives of the UNFPA, ILO and IOM and Güler Sabancı, the Chair of the Sabancı Foundation Board of Trustees. The meeting during which governors and mayors of the six provinces undersigned the initiative concerning the Promoting and Expanding of Women Friendly Cities, extending a call to other provinces to prepare their respective LEAPs found extensive media coverage.



UNITED NATIONS JOINT PROGRAMME: ONE OF THE SIX BEST HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECTS...



WHAT ARE THE KEY PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS BASED PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS?

Universality and Inalienability

The programme or the project shall not ignore the human rights of any community and/or group, prioritize any group due to limited resources and use limited resources as justification. The programme or the project shall propose cognizant solutions for the realization of the human rights of society's outcast or marginalized portions (such as the poor and the poorest, women that are victims of violence or abuse, children who are left out side the cycle of education, women with HIV, women who are abused as sex workers, women with disabilities, refugees or displaced people, women and the elderly people in occupied territories).

Indivisibility

The programme or the project shall aim at the realization of one human right without limiting the use of another as a consequence. For example, a health project shall as well aim to protect and promote other rights such as the right to live, right to access to clean water, right to education and right to information along with the right to health. In this regard, participation of all institutions that are responsible for the realization of different human rights shall be ensured.

Interdependence and Interrelatedness

The programme or the project shall endorse cooperation between sectors and institutions. No project on reproductive health shall remain limited to cooperation with the Ministry of Health only. Hence, it would multiply its successes through encouraging partnership with ministries concerning housing, education and women. Human rights based projects shall embrace a multi-sectoral approach to ensure solutions to problems and development.

Equality and Non-discrimination

The programme or the project shall not only target communities and/or groups that have easy access to services. They shall develop

projects targeting rural populations along with urban. Hence they shall not further inequality. The programme and/or the project shall abstain from unintentional discrimination. They shall first target victims of discrimination or disadvantaged groups. These programmes and/or projects shall encourage strengthening of data collection capacity as well as gender, race, geography etc based data collection. These programmes and/or projects shall encourage also, temporary measures such as affirmative actions and special forums for participation.

Participation and Inclusion

At each stage of the programme and/or the project cycle all partners shall be empowered to influence decisions. Active, independent and meaningful participation of partners shall be prioritized over providing simple inputs to the programme and/or the project and shall include measures such as critical thinking and decision-making capabilities. This process shall be inclusive of special measures such as budget allocation for capacity building, increased transparency, and dissemination of clear project information, establishment of special mechanisms to cover the poorest and marginalized groups, strengthening alliance with NGOs and addressing outcasts and marginal groups.

Accountability and the Rule of Law

Accountability strictly relies upon the existence of clearly defined roles and responsibilities, transparent decision-making criteria and processes, mechanisms for access to information and a strong demand. These shall be organized during different phases of the programme and/or the project and hand-in-hand with mechanisms for implementation and finding solutions. In order to achieve this capacity of responsible institutions need to be built. Another prerequisite is the accountability of the “development agency” that designs and/or supports the programme and/or the project. It shall be accountable to target groups as well as state authorities.

Source: “UNFPA at Work; Six Human Rights Case Studies”, 2008, UNFPA and Harvard School of Public Health Programme on International Health and Human Rights.



2. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT PROGRAMME

1. To create an environment (plans, programs, policies, legislation) facilitating the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls.
2. To build capacity in local governments to design and provide quality services to women and girls.
3. To build capacity in non-governmental organizations and associations operating in this field to advocate gender equality, interact effectively with relevant agencies and organizations including local governments, and strengthen positions of women and girls.
4. To raise awareness in public for the human rights of women and girls.

The UNJP has drawn conclusions below in line with activities evolving around the four objectives identified in the project document:

3. OUTCOME 1

To create an environment (plans, programs, policies, legislation) facilitating the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls.

Circular by the Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Interior, the national partner of the UNJP has issued, on 18 August 2006 the circular No. 2006/67 concerning the implementation, support and promotion of the Joint Programme. The circular required that governors' offices and municipalities in 81 provinces cooperate with women's organization on the issue of establishing gender equality and ensure design and provision of services to improve the quality of life of women and girls.

The circular has created an impetus; the governorates and municipalities of the 6 provinces were encouraged to participate officially to the Joint Programme, as well as to prove ownership and to speed up implementation. As the circular was sent to all governorates and municipalities, it was also further effective in terms of dissemination of Programme principles and objectives to other provinces. During Programme implementation process, either by way of the circular or of dissemination activities, Governor's office in Iğdır, Sinop Municipality, İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Special Provincial Administration in İstanbul, Municipality of Adalar and Esenyurt, Bursa Municipality, Special Provincial Administration in Adana and Mersin and Special Provincial Administration in Bingöl have announced their willingness to implement UNJP-like Programmes in their provinces. They are provided with information on UNJP.

Circular by the Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of Interior has issued the circular number No: 2010/10. The Circular that was forwarded to governors' offices in 81 provinces briefed authorities on Local Equality Action Plans that are considered as road maps on issues pertaining to the prioritization of activities concerning the improvement of quality of life of women and girls in the six programme provinces within the UNJP. Circular also provided information on the Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committees, Equality Units and gender equality commissions that would be responsible for the implementation of LEAPs. Following this information, the Circular focuses on dissemination of practices to protect and promote the human rights of



women and girls and provides that information is as well forwarded to special provincial administrations and to related district governorates and related municipalities and that work is closely monitored. In order to ensure that the outcomes of the Joint Programme are largely disseminated and that experience is shared by larger communities, the Circular is copied to other related departments of the Ministry of Interior and to affiliated institutions as well as other bodies concerned such as the General Directorate on the Status of Women.

Although the UNJP implementation ended, the Ministry of Interior reiterates through the Circular its commitment to ensure gender equality at the local level. It is a clear indication that works at local level will be further supported and disseminated to other provinces.

Public Opinion Poll and Report

Within the scope of the Joint Programme, pilot provinces' profiles were largely elaborated using a public opinion poll that was conducted by a private research company. Results of the survey were evaluated by Prof.Dr. Ayşe Ayata, Asst.Prof. Aykan Aydemir, and Asst.Prof. Ayça Ergun Özbolat and were published as a book in both English and Turkish in June 2006. The book was sent to all national and local partners including women's organizations.

Although partially, the public survey provided gender disaggregated data to allow the development of local equality action plans (LEAPs) and to discern the potential for transformation and gender dynamics in provinces. Hence, a perspective on the solution of basic gender issues could be established. In other words, this public survey served to inform local administrators on the status and expectations of women in their respective areas of responsibility, to raise awareness of women and women's organizations on local matters and to set the scene for the establishment of a local perspective on women's problems. Moreover, this survey has become a reference publication in Turkey where sources of information on the status and expectations of women are rare.

Provincial Meetings, 2006

In May 2006, the team of representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the United Nations Joint Programme has visited programme provinces to share information on UNJP targets and planned activities –including the outcome of the public opinion poll in 6 provinces- with local administrators and

representatives of women's organizations. As a follow up to these meetings, three more meetings were planned in these provinces; thus, second meetings took place in Van, Şanlıurfa and Nevşehir in June and July. Some 350 representatives from local administrations and women's organizations are estimated to have participated to the 9 meetings.

High and mid-ranking officers in local administrations and staff of respective departments were informed that women might require specific services due to their gender roles such as taking care of children, the sick or the elderly and that it was local administrations' task to provide such services. On the other hand, provincial meetings have also served as an important step towards the establishment of a dialogue platform for peers; namely women's organizations and local administrations. Public surveys were tabled in these meetings and lively discussions took place. Local administrators, withholding their criticism, informed that these discussions widened their "horizons".

Preparation of Training Material for Training Sessions and Workshops for Local Administrators and Training Sessions and Workshops

In line with the agreements achieved with KA-DER Ankara, books "To Open a Space for Women in Local Governments"; "Municipality Also Serves to Women: Women Friendly Municipal Services"; "Knowledge of Knot"; "Look From This Perspective: Gender Inequality Is Not a Women Issue, It's a Public Issue" that were prepared by KA-DER's Working Group on Women in Local Policies were printed (1000 copies each) for use in the workshop with local administrators. In addition, UNJP experts and team prepared booklets such as "Handbook on Urban Rights (European Urban Charter)"; "What Kind of A City Should We Live In"; "To Open a Space for Women in Local Governments"; "Women Friendly Cities; Examples from Europe" and these were printed, again, 1000 copies each. Four posters were designed for use during training sessions and workshops. These posters were displayed at billboards in governors' offices, municipalities and other public areas to share Programme information with wider public.

Trainings and workshops for local administrators were realized with the participation of UNJP consultants, academicians, practitioners and the UNJP team in six provinces between 4 September 2006 – 24 November 2006. Objectives of these events being the information of local administrators on issues pertaining to gender equality, raising the awareness of local administrative bodies on problems of the local women population, preparation of a background for the development of a shared perspective on women's problems, new legal arrangements and to formulate a baseline for



the preparation of the local service provision report and the action plan as well as a model for cooperation with women's organizations. A total of 183 administrators participated to these activities.

As a result of these training sessions and workshops, elected and appointed local administrator's level of awareness were raised on issues such as gender equality and problems of women in their locality, a fresh perspective concerning further attention to gender equality during the provision of local services was formulated, local administrations were motivated to cooperate with local women's associations and a list including local women's issues and solution proposals by public institutions to form the basis of the equality action plan was prepared. Also, in the end of the workshops, project proposals on the three predetermined local women's problems were prepared to help identify the priorities of the two-year implementation period of the local equality action plan.

Project Cycle Management Training for Local Administrators and Local Women's Organizations

Programme and application material for the Project Cycle Management Training (PCMT) for local administrators and local women's organizations (July-August 2006) were prepared. PCMT was given between August-November 2006 to above mentioned participants by the UNJP consultant. Participants of the training were organized in joint groups of 20. The objective of this training was to develop projects to address the needs of women and girls in order to create sustainable resources.

PCMT formed a basis for upcoming projects and in the end of training sessions 95 local administrators and representatives of women's organizations received their certificates. Bringing together local administrators and representatives of women's organizations, another output of the PCMT which is no less important than the one above was the reinforcement of possible future cooperation. Training material that was prepared by the UNJP consultant was publicized at www.bmkadinhaklari.org for further use. UNJP consultant later provided e-consultancy services to local partners who were willing to prepare projects. Within this framework, she has also supported Trabzon Municipality in the preparation of a joint project to be implemented in cooperation with another municipality in Germany.

Workshops in Ankara (6-7 September 2008), Trabzon (23 October 2008) and Nevşehir (26-27 October 2009) were organized in line with the Grant Programme of Sabancı Foundation in order to effectively support local

administrations and women's organizations that are the beneficiaries of the Grant Programme in implementing their projects. 34 project managers (local administrators and representatives of women's organizations) participated workshops. With the participation of peers from other provinces, the number of participants rose to 111. These workshops were beneficial in terms of both reinforcing public agencies and NGOs that implemented projects in the six provinces and increased communication and solidarity between provinces.

Once partners became more and more empowered through project cycle management trainings, number of partners applying with their projects, to Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme reached 223 in three years and 34 of them were awarded grants. Furthermore, local partners have also applied to international funding mechanisms through İŞKUR, Social Support Programme of the State Planning Organization, Social Development Grant Programme of the Sabancı Foundation and Development Agencies' funding opportunities.

Local Equality Action Plan (LEAP) Preparation

Following capacity building activities for local administrators and local women's organizations, preparatory phase of local equality action plans was initiated in workshops in Ankara on 20-22 December 2006 within the framework of the UNJP. 75 representatives from governorates, municipalities and NGOs from programme provinces participated to these workshops.

Under the light of previous experiences and knowledge in previous capacity building activities, workshops in Ankara prioritized preparation of projects to yield solutions through a women's perspective on urban issues. The workshop event later formed the basis for the local equality action plan working groups to be established (with the participation of public agency and NGO representatives) in provinces. Another noteworthy output of LEAP preparation activities was the motivation of governors, mayors and NGO representatives for further cooperation and coordination. In other words, a firm basis for the public-NGO partnership which is a founding concept for the Programme was established and this foundation was further reinforced through LEAP preparatory group work at the provincial level. Representatives that took part in workshops have realized that they could find solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems unless they joined forces and focused on problem areas.



Local Equality Action Plans aim to integrate gender perspective into local administration practices so that gender equality is ensured at the local level and sustainability of egalitarian policies is guaranteed. The preparatory phase has started with capacity building activities with local partners, continued with the meeting between 20-22 December and that has rooted further with efforts at the provincial level. In the end of this process, draft plans were prepared under seven headings: Participation in Local Decision-making Mechanisms; Urban Services; Violence against Women; Economic Empowerment and Professional Life; Education and Health Services; Migration and Poverty and Changing Minds and Raising Awareness.

Visit to Provinces, 2007

Draft LEAPs were submitted to the governors and mayors of the six provinces in April 2007. In this regard, provincial visits that started in Kars on 9 April were finalized on 30 April in İzmir. The team comprising of representatives of the Ministry of Interior, UNJP and the Sabancı Foundation have presented the local equality action plans that were prepared by local partners to governors and mayors and asked for their support and approval.

Draft LEAPs that were submitted to the approval of governors and mayors of six provinces were deemed beneficial and approved.

Support to the Implementation of Local Equality Action Plans

The memorandum of understanding that is signed by the Sabancı Foundation and UNFPA the "Sabancı Grant Programme for Implementation Projects" would be initiated to support the realization of basic principles of LEAPS in İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van between the years 2007-2009. First implementation of the Grant Programme took place in 2007. Titles of projects that can apply to the Grant Programme shall comply with the titles of local equality action plans. Moreover, projects focusing on public-NGO partnership are prioritized by the Grant Programme. During the three-year implementation period a total of 223 applications were received including non-profit NGOs, legal persons, governors' offices, municipalities, special provincial administrations and their affiliated units, chambers of commerce, chambers of industry, professional organizations, universities, faculties, institutes or higher schools and research centers. Out of 34 applications 13 projects by local administration units and 5 projects by universities were awarded grants.

Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme is an extremely important step in terms of mobilization of a national resource to support a field which was not previously prioritized among private sector social responsibility projects: equality of women and men. Other than its positive impact on target groups, another positive impact of the Grant Programme lies in the support it provides for raising public awareness and capacity building of local administrations' project preparation and implementation capabilities. Another important output is that the Grant Programme keeps the interest of local administrations' and women's organizations in attaining UNJP objectives afresh. The Grant Programme also served to abolish the widely accepted precept, especially by local administrators, that "effective project outcomes demand vast resources". It has demonstrated through many examples that small-scale resources could also get bigger through right planning and cooperation and have a transformative effect on social life. Results obtained from the implementation of the Grant Programme also led to the launching of another larger scale grant Programme, again by the Sabancı Foundation, this time for women, youth and the disabled. Grant implementations between 2007-2008 are incorporated in a book.

HEADINGS FROM LOCAL EQUALITY ACTION PLANS



1. Participation to Local Decision-making Mechanisms

- Ensuring the local women's NGOs monitoring of the local assemblies and their participation in the local commissions.
- Ensuring the participation of women in the city councils and establishment of women's commissions.
- Consulting women's NGOs in the preparation of local strategic plans, and ensuring their participation in the implementation stages.
- Ensuring voluntary participation through an open management that allows cooperation between local administrations and women's organizations.
- Establishment of equality commissions or committees in municipality and provincial assemblies.
- Establishing units for equality of women and men at governors' offices and municipalities.
- Empowering women to allow women's participation to local policies.



- Ensuring and improving opportunities such as in service training to allow career building of women who are employed at local administrations.

2. Urban Services

- Improving a provincial registry system in a way to allow collection of gender-disaggregated data.
- Ensuring studies to reveal women's requirements and demands in terms of urban services.
- Providing public with information about local services.
- Training local service providers about gender equality.
- Providing daycare, elderly care and care for disabled to facilitate women's participation in urban life and labour market.
- Making the neighborhood/community centers more widespread.
- Establishing regulations for improved mobility, transportation in the cities for women.
- Lowering the price tickets on the bus lines passing through hospitals and maternity hospitals, having special discounts for women in public transportations.
- Letting drivers of public transportation vehicles stop outside the assigned stops when dark.
- Placing alarm buttons directed to police emergency number (155) on the bus stops, and improvement of the public transportation vehicles.
- Training of the drivers of public transportation vehicles about human rights and women's human rights.
- Improved lighting on public places, such as streets, parks, sports facilities and bus stops, adjustments and changes on district / quarter scale focusing on women's needs, and placement of extra street signs and posts with pictures and diagrams for the illiterate.
- Ensuring arrangement of urban services in a way to support the disabled and elderlywomen.
- Establishing guidance for the disabled and providing personalized services for disabled women and women caring for the disabled in the service units.

- Embracing a gender-sensitive approach during the implementation of projects concerning urban planning, housing estate and urban transformation projects.
- Preparing a gender-sensitive local budget.
- Ensuring and expanding urban services at the neighborhood level.
- Establishing measures to ensure the services are provided on a district and quarter scale, and the needs of women whose lives consist of their own districts and quarters are taken into consideration in determining and regulating the services.
- Training of the local administrators for gender-sensitive budgeting, incorporating feedback from women's NGOs during the preparation of the budgets and inclusion of expenditure for women's NGOs with limited resources into the budgets.

3. Violence against Women

- Municipalities of cities with populations of more than 50,000 urgently need to establish women's shelters, with the cooperation of women's NGOs engaging in violence against women.
- Establishment of women's and family guidance centers.
- Strengthening of existent centers in terms of staff and expertise.
- Creating a safe sheltering environment for violence victims to be able to take shelter and rehabilitate until they are able to start new lives, and establishment of special shelters for mentally disabled women and women going through psychological breakdown, as existent shelters do not have the necessary facilities to offer services to these women.
- Ensuring that the Emergency Phone Lines function efficiently and effectively, 7/24, and establishing phone lines in cities.
- Establishing women's desks at police stations
- Training of staff in public agencies that will provide services to violence victims.
- Establishment of a coordination unit that will monitor and control actions against violence and for protecting violence victims.
- Starting a joint work among government agencies and civil society to combat with prostitution.



4. Economic Empowerment and Professional Life

- Supporting the participation of women to professional life (facilities such as kindergartens, shelters for the elderly and care-homes).
- Ensuring the supremacy of gender equality as a principle to govern the creation of job opportunities.
- Increasing the number of vocational education and skill and capacity building programmes with job guarantee and restructuring of these programmes in line with market requirements in a way to profit women.
- Ensuring micro credits that seek to empower women.
- Ensuring activities to appraise handicrafts by women.
- Ensuring that women can benefit from the social security system.

5. Education and Health Services

- Empowering urban registry system to cover unregistered women and girls.
- Ensuring that girls complete their compulsory education.
- Increasing education and accommodation/housing opportunities for girl students.
- Raising public awareness on the damages in relation to issues such as forced and early marriages as well as marriages among relatives through encouraging joint work among local administrations.
- Restructuring of services concerning reproductive health and family planning and ensuring their effectiveness.
- Training of staff to provide services to women on women's rights
Increasing the number of staff providing services to women (social workers, psychologists, etc.).
- Establishing puberty training centers, menopause clinics and marriage consultancy centers.
- Providing disabled women and children with free health services.
- Improving preventive health services qualitatively and quantitatively.

6. Migration and Poverty

- Ensuring surveys concerning problems faced in migration receiving poor neighborhoods of cities, focusing especially on women's problems and developing special solutions.
- Strengthening services provided by UNHCR, Security Forces and Social Solidarity Fund addressing refugee women and children.
- Ensuring urban orientation and informatory training for migrant women and girls including information on where to address for services.
- Provide migrant women and girls with specific educational and life-long learning facilities.
- Allocating a certain housing quota to women living in these areas (prioritizing single parents and/or women with disabilities) in TOKİ (Housing Estates Administration) housing estates.

7. Awareness Raising and Mentality Change

- Organizing trainings in cooperation with public education centers, province social services departments and women's NGOs, for women and men.
- Incorporating classes on women's human rights into occupational and employment courses for women by public agencies and women's NGOs.
- Facilitating agencies to provide training seminars to their staff and their families on domestic violence, violence against women, etc., and to fathers on such subjects as child development and women's rights.
- Inclusion of women's rights into school curricula, and having experts instruct women's rights as part of the human rights courses until the necessary changes are made in the curricula.
- Establishment of a gender perspective among adults and children through provision of trainings on interfamily communication and child development in schools, as well as parent trainings, in cooperation with parent teacher associations; distribution of brochures and flyers in a simplified language through women's NGOs, quarter head's offices (muhtarlık), district centers, health centers, etc.; and hanging posters throughout the city.



- Provision of trainings for the staff working in local governments, governor's offices, and especially in municipalities, on gender equality perspective and policies, and how the legislations by the local governments can be used for the benefit of women.
- Monitoring of the local and national media by the gender equality units, cooperating with women's NGOs to provide regular written feedback to the Higher Board of Radio and Television (RTÜK), and establishment of a media monitoring group among women's NGOs.
- Organization of regular meetings by the municipalities with all of the women's NGOs for exchange of information and recommendations.
- Initiating, continuing and strengthening communication among local administrators, women's NGOs and women through such mechanisms as including a list of women's NGOs and their operations into the web sites of municipalities and governor's offices.

Ministry of Interior's Guidebook on Women's Human Rights and Local Administrations

The guidebook *Women's Rights and Local Administrations: Towards Women Friendly Cities* that was prepared by AREM (Ministry of Interior Research and Studies Center) was printed in February 2008. It was printed 5000 copies and distributed to the governors' offices, municipalities, district governors and district municipalities as well as related NGOs.

Preparation by the Ministry of Interior such a guidebook for local administrative bodies in order to ensure sharing of information and experience gathered by the UN Joint Program has implanted a women friendly perspective to the tasks and services of special provincial administrations and municipalities and led to a perspective change in the minds of respective administrators. Moreover, the book was also extensively used during other activities by the UN Joint Program.

Carrying Local Equality Action Plans on the National Agenda

Within the scope of the "United Nations Joint Programme to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls" (UNJP) a meeting to bring local equality action plans that were prepared in the six provinces on the national agenda was organized on 26 May 2006, in Ankara. Representatives

from the political parties in the Turkish Grand National Assembly and deputy governors, deputy mayors and representatives of women's organizations have attended the meeting.

Local partners from each Programme cities have made presentations during the meeting and these presentations focused on issues such as the content of Local Equality Action Plans, related implementations and local partners' demands from the members of the Parliament concerning legal arrangements/acts to strengthen the activities within these action plans. Also among these demands were the establishment of a monitoring and supervision system to ensure the implementation of the Circular by the Prime Ministry No: 2006/17; opening of a new chapter on women in the strategic plans of municipalities and special provincial administrations and legalization of budgetary and functional aspects of "Gender Equality Units" to be established under the governors' offices; provision of a legal status for Local Equality Action Plan Provincial Coordination Committees/Councils (these entities are later transformed into Provincial Women's Rights Councils); provision of trainings on gender issues in all state institutions and local assemblies; inclusion of subjects pertaining to gender equality and protection of women's human rights to the curricula in primary and secondary schools; establishment of a database on women at TÜİK (Turkish Statistics Institute); establishment of counseling centers and shelters for women; establishment of public centers and kindergartens; enforcing sanctions on municipalities that fail to establish shelters for women and children as foreseen in the Law on Municipalities; increasing the number of social workers; provision of all municipalities with a staff position for social workers and psychologists; amendment of the title of Law No. 4320 as the "Law on Combating Against Domestic Violence", expansion of the coverage of this Law; in-service training of police officers concerning the enforcement of the provisions of this Law; ensuring the operation of 183 Violence Hotline, establishment of women's units at provincial directorates of security; securing quotas for women leaving shelters at TOKİ estates; establishment of special shelters for sex workers, refugees, asylum seekers and psychologically disoriented women and girls who are not allowed in shelters operated by Social Services Directorates.

Gender-sensitive Budget Training and Workshop

Gender-sensitive budget training and workshop were organized on 18-19 December 2008 in Ankara, with support from UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) with experts Debbie Budlender from South Africa and Asya Varbanova from UNIFEM Macedonia. Among the 70



participants of the GSBT (Gender-sensitive Budget Training and Workshop) were deputy governors and mayors, representatives from strategic planning units and representatives from women's organizations. Training evolved around gender concepts, proceeded by an evaluation of similar efforts in other countries and the participants were asked to plan, in 12 months, 3 activities focusing on GSBT.

Gender-sensitive Budget Training and Workshop activity attracted representatives of women's organizations as much as local administrators who confessed that they had never seen budgets before later informed in their feedbacks that they found the activity to be beneficial and empowering. Municipalities and special provincial administrations to review their strategic plans in a way to cover local equality action plans following the local elections in 2009 also incorporated into their plans knowledge they gathered during the GSBT in addition to other UNJP activities. As a result of these meetings, trainings and workshops that support each other Municipalities and Special Provincial Administrations in İzmir, Şanlıurfa and Trabzon and Special Provincial Administration of Van have incorporated LEAPs into their strategic plans either entirely or partially. As the Special Provincial Administrations in Nevşehir and Kars had not yet reviewed their strategic plans they only allocated budgetary items for activities for women.

UN Joint Programme Review Meetings

A total of five review meetings to evaluate the implementation of the UN Joint Programme and to prepare the workplan for the upcoming year were organized in Ankara (2006), İstanbul (2006), Şanlıurfa (2007), İstanbul (2007) and in Kars (2008). In addition to high ranking officials from the Ministry of Interior, the UN, Sabancı Foundation and Sabancı University, representatives from donor embassies and deputy governors and deputy mayors as well as representatives from women's organizations, universities and other NGOs have participated to these meetings.

Ministerial or Undersecretary level participation from the Ministry of Interior, as well as participation of the UN Representative and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Sabancı Foundation to the review meetings where they have reiterated their commitments in the principles and objectives of the UNJP, encouraged decision makers to prepare and execute LEAPs. Ensuring such high level participation to evaluation meetings also served extensively to ensure media coverage and public information. On the other hand, the UNJP team submitted/presented activity reports and financial reports to partners, past activities were reviewed and solutions for

challenges met were proposed and with the partners, the framework of next year's plan was set in the afternoon sessions of these review meetings. Review meetings also gave local administrators the opportunity to learn about UNJP activities in other provinces. These meetings also provided the grounds for sharing information and experience for women's organizations in the Programme cities. As a result, cooperation between these organizations became stronger. Similarly, it was also observed that relations between universities, local administrations, women's organizations women research and implementation departments of universities in Programme cities became firmer. Finally, officials of women's organizations in small provinces individually empowered themselves through participation to these meetings.

Lobbying at the National and Local Level

Before the local elections in 2009 the UNJP team visited the mayor candidates of all political parties in the six Programme cities to inform them on UNJP activities and objectives that were specially prepared for each individual province. The UNJP has asked the candidate mayors to nominate more women candidates to work in provincial and municipal assemblies. Candidates made their oral commitments concerning the integration of arrangements providing for the sustainability of the Joint Programme and for the allocation of more resources in the strategic plans to activities concerning women. Furthermore the UNJP has supported women's organizations to arrange appointments with candidate mayors on issues concerning the UNJP.

Before the local elections and after the announcement of results, three municipalities' composition changed in Kars, Trabzon and Van with the support of local lobbying. Two of these cities continued with the Joint Programme and Trabzon Municipality incorporated women's organizations' opinion to its strategic planning and included LEAP principles in the same document. The newly elected Trabzon Provincial Assembly also adopted objectives similar to those in the Strategic Plan of Trabzon Special Provincial Administration. Furthermore, Gender Equality Commissions in Municipal and Provincial Assemblies were re-established. Similarly, they were re-established in Kars as well. The new management at the Kars Municipality has appointed women directors to five important positions including the Directorate of Public Works. Also, they have made a commitment to include LEAP principles and objectives to their strategic plan in 2010. The new management at Van Municipality has announced that they considered LEAPs as the outcome of a very beneficial work. However,



they chose not to take part in the UNJP initiative.

The UNJP team has also lobbied, although not systematically, at the Parliamentary level. Within the scope of the lobbying efforts, the Chair of the Committee on Equal opportunities for Women and Men of the Turkish Grand National Assembly was informed about the Joint Programme. Head of Turkish Parliamentary Commission on Pleads, the Human Rights Commission and the Commission of the Interior were informed about the UNJP on various occasions. Chairs of these Parliamentary Commissions as well as MPs of the six provinces and all women MPs were invited to all national and local UNJP activities and all related publications were forwarded to their offices.

In order to support the sustainability of the UN Joint Programme, the UNJP team has started initiatives to cooperate with the Turkish Union of Municipalities and with the Ankara affiliate of the Chamber of City Planners of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects. Although these initiatives were not successful with the Union of Municipalities, Chamber of City Planners provided support to UNJP activities.

United Nations Joint Programme Search Conference in Ankara

The Search Conference aiming to create a common understanding concerning the future of the United Nations Joint Programme was organized on 8 September 2008 in Ankara with facilitation of an academician from Sabancı University. In the first part of the Conference, participants were asked to share their views on development, change and transformation in gender initiatives in Turkey. 33 speakers took floor. Later, in the second part of the Conference eight group works and respective presentations took place concerning both the positive aspects and the drawbacks of the UNJP. Speakers iterated mostly their concerns in relation to the sustainability of the Joint Programme.

As a result of group work, positive aspects of the UNJP were identified; these are its focus on process and the requirement to ensure cooperation between the civil society, local administrations and the central government bodies. Also, preparation of LEAPs and their approval at local assemblies, increased awareness on gender issues and increased sensitivity towards women in the society were other positive impacts identified. On the other hand, concerns about resources and sustainability, institutionalization and communication between public agencies and the civil society were iterated. These views put forth in the Search Conference were attentively handled

and the duration of the Joint Programme was extended for another year.

Improvement and Redesigning of Urban Services: Pilot Workshop Van

Academician, expert and her students in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design of Bilkent University have realized in 2007 the project "Improvement and Redesigning of Urban Services" within the framework of Women Friendly Cities in Van.

Pilot Workshop in Van that was realized with the great effort of Bilkent third grade students at the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design has evolved into an interactive process with the participation of people from different fields.

With the questions of participants from the municipality and women's organizations and respective answers, this initiative has provided for an enriched exchange of information. As a result, two project areas to be developed were identified. These project areas are: the park to meet the need for open spaces in many neighborhoods (DDY compound, street park) and street arrangements to allow use for women (Art Alley).

Project teams have designed four projects of varying scales. Students have submitted their projects to local administrators and women's organizations. These projects were deemed to be applicable.



Academicians and expert who have contributed to the training activities of United Nations Joint Programme

Akın Atauz - City and Regional Planner
Dr. Ayten Alkan - İstanbul University, Faculty of Political Sciences
Dr. Deniz Altay Baykan - Bilkent University Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design
İlknur Üstün and KA-DER Ankara Local Politics Working Group
Sedat Çetik- Expert, State Planning Organization
İlknur Urkun - Urban and Regional Planner
L. Yıldız Tokman - City and Regional Planner
Murat Çevik - City and Regional Planner
Nazik Işık - Gender Expert
Dr. Nur Otaran - Education Expert
Doç.Dr. Oğuz Babüroğlu - Sabancı University, Faculty of Management
Rana Birden - Project Expert
Recep Demir - Chief Local Administration Inspector
Sema Kendirci - Lawyer, Union of Turkish Women
Prof. Dr. Serpil Sancar - Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences
Dr. Volkan Erkan - Expert, State Planning Organization



GENDER ISSUES TO CONSIDER DURING THE ARRANGEMENT OF RECREATION AREAS

Issues to consider during women's use of recreational areas are defined as security, privacy, adequacy and accessibility (both economical and physical).

Security:

See. Table 1 for details.

Privacy:

Privacy is a very important issue in traditional societies and it affects the use of spaces to a great extent. Also, women's privacy is a curial matter in these societies. For example, groups of people in parks always keep at a distance and do not want to be seen by others.

Adequacy and Related Equipment:

As a recreational activity, sports are a widely male dominated activity. Because the first things that come to mind are football and green fields. So, plans and design choices are focused on these. Related implementation and arrangements must recognize the skills, demands and capabilities of different gender groups.

Accessibility:

Economical Accessibility

Women are mostly paid less at work, if ever. For this reason, fees for use of certain areas and accessibility of these areas (public transport in lieu of private vehicles) are issues that demand to be re-arranged.

Physical Accessibility

Considering that women use mostly, areas that are close to their homes, recreational capabilities in these areas require more attention and need to be improved. In cases with limited or no feasibility, women's access to recreational areas must be ensured by means of secure, frequent, regular and cheaper (wherever possible, free) public transport.

Due to their responsibilities in terms of taking care of home and other family members, women do not like going far away from home. They would love it if they only could meet all their needs at the doorstep. Arrangements must also heed this issue.

No matter in which culture or in which society, parents want to see, especially their pre-school children play at the doorstep or close to home. Surroundings of houses need to be designed/arranged with this need in mind. However, related arrangements must also heed the issue of noise insulation of settlements concerned.

Table 1: Security issues

		Issues to Consider for the Improvement Quality of Life	Details
Security	Public Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Deserted streets, alleys, pedestrian walks, open spaces and parks ♦ Frequency of monotype activities ♦ Use of phone booths and WC facilities ♦ Rude and disturbing behavior (vandalism, graffiti) in public areas ♦ Stray animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Lively, long-lasting and sustainable spaces' need to be produced. ♦ Living streets and cafés as a cultural aspect need to be supported. ♦ Vandalism and graffiti need to be prevented. ♦ Public WCs and phone booths' need to be attentively located (see. Table 2). ♦ Stray animals need to be institutionalized for care. ♦ Spaces need to be organized in a way to increase mobility. ♦ Spaces need to be perceivable and legible (the extend to which a woman can intimately know and perceive any space is a determinant factor on feeling of security) ♦ No dead-ends and deaf façades. ♦ No sharp edges. ♦ Landscape arrangements shall not block or limit the view.



Security	Public Space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting to be used in these spaces is important (lighting in multilevel parking lots, walkways, parks, public areas etc.) • Signs and boards on the street and other areas need to be clear and easy to understand.
	Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of all other means of transport other than private vehicles (esp. in the evening) • Use of parking lots especially late at night • Deserted subways • Fast traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls need to be multiplied in public transport and at stops. • Stops and transit areas for public transportation need to be well illuminated, controls need to be improved and these stops' relation to other components such as parking lots, buildings etc. need to be well established and arranged. • In parking lots, places closer to entries need to be allocated to the use of women. • Subways need to be well illuminated and wherever possible, these areas must be used for other components such as ticket boxes or sale points etc. • Pedestrian safety need to be guaranteed.
	Public Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of public coherence • Large number of males with disturbing attitudes and drinking behavior • Going out at night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security personnel need to be in place to ensure control and safety • Facilities to call for help during emergencies create an extra sense of security

Table 2: Issues Pertaining to Public Space Fittings and Accessories

Trash bins location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Distance between two bins must not exceed 50-100m and it can even be reduced down to 25m wherever needed. ◆ Trash bins need to be located in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic and in open spaces, around bus stops, pedestrian crossings etc.
Location of communication tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Phones need to be at least 1m above the ground. Special phone booths need to be designed for the disabled. ◆ Phone booths need to be located away from running traffic, in open spaces and close to walking areas as well as be safely accessible.
Location of public Wcs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Distance between two public WCs must not exceed 600m. ◆ They need to be easily and safely accessible. <p><i>Other Issues Concerning Public WCs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Separate toilet areas for women must be arranged in all public WCs. ◆ WCs must be provided with unisex child care sections such as latrines for children and other opportunities to feed or change diapers etc. ◆ Safety of these toilets and easy access need to be ensured.
Location of stops	<p><i>Quality of Stops:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ They must allow for safe and comfortable sit-and-wait and rest. ◆ Stops need to be appropriately illuminated. ◆ Stops need to be easily seen. So, they need to be decorated/painted accordingly. ◆ Communication must be ensured at stops. ◆ Stops must be protected against adverse weather conditions. ◆ Information boards must be clear and understandable (city maps in different languages, schedules etc.) and discernibly positioned. ◆ Subways need to be equipped with elevators and ramps to provide easy access to pushchairs and wheelchairs.
Issues pertaining to bridges and pedestrian overpasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Appropriate up/down platforms or elevators need to be provided for drivers. ◆ Platforms, especially for child safety, need to be fenced by way of railings, glassware, steel plates etc. ◆ Adequate lighting need to be ensured.



<p>Issues pertaining to tunnels and subways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Entry/exit points must be clearly perceivable. ◆ Day light quality lighting need to be ensured. ◆ Especially in/around the main arteries, tunnels and subways need to be provided with additional facilities such as shopping etc. for day-long use. ◆ Appropriate up/down platforms or elevators need to be provided for drivers.
<p>Location of seats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Seats need to be located in safe areas away from traffic and disturbance. ◆ Seats need to be protected against adverse weather. ◆ They need to be arranged for use by adults as well as children.
<p>Quality of water appliances, fountains etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ These are tools that elevate the quality of urban spaces. Also, they are visually beautiful and improve functional variety. ◆ Such equipment need to be designed with a consideration for safe use (must be surrounded by railings so that children can move along comfortably etc.)

Table 3: Issues Pertaining to Walkways, Pavements and Passes

<p>Attention points during the construction of walkways:</p>	<p><u><i>In terms of use:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No steepness, no sharp edges (an inclination of 7-8% is applicable). ◆ Shifts between different elevations need to be ensured through ramps instead of stairs. ◆ Water repellent, hard, smooth and anti-slide material needs to be used as floor cover. Curbs need to be clear-cut and with a narrow angle. ◆ Variety of floor-cover material need to be used in a way to direct people. <p><u><i>In terms of comfort:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Semi-closed or closed shopping facilities/bazaars need to be in place for times of adverse weather. These need to be adequately located. ◆ Canopies, eaves and seating arrangements need to be in place for protection against adverse weather. ◆ Adequate lighting need to be ensured. ◆ Accessibility must be ensured via shortest route.
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<p style="text-align: center;">Attention points during the construction of walkways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pedestrian areas and public transportation facilities need to be adequately connected providing for maximum accessibility. <p><i>In terms of security;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pedestrians and vehicles must be as separated from each other as possible and must not converge to the extent possible. ◆ Walkers and seated pedestrians also need to be separated from one another to ensure maximum safety and comfort.
<p style="text-align: center;">Attention points during the construction of pavements</p>	<p><i>In terms of use;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provisions concerning walkways are as well applicable for pavements. ◆ The width of pavements needs to be at least 135cm. For women this needs to be 200cm regarding easy pass-by. <p><i>In terms of pedestrian health;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pedestrians, especially women and children and babies need to be protected from exhaust gases. This requires that related measures are to be in place (exhaust gases need to be controlled, bumper zones between the road and pavements need to be in place etc.) ◆ Pedestrians need to be protected from disturbing levels of noise. Especially the elderly and people who are experiencing health problems might react in an unexpected fashion in the face of sudden events (unnecessary honking). This might also require provision of bumper zones between the road and the walkway/pavement. <p><i>Other:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Institutions/private schools providing driving training and training aimed at driver's license exams need to cover issues pertaining to cautiousness for inattentive pedestrians in their curricula.
<p style="text-align: center;">Attention points during the construction of passes</p>	<p><i>In terms of use;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pedestrians must not be forced to shift between different surfaces at varying elevations. Ground level belongs to pedestrians. In cases where subways or overpasses will be used (level pedestrian escalators need to be in place and at level pedestrian crossings automatic signalization need to be ensured to operate for pushchairs and wheelchairs.) ◆ A sound warning system for the visually impaired need to be in place. ◆ Duration of signal need to be arranged to conform the pace of children and the disabled. <p>Prepared by: Res.Asst. Zeynep Yılmaz – KTÜ Department of City Regional Planning</p>



4. OUTCOME 2

Building the capacity of local administrations to design and provide quality services to women and girls.

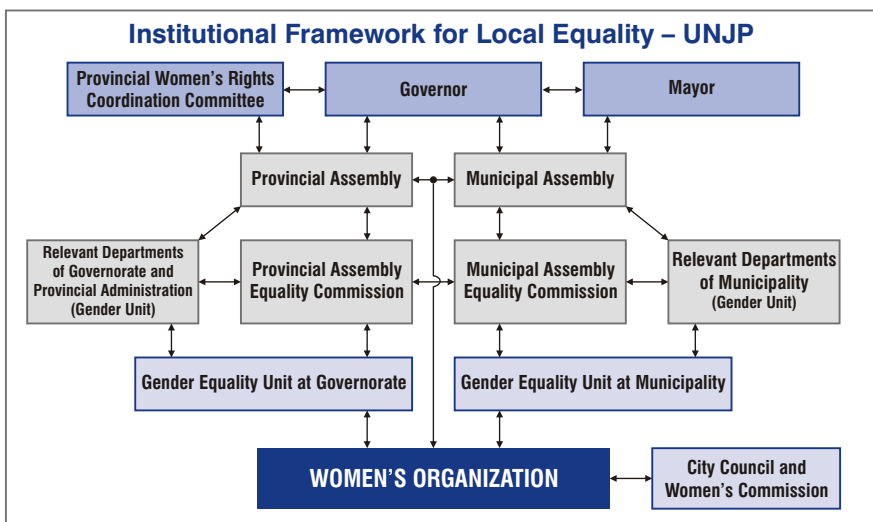
Trainings and Workshops for Local Administrators, Provision Gender-sensitive Services

As explained in Outcome 1, in the period leading up to the preparation of Local Equality Action Plans, the UNJP organized three sets of training sessions and workshops to equip local administrators with a gender perspective and to ensure design and provision of gender-sensitive services. The first of these took place between the dates of 4 September 2006 - 24 November 2006 in the six programme provinces. The objective of these training and workshop sessions was to inform local administrators on gender equality, to raise local administrators' awareness on issues pertaining to women's problems in their locality, prepare the grounds for the development of a local perspective on women's problems and to inform local administrations on women-friendly local services. These activities were followed by the project cycle management training that was organized for local administrators and women's organizations. Solution proposals that were presented in the end of these sessions were diverse and not well-defined. So, in order that these would be incorporated in to action plans that were trimmed in line with local requirements another workshop was organized, this time in Ankara between 20-22 December 2006. Then, LEAP working groups were established under a variety of titles in each of the provinces for the preparation of Local Equality Action Plans. These working groups were formed by participants from the governors' offices, municipalities and representatives from the related departments of local administrations, NGOs, universities and professional organizations.

With the participation of local administrations, women's organizations and of all other relevant parties, LEAP working groups have prepared their equality action plans in slightly more than a year. LEAPs are the most important tools for the realization of the UNJP objective: creation of women friendly cities. LEAPs are documents that aim at improving women's participation to decision-making processes and that develop solutions in line with this objective. Moreover, they also include proposals concerning local services to improve women's daily living conditions. LEAPs also inherently recognize the fact that solutions to problems that share the same roots but diversify at the local level. In addition, they define mechanisms required as well as agencies and institutions that would be responsible for

the realization of proposed solutions. Within this framework, the duty of LEAP Coordination Committees (LEAPCOM) that are established at the provincial level by representatives of all partners and that are chaired by respective deputy governors is to start implementation of LEAPs and to coordinate, monitor and supervise related efforts. During the implementation phase, these terms of reference were expanded and LEAPCOMs evolved into Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committees. Coordination Committees are responsible for the generation of resources required for the implementation of LEAPs. In this regard, in line with letters prepared by the governors' offices that were prepared on the basis of proposals by the Commissions, LEAPs and/or the principles and objectives of LEAPs were incorporated into the strategic plans of municipalities and special provincial administrations.

Following awareness raising activities aimed at local administrators, their attitude towards the establishment of related structures to deal with the problem as required was seen to change during the UNJP implementation process. Hence, the composition of LEAPCOMs that were initially designed as project coordination tools were extended and these commissions were transformed into Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committees. Similarly, these administrators who did not at first like the idea of establishing equality units later took steps to strengthen and ensure the sustainability of such units, including contacts with other related agencies. Furthermore, trainings to ensure the provision of gender-sensitive services by staff of local administration bodies are given. Then authorities have started to demand expertise and support for these trainings from the universities in their area as well as from national mechanisms.





Institutional Framework for Local Equality - UNJP Ensuring Sustainability and Determining Women Friendly City Criteria

Provincial Meetings, 2009

One of the key objectives of the provincial meetings that are held between June 2009-November 2009 was to remind and/or pass on to governors, mayors, members of municipalities and provincial assemblies, the representatives of local administration bodies and NGOs the objectives and achievements of the UNJP. Also, another objective of these meetings was to make a technical study concerning the incorporation of local equality action plans to strategic plans and to develop -and locally adopt- women friendly city draft criteria in order to see progress as well as to determine sustainability criteria. A total of 554 representatives from local agencies and women's organizations attended these provincial meetings.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the UNJP, technical work focused on the incorporation of local equality action plans to strategic plans. Also, in these meetings, other activities concerning the development and local harmonization of women friendly city draft criteria were organized. Following meetings in İzmir and Trabzon, the UNJP team in Ankara worked on possible solutions for local equality action plans to be incorporated in to strategic plans and related information was shared with parties in the six provinces through local coordinators. With the impetus of such work, first the Municipality of Trabzon has included solutions to women's problems in its strategic plan and two strategic objectives and six strategic targets were incorporated to the plan. One of the strategic targets was the realization of Trabzon Local Equality Action Plan. Following the Municipality of Trabzon, that of İzmir with the Special Provincial Administration of İzmir and the Municipality and the Special Provincial Administration of Şanlıurfa have incorporated Local Equality Action Plans into their strategic plans. Also, the Special Provincial Administration in Van has worked in a similar way. Moreover, Nevşehir and Kars announced their commitment to make similar arrangements in their strategic plans to be renewed in 2010 and 2011.

Within the framework of the UNJP, activities to determine the women friendly city criteria started in 2007. The first draft that was prepared by the UNJP team was submitted to local partners. Local partners informed that the draft was too "generally speaking". So, another draft using a similar document developed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as a basis was prepared and submitted to partners for their opinion. Following discussions at the provincial level, the document was discussed once more in provincial meetings in 2009, with the participation of members of

provincial assemblies, municipal assemblies and gender equality committees. In terms of incorporation of LEAPs into strategic plans, these provincial meetings helped to finalize criteria. Also, it was again during these provincial meetings that local administrators found an opportunity to reevaluate the situation and identify and speed up their efforts to fill the gaps and to devise measures to ensure sustainability. For example, in one of the cities, following activities and efforts mentioned above an equality unit with a budget and personnel was established. As a brief summary, it is possible to say that this process including the finalization of determining the criteria on the concept of women friendly cities with local partners was at once reminiscent, teaching and empowering. Measures for the future were reviewed.

A meeting with the participation of parties from the six provinces was organized where results of provincial meetings were handled took place on 16 November 2009 in Nevşehir. The two interrelated issues handled in the meeting were women friendly cities and sustainability strategies.

Nevşehir Meeting, 16 November 2009

With the participation of deputy governors and mayors as well as representatives of women's organizations and members of provincial and municipal assemblies and gender equality commissions, a meeting to review sustainability strategies was organized in Nevşehir on 16 November 2009. Number of participants to this meeting was 50. In this meeting where criteria concerning women friendly cities were handled once again, a workshop was also organized to discuss LEAPs and institutionalization and national equality policies that followed institutionalization and these policies position in the organizational structures of related institutions were tabled along with the issue of sustainability. In addition, the draft proposal concerning the dissemination of women friendly city practices which was finally to be signed by governors and mayors was submitted to parties for evaluation.

In this meeting that marks the pre-closing phase of the UNJP with extensive participation, criteria concerning women friendly cities were once more scrutinized and finalized following evaluation by all stakeholders at the provincial level. Handling of these criteria over an extended period of time and in numerous meetings allowed local partners to easily appreciate the situation at the provincial level as well as accelerated implementation by reminding provinces of their respective roles and responsibilities.

During the Nevşehir meeting also workshops where partners presented their



plans concerning LEAPs, and the institutionalization and sustainability of related policies were organized; and during these workshops, provinces that had not still incorporated LEAPs into their strategic plans (Nevşehir and Kars) informed the participants that there were no problems regarding the accomplishment of this task in their strategic plans to be prepared in 2010 and 2011. They have also informed that LEAPs were already approved by Municipal and Provincial Assemblies which meant that their incorporation into strategic plans was already, in fact, indirectly guaranteed. During the workshop, provinces also briefly informed other participants on their strategically targets such as eliminating obstacles facing women's right to travel, combating violence against women, eliminating obstacles concerning women's participation to social and political life, rendering more urban areas usable by women, etc.

In the closing meeting held on 20 January 2010 in Ankara, a certificate for the appreciation of efforts towards women friendly cities and sustainability was awarded to governors offices, municipalities and special provincial administrations. Certificates were given for their efforts to put in place a new perspective targeting women's and girls equal benefit from political, economical, social and cultural opportunities. Furthermore, annexed to the letter dated 3 February 2010 and undersigned by the Deputy Representative of UNFPA, women friendly cities criteria demonstrating both the status of provinces and targets were sent to governors' offices and municipalities of the six provinces.

WOMEN FRIENDLY CITY CRITERIA ELABORATED BY LOCAL PARTNERS

POLITICAL STRUCTURES, MECHANISMS AND RESOURCES	YES	PARTLY	NO
CITIES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women constitute 50 percent of Provincial and Municipal Assemblies • As a gender policy document Local Equality Action Plan exists • Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee exists and includes all relevant partners including women NGOs • City Council exists and active • Local women NGOs are represented and able to influence the decisions of the City Council • Women's Commission exists and are able to influence the decisions of City Council • Local women NGOs represented in Provincial Human Rights Committee • Political commitment exists to combat violence against women • Women NGOs are consulted in the preparation period of strategic plans • Gender equality perspective integrated in Municipal and Special Provincial Administration Strategic Plans • Municipality and Special Provincial Administration allocate budget for gender work 			
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES, MECHANISMS AND RESOURCES			
CITIES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality/ Women's Office (with the adequate human resources and budget) • Local equality action plan exists (with specific goals, indicators and budget) • Gender trainings for elected and appointed staff, men and women exist • Gender -disaggregated data on all urban issues is available • Gender impact assessment of urban policies, programs and service delivery exists • Positive discrimination is applied in hiring and promoting staff on voluntary basis • City Information System exists • Mechanisms to handle citizen requests and complaints including women exist 			
PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS			
CITIES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality Commission exists both in Provincial and Municipal Assemblies • Women's commissions or committees exists in all neighbourhoods • City-wide civic education exists • Projects and activities improving women's access to services and resources are available • Women are consulted in designing and implementing local physical and social policies such as safety, transportation and housing 			



5. OUTCOME 3

To build capacity in non-governmental organizations and associations operating in this field to advocate gender equality, interact effectively with relevant agencies and organizations including local governments, and improve the status of women and girls.

Equipment Support to Women's Organizations

One of the basic objectives of the UNJP is strengthening local women's organizations. In this regard, an initial step was the provision of computers and internet connections to 16 such organizations.

16 organizations that women's organizations have nominated among themselves on the basis of urgency of the need for equipment provided received the support. Following the above mentioned infrastructure, the communication networking between related organizations operated over the address at yerelsiyasettekinlar@yahoo.com and it has become a unifying as well as an empowering tool. A total of 130 members communicated through this network.

Trainings and Workshops with Women's Organizations

KA-DER Ankara local policy working group organized a workshop in 2006. Local women's organizations in the six provinces participated in this activity. The objectives of this workshop were to raise the awareness of local women's organizations on local problems; help formulate a basis for a local perspective about women's problems; help these organizations to see their strengths and weaknesses; to inform women's organizations on legal aspects of local administrations and to prepare a background for a work model concerning how to become active partners for the solution of local problems. Following these workshops, KA-DER has completed a reporting process in five provinces. A total of 283 representatives of women's organizations took part in the two activities.

In addition, women's organizations were given project cycle management training with local administrators and they also attended, again with local administrators, to the training and workshop on gender-sensitive budgeting. Women's organizations from six cities, beneficiaries of the Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme (16) also attended a three-set training on 6-7

September 2008, on 23 October 2008 and 26-27 October 2009 in Ankara, Trabzon and Nevşehir respectively.

These women's organizations who were provided equipment support, attended trainings and workshops and who have participated activities of LEAP preparation groups in a "shoulder to shoulder" manner with local administrators were empowered by this process. Taking part in gender-sensitive budgeting workshops and strategic plan preparatory activities with local administrators, women's organizations have acquired considerable knowledge and experience on participating to decision-making processes concerning distribution of resources. UNJP implementation process has reinforced communication with other women's organizations as well as with local administrators through permanent partnership platforms. Also, women's organizations relations and links with universities in their areas were reinforced. Platforms, commissions and similar organizations/structures that were established to monitor local assembly activities, and gender equality commissions in municipal and provincial assemblies helped women's organizations to become stronger by allowing them have access to information on local policy making processes as well as enabled them to intervene in the process.

National and Local Women's Organizations and Experience Sharing Meeting

On 14-15 April 2008, KA-DER Ankara and the UNJP organized, in cooperation, an experience sharing meeting among women's organizations. The objective of this meeting was to hear about women's organizations' opinion on UNJP activities in an event without the participation of local administrators.

A total of 66 people including representatives from 16 national and 28 local women's organizations, the United Nations (UNFPA and ILO), the Ministry of Interior, the Sabancı Foundation and the Embassy of Sweden have attended this meeting. In the first session, the UNJP consultant and local facilitators have made their presentations on UNJP activities and on related achievements in the provinces where activities were organized. Then, academicians and representatives of national women's organizations KASAUM, KAMER, KA-DER, KDV, KADAV, KiH, TKB, Filmmor, AMARGÍ, LA21) provided a brief summary of the agenda of women's organizations in Turkey. A three-hour session focusing on exchange of views followed the above mentioned session on information sharing. The event continued with three workshops where participants from national and



local women's organizations have looked for answers to questions below: "How can we adopt and implement LEAPs within the framework of agendas of women's organizations?", "What must the approach to adopt to administer relations with local administrations?", "How can we ensure the sustainability of LEAPs?", "What must be the criteria for women friendly cities?".

Women's organizations used tools such as the criteria for women friendly cities to make an overall evaluation of the UNJP. Within the framework of sustainability of LEAP practices, proposed criteria were as follows: number of women staff in local administrations, availability of gender discriminative surveys, gender training for service providing civil servants, establishment of the provincial women's rights commission and memberships (women), allocation from provincial and municipal budgets to women's organizations, arrangements concerning women in municipal strategic plans, compliance with both national and international agreements, inclusion of shelters and transit shelters to control and monitoring mechanisms, establishment of local monitoring assemblies to control the implementation of principles regarding women friendly cities, provision of gender training at all schools, availability of a protocol between programme partners and local administrations to ensure sustainability of the programme, setting a deadline for certificates or embracing a staged certification approach, with representatives from women's organizations establishment of a monitoring and evaluation committee alongside an institutionalized supervision, requiring the approval of women's organizations in a certain province before awarding that province the women friendly city certificate, continuous monitoring of the certificated province and withdrawal of the certificate if deemed necessary by women's organizations, full implementation of LEAPs, awarding of the certificate following the termination of the five-year implementation period and after the related reporting procedure, submission of reports on LEAP implementation to the Ministry of Interior by women's organizations, development of numeric indicators concerning achievements under LEAP chapters, (Example: a 30% increase in the number of women in local assemblies, etc).

Creating More Channels to Enhance the Participation of Women's Organizations to Local Decisions

Implementation of LEAPs helped create a sustainable environment to allow for an overall reinforcement of women's organizations. It also led to greater participation by women and their organizations to decision-making

processes by way of institutional organization models envisaged. For example, women's organizations are natural members of provincial women rights coordination committees that are responsible for the initiation and coordination of gender activities. Hence, women's organizations can monitor and supervise local decisions through local assembly monitoring platforms/groups. Moreover, women's organizations can keep the issue concerning equality of women and men at the top of the agenda through gender equality commissions that are established under municipalities and provincial assemblies. Also, women have a say about local decisions through women's assemblies within provincial assemblies. And more importantly, the UNJP implementations reinforced all kinds of communication and cooperation between women's organizations, local administrations, NGOs and universities. As a result of this agreeable environment in the provinces 17 new women's organizations were founded.

Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme that was implemented within the framework of the UNJP also reinforced women's organizations. 16 women organization's projects were implemented through the Program. And on the basis of experience they earned by this Programme, women's organizations started means of application to other sources of funds more often.



6. OUTCOME 4

To raise awareness in public for the human rights of women and girls.

Midyear and Annual Review Meetings

Five review meetings were organized in Ankara (2006), İstanbul (2006), Şanlıurfa (2007), İstanbul (2007) and Kars'ta (2008) to evaluate the implementation of UNJP implementation and to prepare next year's work plan. High ranking representatives from the Ministry of Interior, the UN, Sabancı Foundation and Sabancı University and donor Embassies as well as governors, mayors and their deputies, women's organizations, universities and other NGOs attended these meetings.

Within the framework of the UN Joint Programme to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls evaluation meetings were organized with top level representation in Ankara, Şanlıurfa, İstanbul, Kars; these meetings had a rather functional awareness raising impact on local administrators regarding gender issues and the effectiveness of spatial arrangements and local service provision. Due to high rank participation these meetings had considerable media coverage.

Public Opinion Poll

Within the scope of the Joint Programme, pilot provinces' profiles were largely elaborated using a public opinion poll that was conducted by a private research company. Results of the survey were evaluated by Prof.Dr. Ayşe Ayata, Asst.Prof. Aykan Aydemir, and Asst.Prof. Ayça Ergun Özbolat and were published as a book in both English and Turkish in June 2006. The book was sent to all national and local partners including women's organizations.

This public survey has, although partially, filled a gap concerning women's status at the local level and their expectations in Turkey where original sources of information on these issues are only limited. The study has become a widely acclaimed reference source with considerable amount of citations.

Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme and Experience Sharing Meetings

Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme started in 2007 and for three years provided financial support to facilitate the implementation of LEAPs through 34 local administrations and NGOs' projects. During the three-year implementation process of the Grant Programme, experience sharing meetings were held on 23 October 2008 and on 26-27 October in Trabzon and in Nevşehir respectively.

On the one hand, call for projects and application (poster and brochure) processes of Sabancı Grant Programme became effective tools of public information and on the other hand they served the function to strengthen local administrations and women's organizations in terms of project design. Two books on projects that benefited from the Grant Programme were printed and distributed at experience sharing meetings. In addition to other national partners, Ms. Güler Sabancı, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Sabancı Foundation also attended experience sharing meetings and this became a curious event both for the media and for administrators and citizens of provinces hosting these meetings. News on these events also triggered additional awareness on matters concerned.

Sabancı University Purple Certificate Program

Within the framework of the UNJP, Sabancı University designed the Purple Certificate Program to promote critical gender perspective among high school teachers. The first activity of the Programme took place in 2007. Academicians from Sabancı University, high school teachers from UNJP provinces, academic staff, students and representatives of NGOs came together and shared information and interactively asked questions such as "What issues do you wish to be covered/you believe that must be covered by the Purple Certificate Programme?", "What must a gender-sensitive education be like?" etc. In line with answers they found, as a result they designed the Purple Certificate Programme and organized this event annually at the Tuzla Campus of the University in İstanbul.

Purple Certificate Programme by Sabancı University has reached 1313 teachers in three years and 153 teachers were awarded with Purple Certificates. Purple Certificate activities in 2007 and 2008 were printed as a book and widely distributed. On the other hand a grand majority of teachers who participated in the Purple Certificate program have started to continue their professional practices in a gender-sensitive manner. 80 teachers who were chosen among volunteers who somehow participated in the Purple



Certificate Programme received a continuum training designed by Ege University Women's Studies Center. The objective of this training was to establish the core group of trainers to train local administrators on gender issues. The center also received project support from Sabancı University Grant Programme.

Essay Competition for High School Students

On 8 March 2007, an essay competition entitled "Women Friendly Cities" was launched to raise the awareness of high school students in the six provinces.

Submitted essays were evaluated by juries established in each province and as a result 18 students received prizes. Prize winning compositions were compiled in a book and distributed.

Competition on Women Friendly Urban Space Model for University Students

In October 2009 the "Competition on Women Friendly Urban Space Model" for university students was organized. The target group of this competition was students of Architecture, City Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture departments of universities in Turkey and in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The objective of this competition was to raise students' awareness on issues pertaining to the impact of spaces on the lives of women. A total of 22 projects were submitted to the competition. Projects that were successful in screenings received three prizes and three certificates of achievement. The poster of this competition was displayed at the related departments of 41 universities and results of the competition were compiled in a book to be distributed to related departments of universities as well as other related individuals and institutions.

UNJP Web Page

Between 2007-2009 UNJP web site in Turkish www.bmkadinhaklari.org.tr was hit 57.500 times and the English pages at www.protectingwomen.org.tr were hit 4500 times within the same period. Ministry of Interior, governors' offices and municipalities provided links to UNJP site on their own web pages. Links and other UNJP related content on Ministry of Interior web pages were hit 705.200 times.

News on the UN Joint Programme

A total of 150 news and articles concerning the UN Joint Programme appeared in national newspapers. On the other hand, number of articles that appeared in local newspapers and on Internet pages are approximately 700.

Publications by the UN Joint Programme

Including four books that were published by KA-DER Ankara, a total of 18 books and booklets, 15 posters, six provincial brochures, a continuously updated bilingual information kit and 13 newsletters are published and printed.

Also, United Nations Joint Programme was included in the book “Gender Inequality in Turkey: the Updated Report on Problems, Priorities and Proposed Solutions” that is published in 2008 by TÜSİAD (Turkish Association of Industrialists and Businessmen) and KAGİDER (Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Turkey), in the book “Human Rights of Women and Gender Equality” by the Ministry of Interior and also in the Special 2009 Issue on Local Administrations by Uçan Süpürge.



7. UNJP INDEPENDENT EXPERT EVALUATION REPORTS

UNJP Independent Evaluation Report on the Training and Workshop for Womens' Organizations, 2006

Asst.Prof. R. Nükhet Ç. Demirtaşlı and Dr. Deniz Gülleroğlu from the Faculty of Education in Ankara University prepared the Independent Evaluation Report on the Training of Women's Organizations in November 2006. The experts have indicated in the report that trainings provided a solid ground for project based problem solving skills to be employed against problems concerning the relation between women and cities and emphasized the need that development of problem solving skills demands to be elaborated further in future trainings in order to amalgamate these skills.

UN Joint Programme Independent Evaluation Report, 2007

Şeyda Türkmemetoğulları, the independent expert who visited the six programme provinces between 15 August-26 October 2007 monitored activities on-site and collected partners' opinions on the Programme. Data gathered was incorporated into an independent evaluation report.

In this report, the expert indicated that she deemed the UNJP successful in terms of its institutional organization and its partners. According to this report, the UNJP is a dynamic example of designing creative funds successfully. Although the Turkish private sector chose to limit its support to UN funded initiatives to the provision of sponsorships of restricted initiatives instead of a national Programme partnership, the report states that UNJP has altered this trend. Within this framework, UNJP provides an example as it consolidates an equal partnership of the national private sector with the national government. From an institutional point of view, UNJP per se provides the best example of designing a Programme based on the promotion of human rights of women, as an interesting and creative programme.

In order to ensure the sustainable institutionalization of these successes in the future, in a way to create a permanent impact on the daily lives of men and women on a local/urban basis, the expert recommends that there are certain steps the Programme needs to take. For example, permanent gender coordinators can be appointed or related offices can be established; required budgets can be designed and a gender-based dimension can be added to each institutional initiative.

UN Joint Programme Independent Evaluation Report, 2009

Prof.Dr. Ayşe Ayata and Dr. Ayşe İdil Aybars have prepared the evaluation report of the gender component of the 4th Country Programme of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in the term between May-June 2009. The executive agency being the UNFPA, the UNJP was as well included in the valuation process. The report was prepared through office work as well as interviews with the project team, national partners and with local partners during visits to the 2 pre-determined provinces.

According to the report, UNJP has created an outstanding joint working platform for the Government, NGOs, private sector and for other stakeholders to ensure gender equality. In other words, one of the most significant inputs and strengths of UNJP is probably the development/improvement of partnerships between NGOs and local administrations. Another additional value of the Programme is considered to be the cascading of the gender equality issue to local agendas, hence the initiation of local quests for solution.

LEAPs have provided a strong foothold for the designing, implementation and monitoring of service provision models and this paved the way for the cascading good practices in the six provinces to other provinces. This is one of the peculiarities of the UNJP. The six provinces where the UNJP was implemented have officially embraced these LEAPs and through those they earned great experience in the integration of women's issues to local policy making agendas. Expansion of the project to cover other provinces and creating an environment that provides for more comprehensive comparisons are also important.

According to the report, equality units/focal points were appointed in all of the provinces; although with different levels of progress. Also appointed are equality commissions under local assemblies. Local administrations have approved LEAPs and allocated budgets for new projects. Mechanisms to ensure increased participation of women to decision-making processes were again introduced during UNJP practices.

Ensuring the sustainability of projects and programmes under the gender component is the key issue to focus for the upcoming programme period. Another related issue that needs to be emphasized is that ownership of these processes by national stakeholders is vital for the sustainability of outputs and realization of overall principles of institutional capacity building. Majority of national partners who were interviewed stated that the required sense of ownership was increasing. However, some of the stakeholders stated that faces that change often at the related state agencies slowed down the process of ownership on a national level. In this regard, one can suggest



that communication between stakeholders can be reinforced and they can be included in all stages of project implementation, i.e. from project preparation to evaluation. This would lead to a more intimate feeling of ownership and consistent demands of beneficiaries can be incorporated into project activities.

According to the same report, institutionalization and permanency of equality commissions in municipality and provincial assemblies in the six programme cities are also important for the sustainability of achievements in the field of local capacity building under the UNJP. In order to ensure this, the Government can be advocated so that a Circular by the Prime Ministry is issued. Moreover, a meeting to host governors and deputy governors of all programme provinces would be organized to contribute to participants' sharing of knowledge. Establishment of technical assistance commissions in order to develop dissemination activities further can be considered. Synergy through and between Local Agenda 21 practices such as women's councils and commissions would also fit these objectives well. UNJP's sustainability is also important in terms of well-establishment of local ownership. Therefore, a coordinated effort with the Ministry of Interior for the establishment of permanent norms for local equality units that are just being established is considered as a must. Appointment of a member of the local administration ranks as an "Equality Director/Manager" in a way to continue the efforts of the local coordinator would also be a great support to ensure the continuation of UNJP's successes.

Disseminating gender-sensitive budgetary practices in Turkey is an extremely hard task. Instead, experiences in the field of LEAPs can be built up and action plans can be focused on so that a platform where gender priorities will be discussed can be achieved. UNJP through LEAPs has provided a successful model for local equality policies. This model was formulated in a manner that places great importance on local dynamics and processes. That is why additional efforts to disseminate action plans further are required. In this regard, inclusion of the Ministry of Interior to the processes of dissemination and institutionalization of the local policy model is important.

Closing meeting

The closing meeting of the United Nations Joint Programme to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women and Girls was held in Ankara, on 20 January 2010. 250 people including Beşir Atalay, the Minister of Interior, Shahid Najam, the UN Resident Coordinator, Peer Sieben, UNFPA Representative, Gülay Aslantepe, the ILO Representative, Maurizio

Busatti, the IOM Representative and Güler Sabancı, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Sabancı Foundation participated in the meeting.

Governors and Mayors of the six programme provinces undersigned the "Call for Promoting and Expanding Women Friendly Cities". Also, examples to women friendly cities were studied with municipalities of Vienna and Frankfurt and the Union of Finnish Municipalities and Regional Governments.



Vienna takes a different perspective. Vienna is gender mainstreaming!

Politics and administration set the framework for equal opportunities. In the context of gender mainstreaming, this means that gender-caused differences have to be considered systematically in the provision of public services such as housing and mobility, education and child care facilities as well as health care and care for the elderly, as these services are crucial for gender equality.

The City of Vienna is determined to continuously consider social changes; hence the improvement of the equality between women and men is considered to be an important topic on the city's agenda. Since the beginning of the 1990s there has been a clear political commitment to an equal opportunity policy. The Executive City Councilor for Women's Issues and the Chief Executive Director agreed on nominating a project manager for gender mainstreaming to combine affirmative action programmes in selected areas for women with a cross-cutting implementation of the gender perspective in all parts and services of the City Administration. A special unit was set up in the Chief Executive Office - Executive Group for Organisation, Safety and Security in October 2005.

Positioning gender mainstreaming at the senior management level has proven beneficial in many ways. Firstly it is a clear signal since equality issues have traditionally not been a top priority of specialists and executive staff. Secondly gender screenings serve as an additional quality check and as a sound basis for decisions by

- drawing attention to gender-caused differences in all policy areas;
- considering all users of public services and their different needs with a special focus on gender but also social, ethnic and health-related differences;

Consequently the implementation process was built upon the following three pillars: Firstly a strong emphasis was put on awareness raising and building adequate know-how for practical application as a basis for further action. The next step was to set up an efficient and sustainable reporting system aiming at providing information about the progress but also to refer to gender issues on a

regular basis. Last but not least it was necessary to make changes visible and perceptible for the public by means of pilot projects.

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Frankfurt Municipality Has a Women's Department Since 1989!

Since 1989, the Women's Department has worked to achieve opportunities and prospects for Frankfurt's women that are equal to those of men. The Women's Department is one of some 50 City of Frankfurt offices and has 10 employees. It belongs to the Division of Education and Women and reports to Mayor Jutta Ebeling.

The Women's Department works for equal opportunities and equality of women and men. Its aim is a non-violent, independent and equal life for women and men in Frankfurt. Its work focuses on education and employment, protection from violence, policies for girls, culture and sport, integration and city development.

The Department develops concepts and measures for women who live in Frankfurt and designs and funds projects for greater equality as well. It is service point for women and girls. It provides information and advices and arranges contacts with advisory services and offices. Promoting women's intercultural understanding is another task of the Department.

The Women's Department funds and supports programmes which offer women advice on returning to work and on matters relating to the compatibility of job and family. In Germany, there is a legal right to child care. The City of Frankfurt operates and funds nursery schools and crèches, full-day schools and day-care programmes.

For equally as long as the Women's Department has existed, there have also been internal women's officers. Their job is the promotion of women within the City Council. As a result, about 30% of the leading posts in the City Council are held by women. This success has been achieved by the Women's Promotion Programme. The women's officers are involved in job assignment proceedings. Their rights are specified in the State Equality Act.

Immigrant women are always in focus in all areas. The Department promotes special programmes for this category of population. The City of Frankfurt funds programmes for teenagers. For more than 10 years now, the Frankfurt Girls' Guidelines apply, which place the Youth Welfare Service under an obligation to offer programmes for girls. The City of Frankfurt funds advisory and refuge facilities for girls who have suffered violence. Together with women's refuges and

advice centres, the City of Frankfurt also supports contact points for prostitutes, women immigrants and refugees who have become victims of human trafficking. At the “Frauennotruf” Advice Centre, there is a professionally organised hotline offering first advice by telephone for the victims of violence. Frankfurt Municipality also offers a wide range of services for gays and lesbians.

The City has a Women's Award –the Tony Sender Prize- honours women who work in an outstanding way for equality of men and women honours commitment and services in the cultural, social or socio-political field.

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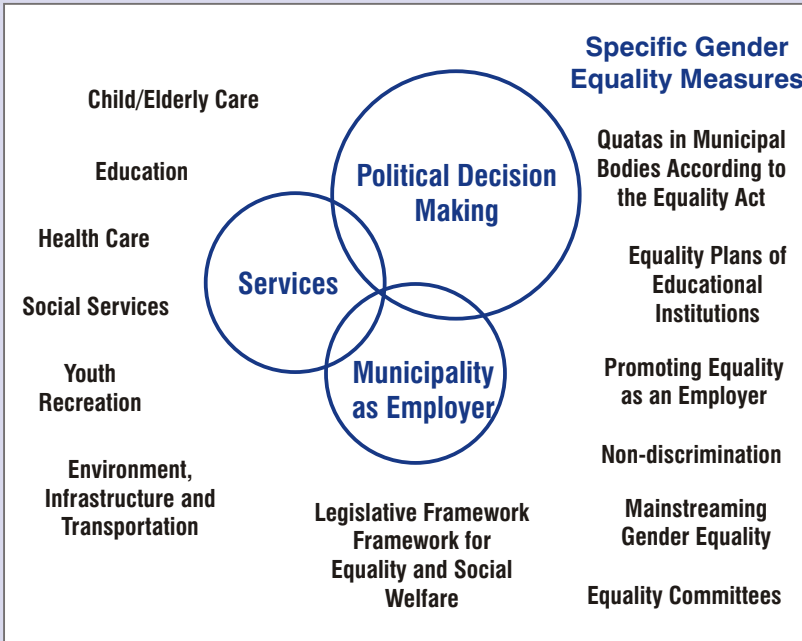
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Finnish Municipalities as Promoters of Gender Equality



Above structure is what brought Finland to the position described below:

36,7% rate of women in city councils.

This number is even higher in big cities; 57,6% in Helsinki,

50,7% in Espoo, 46,3% in Vantaa, 43,3% in Turku, 46,3% in Oulu and 47,8% in Tampere.

The same figure is 34% in municipalities with a population of 5500.

Women's representation in 100 municipalities is between 40-49%.

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8. COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES and RECOMMENDATIONS

UNJP is the first project in Turkey that is locally implemented and in which all related partners participated. The UN, Ministry of Interior, the Sabancı Foundation and Sabancı University are the national partners of the UNJP. During the four-year period a total of 77 meetings including 35 training sessions were organized in İstanbul, Ankara and the six programme cities. Minutes show that 3420 people participated in these events. Meetings that were organized by local partners in the provinces are excluded from this number. Number of partners that took part, directly or indirectly, in the daily practices of UNJP is more than 300. 34 projects that received funds from the Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme under the UNJP are estimated to have reached, either directly or indirectly, about 300.000 people. The Purple Certificate Programme reached 1313 high school teachers.

Joint Programme draws the basic framework of the local equality policy through Local Equality Action Plans and envisages the appropriate institutional organization.

Local Equality Action Plans and other "thematic plans" alike cover concepts such as equality of women and men that relates to or links many sectors. Thematic plans can not be shaped as mere plans of a single public institution. They also cover areas where other stakeholders such as universities, NGOs and the private sector also need to take responsibility. That is to say, Local Equality Action Plans that are prepared in a transparent and participatory manner in İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van are thematic plans at the local level and require inter-institutional cooperation, participation, ownership and budgets for the sustainability of their implementation. In order to ensure applicability of LEAPs that set the mainframe of local policies on equality, pre-set targets by UNJP original project document were exceeded and an institutional structure established that allows the participation of related parties. Also, work to ensure incorporation of LEAPs into strategic plans that secures allocation of budgets to allow the application and sustainability of these plans were conducted. A very first step within this framework was the writing of a circular by the governors' offices addressing related institutions. Later, in the two meetings organized by the UNJP the issue was tabled by experts on women, planning and city planning and the proposal package prepared was shared with local administrations. As proposals were accepted by local administrations, Local Equality Action Plans were incorporated into the



strategic plans of the provincial and the municipal assemblies. In this context, strategic plans of municipalities and provincial administrations of Trabzon and Şanlıurfa, together with the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and the Special Provincial Administration of Van provide the first examples of such plans to cover provisions on women.

Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committees

LEAPCOMs are the first examples of institutionalization during the implementation phase of the UNJP. The very first LEAPCOM was established through the initiative of the Governor's Office in İzmir (1.7.2007) followed by Nevşehir (30.10.2007), Şanlıurfa (14.1.2008), Kars (29.1.2009), Trabzon (12.5.2008) and Van (21.5.2008). Later, the terms of reference of LEAPCOMs were extended further and they were transformed into Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committees. Due to their participatory structure, these committees are the ideal structures to provide gender-sensitive services.

The Committee convenes under the respective deputy governor every month or every two months. The composition of the Committee is arranged to cover all local partners, especially governorates, municipalities, special provincial administrations, women's organizations, base institutions, universities, the private sector to secure the interest of women and girls. Also in order to ensure smooth functioning of the process of incorporation of a gender perspective into basic plans and programmes the Committee allows for the participation of high ranking representatives with decision-making authority. Civil society can also take part in these Committees.

Decisions taken by these Committees yielded effective results and they have the potential to create and continue such positive trends. For example, with the decision taken by the Provincial Coordination Committee in İzmir, training of a core team of trainers to train civil servants on gender issues started. Again with the other decision by the Committee, establishment of equality commissions in district municipal assemblies was facilitated. The need to turn LEAPCOMs that were initially designed to facilitate the implementation of the Joint Programme into permanent structures became evident for local administrators, and existing Committees/Councils were thus transformed into Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committees.

Recommendations

Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committees can be equipped with a legal infrastructure similar to that of Provincial Human Rights

Committees, hence extended nationwide. The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979), Outcome documents of the World Human Rights Conference in Vienna (1993), the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993), the UN Declaration of the 4th World Women's Conference in Beijing and Platform for Action (1995) and the Optional Protocol of the UN CEDAW (1999) are all international legal frameworks that were prepared in line with the preconception that the existing human rights document fell short to cover women-specific gender issues and that there was a need for special arrangements and measures. The concept "human rights of women" is prominently seen in all of these international documents. Moreover, these documents also emphasize that "ensuring full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by women" is among the top responsibilities of governments and of the UN. It is similarly obvious that Provincial Women's Rights Committees will become a priority tool in the realization of the above mentioned responsibility at the local level. Provincial Women's Rights Committee activities will be provided with a strong foothold and thus they will ensure input through its practices and reports, a great local input to national equality institutions (Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the General Directorate on the Status of Women), supporting the design and execution of effective policies.

Gender Equality Commissions Established in Provincial and Municipal Assemblies

Gender Equality Commissions/Committees that are established under provincial or municipal assemblies are the most widely seen equality mechanisms at the local level. These organs are formed by representatives of political parties and reflect the outcome of local elections. These commissions work for the preparation of a local equality action plan to ensure an equality-based perspective in the local administrative level as well as to coordinate this plan. Furthermore, they can advise the municipal and provincial assemblies on matter pertaining to equality. In other words, the primary task of these commissions is to pioneer initiatives that aim to pass decisions to ensure gender equality, to review drafts and proposals that are passed by the municipal or provincial to monitor the implementation of these decisions and make evaluations, to defend women's rights and to identify strategies and measures to guarantee equal opportunities, to make recommendations and to cooperate with other NGOs working in the fields of gender and equality. Also among the roles and responsibilities of these bodies are; to encourage women's participation to public spheres and public



activities to ensure women's participation to decision-making processes, to make instant evaluations and analyses, to propose measures to eliminate violations of gender equality at the local level, to defend equal rights and opportunities for both sexes and to cooperate with other commissions on issues concerning gender equality and to take part in related activities. Although all of these commissions are newly established, they have already played an important role in the allocation of resources to gender equality units and in the allocation of land to women's shelters. They have also actively taken part in the processes concerning the dissemination of similar commissions at district levels.

Recommendations

In line with Art. 17 of the Municipal Law No. 5393 and Art. 21 of the Regulation on the Functioning of Municipal Assemblies (Ministry of Interior) that was published in the Official Gazette No. 25961 and dated 9 October 2005, city and district municipalities and municipalities that are responsible for more than 10.000 people are obliged to establish budget and public works commissions. In line with Art. 16 of the Law on Special Provincial Administrations No. 5302 and Art. 20 of the Regulation on the Functioning of Municipal Assemblies (Ministry of Interior) that was published in the Official Gazette No. 25961 and dated 9 October 2005 establishment of Provincial Commissions on Planning and Budget, on Public Works and Development, on Education, Culture and Social Services, and Environment and Health are stipulated. In line with Art. 15 of the Metropolitan Municipalities Law No. 5216, establishment of Commissions on Public Works and Development, on Environment and Health, on Planning and Budget, on Education, Culture, Youth and Sports and on Transportation are stipulated. In addition, municipalities and special provincial administrations are free to establish specialized commissions. Number of members of these commissions is required to be max. /min. 3-5 and 5-9 respectively. Women are the most disadvantaged group in terms of having equal access to local services and equally benefiting from such services. Hence, within the legal framework above, at municipalities and provincial assemblies, the establishment of "women rights" or "gender equality" commissions to support solutions to women's problems as well as to address the specific needs of women in the provision of social services is envisaged. It is also recommended that the establishment of these commissions is compulsory. Especially in metropolitan municipalities where the establishment of commissions on youth and sports are stipulated, there is no reason that, similarly, establishment of a gender equality commission can not be as compulsory as such. Establishment of said

commissions is also important in terms of supporting the efforts of the The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Grand Turkish National Assembly.

Equality Units

As also recommended by CEDAW (the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) central and local governments and administrations are responsible for establishing effective gender equality mechanisms and to reinforce existing ones. These mechanisms shall be established at the highest level possible and equipped with sufficient resources and authority. Only when these conditions are met the units can make recommendations on the effect on women of official policies, only then can they intricately monitor the existing status, support the formulation of new policies, only then they can develop effective strategies and measures and support the protection and promotion of the human rights of women. Establishment of equality mechanisms is a must to ensure gender equality however not enough per se. Gender equality perspective must be incorporated into legislation, public policies, public programmes, projects and databases. Furthermore, a gender-based data/information generation and dissemination for use in planning and evaluation is another equally important issue. On the other hand, activities of the women's movement and of women's organizations and base structures as well as the rate of representation at local administrations are decisive in terms of ensuring development for women. With this understanding, and within the framework of the UNJP, gender-based focal points and/or equality units are being established under governors' offices and in municipalities and special provincial administrations to facilitate women's access to local services. Following the circular by the Governor' Office in Trabzon, an equality unit is established in the Governorate and similar initiatives are disseminated to districts. In the aftermath of elections, similar initiatives also took place in the Governor's Office in Şanlıurfa. Also, special Provincial Administrations in Nevşehir, Trabzon and Kars have allocated funds for equality units or focal points. In order to ensure sustainability of UNJP objectives and outcomes, the Governor's Office in Van has appointed one staff to serve as the equality unit; so did the Municipality of Kars. Şanlıurfa Municipality only recently focused on this issue and established one equality unit in each respective section.

Recommendations

Within the framework of the UNJP, new arrangements in line with LEAP



objective and principles were incorporated into the strategic plans on municipalities and special provincial administrations in İzmir, Şanlıurfa and Trabzon Municipalities and into the strategic plan of the special provincial administration in Van. This was an important step to ensure allocation of resources for issues pertaining to equality. These efforts can be cascaded to other provinces. There are no obstructions. During the process of preparation of strategic plans in municipalities and special provincial administrations, asking for the views and recommendations of women's organizations and incorporation of the exemplary exercise given below to all strategic plans are believed to be crucial in order to achieve important results in all areas of inequality; gender equality at the local level to start with.



A GENERAL APPROACH APPLICABLE TO STRATEGIC PLANS

Primary Value/Principle: In line with Art. 10 of the Constitution; All men and women have the same rights. The State is responsible ensure this equality [...] Special Provincial Administrations/Municipality are required to consider equality of women and men as the baseline principle and ensure this as their public task. Hence, they are also required, on the basis of this principle, to agree that the responsibility to combat all sorts of discrimination is theirs, within their jurisdiction. [...] Special Provincial Administrations shall make sure that women fully participate to the design, development and implementation of local policies. This is a pre-requisite for the realization of equality of men and women.

Within the framework of the UNJP, local decision makers took the initiative to take the steps needed for the establishment of equality units in governors' offices and municipalities. This method guarantees the sustainability of these units. Binding principles and standards concerning staff are set by the Ministry of Interior and the State Department of Personnel jointly. In line with the legislation, metropolitan municipalities, municipalities and special provincial administrations are responsible to ensure the staffing pattern as per principles and standards mentioned above. During the determination of these principles and standards, titles such as "Equality Manager" or "Women's Status Director" can be integrated into titled staff and this would tackle many related problems. Wherever such a solution is out of reach, the metropolitan municipality as well as other municipalities and the special provincial administrations can use available director cadre (without a title) for this unit during staffing.



2 SECTION

Best Practices



We have encountered various problems on women and girls during our private and professional lives. We sought solutions to these problems. Thriving to do so, we have noticed that cooperation should be ensured for the solution. Creating awareness and generating a woman perspective at all fractions of the society, vis a vis both public administrators and administered people, vis a vis men and women, young and old, would be the most important step taken ahead for the solution of the problem. We have been implementing this project bearing in mind that we are the child of a mother or the life partner of a woman, then again, brother of a woman, or father of a girl, that at the end we and our families are members of the society. We wholeheartedly believe in solving the women's problems. Thus, we conduct our work with the hope and aspiration of spreading "Women Friendly Cities" target of United Nations Joint Program over the country"

Mustafa öğgün
Deputy Department Head, Interior Ministry
UNJP National Coordinator

“The United Nations Joint Programme on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights of Women and Girls in Turkey” is United Nations Turkey Country Office's first Joint Programme. The Programme has been developed by Gender Thematic Group with the participation of UN organizations. The Programme design envisaged pilot activities in six provinces. Our intention was to ensure a mutual dialogue. For, we are aware of the fact that women issues could be expressed in the best way only by women. Thus, a strong dialogue along with cooperation was essential for the local administrations hear these issues. To this end, we contacted Interior Ministry, governor's offices, municipalities, and provincial special administrations. We placed women's organizations at the center of the work. We carried out a series of training activities together with women and local administrations on gender equality, women's rights and women-city relation. We witnessed a great willingness in terms of participation. Local administrations and women gathered following the completion of the activities and drafted the local equality action plans. This was a process which took over a year. The prepared local equality action plans were presented to the local assemblies. The plans were adopted by provincial and municipal assemblies. We wanted to take it a step further: we launched a Grant Program together with Sabancı Foundation. What we wanted to illustrate with the inception of that program was; that it is possible to take local steps, and an issue identified at the local level could also be solved locally by deploying local resources.”

Dr. Tunga Tüzer
Assistant Representative
UN Population Fund



1. LOCAL EQUALITY PLANS (LEAP) PREPARATION and RATIFICATION BY LOCAL ASSEMBLIES¹

On April 2007, a delegation composed of the representatives of Interior Ministry, United Nations and Sabancı Foundation visited the governors, mayors and NGOs of the 6 provinces where UNJP was being implemented in order to enable the introduction of draft LEAPs. City visits were launched on April 9th, 2007 in Kars and were accomplished on April 30th in İzmir. During their visits, the UNJP delegation presented first LEAP drafts which have been prepared by the local partners, and then sought the contribution and consent of the local decision makers. At the end of the visits, it was noted that LEAPs were deemed to be positive and applicable in general terms. The drafts were developed further through the work conducted together with the local partners and their finalization took over a year.

İzmir

LEAP draft for **İzmir** was prepared following the work of a team composed of nine persons; representatives of local partners who had participated in LEAP preparation workshop that took place in Ankara on December 20-22, 2006. The draft was then reviewed by the representatives of women's organizations during the meetings that took place with a broad participation at provincial level. The Editing Committee was set up following the establishment of the Provincial (Women's Rights) Coordination Committee. The Editing Committee aimed at finalizing İzmir LEAP, also work on Priority Activities Table for İzmir LEAP. The Committee composed of the Deputy Governor in charge of UNJP, the representative of the Provincial Directorate of Social Services, one representative from women's organizations, and UNJP Province Coordinator for İzmir. The Editing Committee finalized İzmir LEAP in March 2008 and Priority Activities Chart in September.

The introduction of İzmir LEAP to the representatives of relevant institutions and organizations was then phased in through various meetings. İzmir LEAP was introduced to the district governors of İzmir's 30 districts, district municipality representatives of the metropolitan area, women's organizations and press.

¹ All relevant documents and pictures related with these achievements can be found in a CD in the Turkish version of this Book.



“UNJP resembles to narcissus, a rare flower that grows in İzmir. Narcissus is a very delicate flower that is rare to grow. Nevertheless, it has a very vivid scent that mesmerizes. The impact of UNJP comes from the fact that it embodies non-governmental organizations. Besides, it has concrete outputs such as LEAPs, Gender Equality Committees as well as training public officials. ”

Haluk Tunçsu
Deputy Governor, İzmir

Lobbying among Assembly members was carried out prior to submitting İzmir LEAP to Local Assemblies for approval. Above all, women members of the Provincial Assembly and of the Metropolitan Municipality Assembly were met. Then, İzmir LEAP was explained and support was sought in the Party group meetings of both Assemblies. Once the support promise was received, İzmir LEAP was submitted to İzmir Provincial Assembly.

İzmir LEAP and the establishment of Gender Equality Committee were adopted unanimously in the Assembly's session held on March 13th, 2008. The Gender Equality Committee was composed of 7 members; a special interest was devoted on having a mixed committee in which both men and women from political parties were represented. On the other hand, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Assembly adopted İzmir LEAP and the establishment of Gender Equality Committee in its session held on April 18th, 2008. Likewise, a similar attention was placed on having a mixed Gender Equality Committee.

The Gender Equality Committees were re-composed in Local Assemblies following the local elections of 2009. A unanimous resolution was taken in İzmir Provincial Assembly's session held on December 10th, 2009 to submit a letter to the Governor of İzmir so that the status of the Committee would be changed from temporary to a “Compulsory Committee”. Once the Governor approved, the letter was sent to Turkish Grand National Assembly.

Kars

Kars LEAP was the product of a study that took about a year and a half. Two separate meetings were summoned on December 15th and 18th, 2006 in which the representatives of the Governor's Office, women's organizations, university, and relevant institutions gathered to conduct group discussions on the problems, needs and priorities of women and girls. The

representatives of relevant institutions came to Ankara and participated in LEAP preparation workshop that took place on December 20-22, 2006. The Ankara workshop laid the ground for the first draft of Kars LEAP.

The draft was then shared with the Governor and Mayor of Kars to seek their suggestions. It was then followed by the establishment of LEAP working group with the participation of all stakeholders. The priority solution proposals as well as objectives were identified and project ideas were developed. Joint work and regular meetings paved the way for the first draft of Kars LEAP. It was sent along with a letter from the Governor of Kars to all institutions for a final review and suggestions. Kars LEAP was finalized in April 2008 in line with the feedback received from the institutions.



“LEAPs are documents which bring along new perspectives on how would the institutions use their existing resources in a more active and productive manner. LEAPs and their already implemented articles are important outputs of UNJP. However, it is a must to have a regulation at national level to enable their sustainability.”

Turgut Gülen
Deputy Governor, Kars

Afterwards, promotion activities were carried out all over the province; Kars LEAP promotion meetings were organized with the participation of the representatives of all relevant institutions. Kars LEAP was distributed to the institutions as a text document, their representatives were met, and a series of meetings were organized to define the steps to be taken forward for the implementation of Kars LEAP. Kars LEAP was also introduced with a visual presentation to the members of the Provincial and Municipal Assembly. As a result of the lobbying activities, Kars LEAP was unanimously adopted in Kars Municipal Assembly on April 3rd, 2008 and in Kars Provincial Assembly on April 7th, 2008.

Nevşehir

Preparation process for **Nevşehir** LEAP was initiated by organizing workshops and project cycle management trainings aiming at increasing the information level of local administrators and women's organizations on issues such as gender equality and women and city relations. This process continued with the 3 days LEAP workshop; organized in Ankara on December 20-22, 2006 with the participation of the representatives of

Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Provincial Directorate of National Education, Municipality of Nevşehir and women's organizations. The first draft of Nevşehir LEAP was prepared at the end of the 3 days workshop focused on City and Women. Afterwards, the works on the draft and projects were resumed at the provincial level. After obtaining the views of the Governor, Mayor, and women's organizations, the Nevşehir LEAP working group initiated a work to come up with the Priority Solution Proposals. Nevşehir LEAP's works gained momentum following the establishment of Provincial (Women's Rights) Coordination Committee with the issuance of an official letter written by the Governor of Nevşehir on October 31st, 2007.

In line with the resolutions of the Provincial (Women's Rights) Coordination Committee, taken in December 2007, the finalized Nevşehir LEAP and draft women friendly city criteria were sent to the Local Assemblies with the attached official letter.

In the Municipal Assembly's session held on February 1st, 2008, Deputy Mayor read the writ that suggested discussing; the Nevşehir LEAP, prepared within the scope of UNJP, and the establishment of Gender Equality Committee. He gave information on Nevşehir LEAP prior to the initiation of the discussions. Following the presentation, members conveyed their deliberations and then proceeded with the voting. Both proposals were adopted unanimously. The three members of the Committee were selected following the adoption of Nevşehir LEAP and the establishment of Gender Equality Committee.

The article on the establishment of Gender Equality Committee was discussed in the Provincial Assembly on February 6th, 2008. A resolution was not achieved. It was then discussed as the first agenda item of the next session which was held on March 5th, 2008. Deliberations and voting took place following a presentation on UNJP and Nevşehir LEAP. Nevşehir LEAP was unanimously adopted in the Provincial Assembly. The Gender Equality Committee, composed of five members, was established.



“We are aware of the duty and responsibilities of the institutions and organizations within the framework of Nevşehir LEAP. We will monitor whether these duty and responsibilities are met and we will put pressure as far as shortcomings are concerned.”

**Dilek Güven,
Nevşehir Women's Association, Nevşehir**



Şanlıurfa

Şanlıurfa LEAP, being one of the most crucial instruments for the achievement of UNJP objectives, was prepared in over a year through the deployment of a participative and transparent process. Şanlıurfa LEAP preparation work was initiated during the workshop that took place in Ankara on December 20-22, 2006. Later on, regular meetings were organized in Şanlıurfa under the coordination of UNJP Şanlıurfa and with the participation of the Governor's Offices, Provincial Special Administration, women's organizations and university representatives. During the meetings, the participants tried to identify the problems that women and girls face in Şanlıurfa and exchanged ideas on possible solutions.

When it was deemed mature enough, draft Şanlıurfa LEAP was submitted to local decision makers to seek their suggestions. Besides, UNJP Şanlıurfa Coordination, representatives visited Provincial Directorate of National Education, Provincial Directorate of Health, Provincial Department of Security, Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Provincial Directorate of İŞ-KUR, Directorate of Community Training, Provincial Office of the Mufti, Harran University, and Bar Association of Şanlıurfa. The work has been finalized after obtaining the views of the visited representatives.

Şanlıurfa LEAP was adopted unanimously in Provincial Assembly on April 3rd, 2008 and in the Municipal Assembly on September 1st, 2008. The members of the Gender Equality Committee, established in the Provincial and Municipal Assemblies, played a significant role in the adoption of Şanlıurfa LEAP. The representatives of women's organizations have supported this process and conducted lobbying activities in the local assemblies. Thus, they assumed important roles in following up and monitoring LEAP implementation. Various projects have been and are being implemented within the scope of Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme in order to support the implementation of Şanlıurfa LEAP.



“In my understanding, the most important output of UNJP was to set up a joint work culture between women's organizations and local administrations. LEAPs should be materialized to sustain this output. We, as the women's organizations of Şanlıurfa, will be followers and monitors of Şanlıurfa LEAP.”

Emine Çiftçi

Yaşamevi Association for Women Solidarity, Şanlıurfa

Trabzon

A workshop took place on December 20-22, 2006 for the preparation of draft **Trabzon** LEAP. A team composed of nine persons, representatives of local administrations and women's organizations, participated in the workshop and the initial version of LEAP was outlined by UN consultants. Afterwards, meetings were organized in Trabzon to develop the draft LEAP and adjust it to Trabzon with the participation of all stakeholders. Working groups, composed of the representatives of local administrations and women's organizations, were established in order to work on and finalize the seven main headings of Trabzon LEAP. Regular weekly meetings were organized with regard to the preparation.

Once the Draft was clarified, one to one visits were paid to relevant provincial directors to exchange ideas on the details and once Trabzon LEAP was finalized, lobbying activities were initiated for the adoption of LEAP in local assemblies.

Trabzon LEAP was primarily shared with the members of the Gender Equality Committee, established within the Municipality and Provincial Assemblies. It was then shared with the Chairpersons of Municipal and Provincial Assemblies for their information. Relevant Deputy Mayors and Deputy Governors were also informed on Trabzon LEAP. Their support for its adoption in the assemblies was sought. Trabzon LEAP was introduced to the Provincial Assembly with a presentation. All these activities resulted in the unanimous adoption of Trabzon LEAP in the Provincial Assembly on January 8th, 2008 and in the Municipal Assembly on February 6th, 2008.



“LEAP was adopted both in the Provincial and Municipal Assemblies. I consider the adoption of LEAP by such elected bodies as an important step.”

Mahmut Halal
Deputy Governor, Trabzon

Van

Van LEAP was prepared in a process which was initiated in December 2006 and lasted for one and a half year. Two workshops were organized in Van in December 2006 with the participation of local public administrations and women's organizations. The workshops aimed at identifying problems faced by women in the province as well as proposals for the solution of the problems at public level. The participants of the latter work, representatives



from local public institutions, local administrations, and women's organizations, participated in the Provincial LEAP preparation workshop organized by UNJP in Ankara on December 20-22, 2006.

A meeting, chaired by the Deputy Governor of Van, with the participation of the representatives of the Municipality, Provincial Special Administration, relevant public institutions, and women's organizations was summoned in Van on January 25th, 2007 in order to share the outcomes of the Ankara workshop. The meeting paved the way for the establishment of Van LEAP work group composed of the above mentioned institutions and organizations as well Van Yüzüncü Yıl University. The work group convened regularly with the support of UNJP Van Provincial Coordination Unit between February 1st-March 19th, 2007 and prepared projects to raise funds that would be required to finance Van LEAP activities.



“UNJP brought the Governor's Office, Municipality, Provincial Department of Security and women's organizations around a table for the first time ever. Van LEAP was prepared by placing an importance on women's organizations' ideas. We will be following up LEAP implementations. However, Ministry of Interior should also follow them up. LEAP should be reiterated whenever the administrators of the Municipality or the Governor's Office change.”

Gülmay Gümüşhan
Yaka Women Cooperative (YAKA-KOOP), Van

UNJP Administration prepared the outline of LEAP. The draft was developed further and adjusted for the city under the coordination role of UNJP Van Provincial Coordination Unit. It was finalized on February 2007-2008 by incorporating the views and suggestions of the Governor's Office, Municipality, Provincial Special Administration, relevant public administrations, women's organizations that are operational at Van center, Yüzüncü Yıl University and local private sector organizations. The finalization of LEAP took place in an environment which was participative and transparent, with the active participation of all institutions and organizations that assumed responsibility and supportive actions for the realization of LEAP activities.

Van LEAP was submitted to Van Municipal and Provincial Assemblies. It was reviewed and then adopted on April 8th 2008 by the Municipal Assembly and on May 2nd by the Provincial Assembly.

2. PROVINCIAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS COORDINATION COMMITTEES

İzmir

İzmir Provincial (Women's Rights) Coordination Committee was established in July 2007 under the presidency of the relevant Deputy Governor. The Committee decided to meet regularly, once every two months, with the participation of the representatives of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, Special Provincial Administration, Provincial Directorate of National Education, Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Provincial Directorate of Health, Provincial Department of Security, women's organizations and Aegean University Women Studies Center (EKAM). This decision has been fulfilled.

The Committee decided upon and encouraged all joint activities works and activities being carried out within the scope of UNJP i.e. development of İzmir LEAP, its promotion to all institutions, district municipalities and district governor's office of the province, establishment of Gender Equality Committees in Provincial and Municipal Assemblies and the establishment of Governor's Office Equity Unit. A press conference was held with the participation of the Governor of İzmir. Sub-committees were set-up to prepare trainings and projects. The Training Unit has successfully conducted gender equality training to 84 teachers during a three day program.

In 2009, İzmir Provincial (Women's Rights) Coordination Committee was expanded further with the participation of; the Union of Chambers of Architects and Engineers of Turkey (TMMOB), İzmir Bar Association, and İzmir Chamber of Medicine Women Committees, Gender Equality Committees of the Provincial and Municipal Assemblies, and many other women's organizations. A further resolution changed the name of the Committee to İzmir Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee. It was also decided to summon the Committee once a month.



“UNJP laid the ground for the establishment of a Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee. It aims at protection and development of the rights of women and girls. A sustainable Committee bringing together, for the first time ever, the representatives of local administrations, women's organizations and university women research centers around a table.”

Sevgi Binbir
İzmir Association for Women Solidarity



Some of the resolutions and activities of İzmir Provincial (Women's Rights) Coordination Committee is as follows:

- Discussing İzmir LEAP in Metropolitan District Municipal Assemblies, establishment of Gender Equality Committees, bringing about the recommendation resolution on changing the names of different Committees on Equality to Gender Equality Committees ;
- Sending official correspondences on the promotion of İzmir LEAP to 30 district Governor's Offices and metropolitan district municipalities;
- Organization of a joint meeting with Metropolitan District Municipalities and women's organizations, promotion of municipal activities addressed to women's organizations;
- Providing teachers with a training on gender equality, and
- Introducing Gender Equality Committees to the Press through broad press conferences.

Kars

Kars Provincial (Women's Rights) Coordination Committee was established on January 2008 under the presidency of the relevant Deputy Governor. The Committee was composed of the Governor's Office, Municipality, General Secretariat for Special Provincial Administration, Provincial Assembly Gender Equality Committee, Municipal Assembly Gender Equality Committee, Provincial Human Rights Committee, Provincial Directorate of Local Administrations, University of Caucasus Center for Women's Issues, Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Provincial Department of Security, Provincial Office of the Mufti, Provincial Directorate of National Education, Provincial Directorate of Health, Provincial Directorate of İŞKUR, Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports, Center for Research and Counselling, Community Training Center, Provincial Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation, Regional Bar Association for Kars-Ardahan, Association of Mothers, Tourism Cooperative for Disabled Persons, KAMER, Women Committee of the City Council, Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Kars, Association for Promoting Culture of Kars and Women Entrepreneurs, and representatives of Kars Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Committee gathered twice in 2008 and 2009. The Committee defined its role as guiding, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of all activities aiming at ensuring gender equality policies, as defined in Kars LEAP. The Committee assumed its role.

Nevşehir

Similarly, the Provincial (Women's Rights) Coordination Committee was established in October 2007 under the presidency of the relevant Deputy Governor. The Committee performs its activities to implement the strategic policies defined in **Nevşehir** LEAP. The Committee took steps ahead to incorporate gender equality into urban policies by issuing important letters on issues such as the assignment of Equality Unit representatives within the remit of Governor's Office; keeping gender based data in public administrations, enabling the participation of women's organizations in strategic plan and budget works, identification of civil servants who have received a training of trainer on gender equality and domestic violence, and a survey on the identification of the profile of women civil servants. A resolution taken in November 2009 changed the name of the Committee to Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee.

Şanlıurfa

Şanlıurfa the Provincial (Women's Rights) Coordination Committee was established on January 14th, 2008 under the presidency of the relevant Deputy Governor. The Committee was composed of the representatives of Şanlıurfa Municipality, Şanlıurfa Presidency of Provincial Assembly, Harran University, Directorate of Guidance and Research Center, Bar Association, Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Provincial Office of the Mufti, Presidency of the City Council Women Assembly, Yaşamevi Association for Women Solidarity, Turkish University Women Association, KAMER, ÇATOM, Association for Women, Family, Education, Culture, and Solidarity, The Association for Supporting the Contemporary Life and UNJP Şanlıurfa Provincial Coordination Unit. The Committee invited the representatives of different institutions in accordance with its agenda. Among others, the Committee conducted activities to define criteria for a women friendly city.



“During UNJP activities we worked together with the Municipality, women's organizations and the university. It gave us the opportunity to seize different perspectives. Increasing participation brings along ownership and ownership brings along success.”

Yıldırım Malğaç
Deputy Governor, Şanlıurfa



Trabzon

Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee was considered to be responsible for the implementation of **Trabzon** LEAP, following up, supervising and coordinating urban women strategy –developed by the Equality Unit. To this end, various meetings have been organized to establish the Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee. Initial discussions on the necessity and functions of the Committee took place with the relevant Deputy Governor. Consequently, further discussions on how to render the Committee more efficient took place with the directors of relevant public institutions. Based on the results of the discussions, the Committee held its very first meeting under the presidency of the Deputy Governor on May 12th, 2008. The participants of the first meeting were; Trabzon Governorate, General Secretariat of Special Provincial Administration, Municipality of Trabzon, Provincial Directorate of Prime Ministry Press and Information, Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Provincial Directorate of Health, Provincial Department of Security, Provincial Directorate of Planning and Coordination, Provincial Community Training Center, Provincial Directorate of Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation, Provincial Office of the Mufti, Committee on Prostitution, Provincial Committee on Human Rights, Black Sea Technical University, Trabzon Bar Association, All Women's Association, Turkish Women Association, Turkish Mothers Association, Trabzon Women Artists Association, Black Sea Women Solidarity Association, Association of Trabzon Industrialists and Businessmen, Trabzon Branch of Association for Social Workers, Trabzon Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Trabzon Chamber of Artisans and Craftsmen and Çoruh Electricity Distribution Corp. At the end of the meeting, the Committee decided to gather three times a year. The Committee also decided to convene, whenever deemed necessary, with the participation of the relevant institutions. The Committee took resolutions on; the establishment of Equality Units, representation of women in City Council, keeping gender based statistical data, and providing women with the opportunity to benefit from the cancer screening unit twice a year and free of charge. Women Employment Work Group was established within the remit of the Committee in order to increase women employment.



“UNJP's differences, when compared to other projects, stem from mobilizing local mechanisms, issuing a leading role to women's organizations and from not limiting the partnership down to this project but also from replicating it in other fields. Briefly, women's organizations are considered as indispensable partners at local level.”

Cavidan Yılmaz
Yaşam Women Center Association, Trabzon

Van

Van Local Equality Action Plan Monitoring Committee (LEAPCOM) was established in Van in the beginning of 2008. Van LEAPCOM, with 29 members, was composed of Van Governor's Office, Van Municipality, Special Provincial Administration, Yüzüncü Yıl University, and representatives of the relevant profession chambers. Van LEAPCOM convened five times; three times in 2008 and twice in 2009. The meetings took place in the Governor's Office under the presidency of the Deputy Governor in charge of UNJP. LEAPCOM member institutions and organizations exchanged information on activities carried out within the scope of Van LEAP. Van LEAPCOM resolutions shed light on the member institutions' activities up until next Committee meeting. For instance, in line with the resolution taken in the 2nd LEAPCOM meeting, a letter, signed by Deputy Governor in charge of UNJP, was sent to Regional Directorate of Van Lake Electricity Distribution Co. to lighten the minibuss stop on the way to Yüzüncü Yıl University so that the students' life safety would be ensured.



“UNJP was beneficial in developing public-civil society cooperation through its multi-partner structure. Representatives of the public administration and civil society had the opportunity to make decisions jointly in Van LEAPCOM.”

Ali İpek
Deputy Governor, Van

On the other hand, an article stipulating the establishment of Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee, composed of representatives of women's organizations, non-governmental organizations, public administrations, and university, was incorporated into the “Enhancing Women Status” heading in Van Provincial Special Administration's Strategic Plan for 2009-2013, prepared in 2009. In the second half of 2009, Van LEAPCOM was transformed into Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee with the assent of the Governor.



3. EQUALITY UNITS AT GOVERNOR'S OFFICES and MUNICIPALITIES

3.1. ESTABLISHMENT

Trabzon

The establishment of Equality Units within local administrations was of great importance for the implementation of **Trabzon LEAP**. Equality Units were envisaged; to make research and assessments on problems and needs of women for developing service models that would be delivered by local administrations; to develop strategies aiming at gender equality; provide coordination and cooperation between Equality Committees of the local assemblies and women's organizations; to carry out regular reporting; to establish an information and document center within the Unit. Thus, they would become independent and special units that would serve as an instrument to embody gender mainstreaming in local administration. Bearing this in mind, the Governor of Trabzon and the Deputy Governor in charge of UNJP were informed on the importance and functions of Equality Units. The Governor stated that an Equality Unit that is established based on a Governor's Office circular would be more functional and would enable a stronger coordination among the institutions. The Governor, thereby, decided to issue a circular on the matter. The circular, published by Trabzon Governor's Office, was sent to all public institutions and organizations in the province, including districts. November 17th, 2008 marks the establishment date of the Equality Units within Trabzon Governor's Offices. Personnel were assigned to the Unit on December 2nd, 2008. Officers responsible for Equality Unit were identified at district level as well as within public institutions. The assigned personnel were notified with a letter to the Equality Unit. A meeting was organized; the Governor, the Mayor, and UNJP Trabzon Provincial Coordinator delivered presentations to inform all district governors, directors of public institutions and organizations, deputy directors and personnel responsible for Equality Unit on the duties and responsibilities of the Units.



“Rendering the Equality Units active and functional in line with the circular would translate into sustained and replicated UNJP outputs. This Unit should get institutionalized; the functionality of the Unit should not change depending on the managers.”

Asuman Çebi
Director of Community Centers, Trabzon

A different approach was deployed in setting up the Equality Desk in the Municipality of Trabzon. Directorate of Social Affairs sent a letter to the Mayor's Office and requested a discussion in the Assembly on the establishment of an Equality Desk. The Equality Desk was established following the discussion and approval of the matter in the Assembly. One personnel was assigned to work in the Equality Desk.

İzmir

At the outset of UNJP activities and in harmony with **İzmir** LEAP, a person has been assigned to work in the İzmir Governor's Offices Single Window Service Unit in order to facilitate the access of women to services. The process to establish Equality Unit within the Governor's Office was pursued according to the decision given by İzmir Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee. As an initial step, a permanent staff was requested from the Interior Ministry. The Ministry did not respond positively to this request. Therefore, the Equality Unit within the Governor's Office and the Secretariat for Women's Rights Coordination Committee were established in November 2009 by the assignment of staff among the existing public employees.



“I carry the belief that UNJP is highly important in taking the local steps forward; that would lay the ground for enhancing the living standards of women in our Country. If the objective is to boost the living standards, then all the things to be done at local level would have a direct impact on women. UNJP is a Programme that targets yielding results by applying down to earth policy and strategies ”

Özlem Bozkurt Gevrek
Deputy Governor, İzmir

Kars

Equality Unit in **Kars** was established within the Governor's Offices on November 5th 2007 under the title “Equality Unit”. The establishment objective of the Unit was declared as; supporting UNJP, collating municipality's equality work under one heading, allocating fund for equality work, enhancing cooperation with women's organizations, monitoring gender equality at provincial level, submitting reports and proposals, etc. The Unit was established within the Office of the Private Secretary and a



university graduate female staff was assigned. The assigned staff's regular reports on the Unit's activities are being published on the website of Kars Municipality. This staff is contributing to the monitoring and evaluation of Kars LEAP by providing information to Kars Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee on the performed activities.



“The establishment of Equality Unit has also contributed to the enhancement of the relations with women's organizations. The women's organizations were not able to find an addressee whenever they would come to the Municipality, however; now, the Unit is their first contact point. They started receiving support for all their endeavours through this Unit. Similarly, the Unit is now the first contact point for women coming from neighborhoods. Women did not have an opportunity to raise their demands, whereas, now, they stop by the Unit and submit all their requests easily.”

Ruken Erdoğan
Responsible for the Municipality Equality Unit, Kars

Nevşehir

The Equality Unit was established in **Nevşehir** in April 2008 when the Governor verbally assigned a social worker, employee of the Provincial Directorate of Social Services, to serve for the Unit. The official set up took place in December 2009 due to the negative response of the Interior Ministry on request for a permanent staff. A research fellow from Nevşehir University was assigned to work two full days a week to perform the secretariat work of Nevşehir Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee.

On the other hand, Nevşehir Municipality Equality Unit was initially established as a “Women Unit” with one assigned personnel. The Unit was operational as of May 2007 in the renovated “Han” chamber with the name “Han Chamber Women Training Unit”. This place was renovated and allocated for trainings by the Cappadocia Training Center (KAPEM). Besides, the Municipality of Nevşehir established “Women Studies and Training Center” (www.kacem.org) in June 2009 in order to support women and carry out awareness campaigns on gender equality and women's rights within the framework of cooperation with public administrations in terms of health, legal and psychological support.



“Nevşehir Municipality has always been supportive to the activities of women's organizations. The establishment of Women Training Unit within the scope of LEAP was, in a sense, gathering all activities under a single roof. The Municipality opened up vocational training courses to satisfy other needs than roads and parks of the community through training activities.”

Nermin Gürsoy
Municipality Women Studies and Training Center, Nevşehir

Şanlıurfa

Equality Unit was established in **Şanlıurfa** upon the Governor's Office Circular No 2009/4. Equality Units were also established within Harran University, Şanlıurfa Municipality, district and town municipalities and district governors' offices following the establishment of an Equality Unit within Şanlıurfa Governor's Office. Responsible personnel were assigned. Afterwards, the project for “Strengthening Şanlıurfa Equality Units and Enabling Gender Equality” was prepared by the Equality Unit within Şanlıurfa Governor's Office. Sabancı Foundation 2009 Grant Program deemed this Project noteworthy to support. Project aims at having within the Equality Units well equipped and responsible personnel who would carry out gender equality activities within their institutions. To this end, 67 persons, in charge of Equality Units within Şanlıurfa Governor's Offices, were trained on gender equality. The Project aims at starting Şanlıurfa LEAP activities in district municipalities as well.

Van

Gender Equality Unit was established within **Van** Governor's Office in July 2009 within the framework of Article 3.1.1.3 of Van LEAP. In December 2009, a Kurdish speaking woman sociologist was assigned to serve as the responsible person of the Unit. Provincial Special Administration's budget was deployed to this end.

3.2. FUNCTION

Nevşehir

The public institutions were requested to assign personnel in charge of gathering and updating institution's activities and then passing the information to **Nevşehir** LEAP. This would enable the Equality Unit established within the Governor's Office function systematically. UNJP Nevşehir Provincial Coordination Unit organized an information meeting addressed to the assigned Equality Unit representatives. The participants were provided with information on Nevşehir LEAP, ongoing activities at provincial level, and terms of reference of Equality Unit representatives. The reflections of keeping gender based data on urban services were illustrated with examples.



“Each and every institution is carrying out activities aiming at women and girls. However, information remains only within the implementing institutions. Lack of communication causes duplication of activities. UNJP, involving all parties in the activities and lifting official correspondence procedure between the institutions to some extent, paved the way for collaboration. Thus, activities are more efficient and lasting.

Yusuf Kaya
Deputy Mayor, Nevşehir

Trabzon

The first activity of **Trabzon** Equality Unit was to request a report from all institutions on gender equality. The incoming reports provided information on the activities being carried out in the city. The requirement to submit the mentioned report once every six months pushed the institutions to work more efficiently. Besides, it increased awareness on gender equality. This fact was proven when Provincial Directorate of Financial Revenue requested to receive training on gender equality. 35 employee of the Institution were trained on gender equality and it has been reflected in their reports.

Another efficient activity of Equality Unit has been the activity on combating violence against women; launched in all neighborhood coffee shops of the province and its districts. The very first meeting took place with the participation of the Governor, Chief Superintendent, Public Prosecutor,

women's organizations and representatives of Provincial Directorate of Social Services. This meeting was the first time ever activity initiated in Trabzon that aimed at raising awareness amongst men on violence against women. Another work performed by the Equality Unit was to send an official letter to the Municipality of Trabzon and Provincial Special Administration to open a separate heading for gender equality in their ongoing work on strategic plans.

Bearing in mind also the impact of lobbying, gender equality was incorporated into the strategic plans as a separate heading. Equality Unit does not only ensure coordination between women's organizations and local administrations, but contributes also to disseminate awareness on joint work culture.



“UNJP has ensured; Governors, as head administrators, attach importance on women works; lead many meetings; and that a great deal of public officials increase awareness on gender equality and violence against women.”

Asuman Çebi
Director of Community Centers, Trabzon

Van

Right after her assignment to the post, the responsible for Gender Equality Unit within **Van** Governor's Office visited collaborated women's organizations under UNJP. Garnering the support of UNJP Van Coordination Unit, she organized a meeting in the Governor's Offices to prepare a work calendar for Van LEAP activities as of January 2010. On the other hand, Gender Equality Unit drafted a letter requesting the transformation of Van LEAPCOM into Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee. The letter was then submitted to the Governor There is an ongoing plan to set up a nursing booth within the Gender Equality Unit as well as transforming men's restroom located next to Unit into a women restroom.



3.3. PERMANENT STAFF REQUESTS

İzmir, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa and Trabzon Governor's Offices submitted official letters to the Interior Ministry. The letters were requesting the assignment of permanent staff in order to ensure the institutionalization, strengthening, and sustainability of the Gender Equality Units. The official letters written by İzmir Governor's Office on August 20th, 2009; by Trabzon Governor's Office on August 24th, 2009; by Şanlıurfa Governor's Office on September 2nd, 2009; and by Nevşehir Governor's Office on October 9th, 2009; have not been responded positively yet.

4. LOCAL ASSEMBLY MONITORING GROUPS

Trabzon

As an outcome of the awareness campaign performed under UNJP, women's organizations in **Trabzon** increased their information levels with respect to the functions of local assemblies as well as the significance of their decisions. This awareness paved the way for them to develop strategies which would ensure close follow up of the decisions made by the Local Assemblies. UNJP Trabzon Coordination Unit called upon for a broad based meeting. Along with women's organizations, representatives of joint institutions, political parties and professional organizations were among the participants of the meeting. A decision was taken to establish Assembly Monitoring Union in order to monitor assemblies regularly and enable prompt interventions.

Two institutions volunteered to prepare a Draft Protocol which was later on shared with all relevant parties. They were asked to provide their contributions with respect to the Monitoring Union on behalf of their Institutions. Having collated the information, the draft was finalized. Assembly Monitoring Union was established upon the signing of the Protocol by all institutions. A decision was made for the Coordination role to rotate among different institutions on a quarterly basis. Besides, it was decided that the Assembly's Press Unit would send an information email on a monthly basis to Trabzon Women Platform to share the agenda of the Provincial Assembly. Every month, the Assembly's Press Unit shares the agenda of the Assembly with a broad audience. Thus, those who would like to follow the Assembly are informed on the agenda.

İzmir

A meeting on the establishment of an Assembly Monitoring Committee, proposed by **İzmir** LEAP, has been organized in İzmir with the participation of 16 women's organizations. Following the discussions the establishment of the Assembly Monitoring Committee was agreed upon. Hence, the Assembly Monitoring Committee was established; the members of the Committee started participating in the Assemblies. However, this Committee became idle after a while due to the lack of a platform where this work would be conveyed.



Kars

Women's organizations came together and established an Assembly Monitoring Group in **Kars**. They started participating regularly in the sessions where women issues were discussed. However, Assembly Monitoring Group's presence was not felt and it dissolved due to the weakness of solidarity amongst women's organizations.

Nevşehir

Assembly Monitoring Group in **Nevşehir** was established with the participation of Nevşehir's three women's organizations; each was represented with two representatives. They started participating in Assembly sessions at certain times. The members of the Assembly Monitoring Group coupled with the members of the Gender Equality Committee, established after the local elections of 2009; conveyed their expectations within the framework of Nevşehir LEAP to the members of the Assemblies.

Şanlıurfa

Women's organizations established in **Şanlıurfa** the Assembly Monitoring Groups for Provincial and Municipal Assemblies. Positive changes occurred in the interest and participation of women in local policies and decision making process following the monitoring of Assemblies by women's organizations. Women used to think that it was not necessary for them to follow assembly meetings. However, they noticed later on that assembly decisions have a direct impact on their lives. Thus, they started expressing the necessity and benefits of participating in local assembly meetings. The establishment of Assembly Monitoring Groups in Şanlıurfa was a process in which awareness of women on participating in local decision mechanisms was developed.

Van

Local Assemblies Monitoring Group was established in March 2008 in **Van** in pursuance of Article 3.1.1.2. of Van LEAP. The Monitoring Group is composed of six active women's organizations in the center of Van. According to the plan, each assembly (Provincial and Municipal) is going to be monitored by three women's organizations amongst the members of the Group. At the beginning of each month, group member women's organiza-

tions send the agenda and decisions of the assembly that they are supposed to monitor to other members with an email. In 2008, the Municipality, Directorate of Provincial Special and Local Administrations organized three meetings focusing on developing monitoring activities of women's organizations that are members of Local Assemblies Monitoring Group. In these meetings, the representatives of women's organizations were informed about the legislation on local administrations.



“We established Local Assemblies Monitoring Group in Van together with other women's organizations. I believe women organizations will have a lot more to do when UNJP is over. From now on, we will be following up on LEAP also in the decisions taken in the Assemblies.”

Madella Ertunç
KAMER Foundation, Van



5. GENDER EQUALITY COMMITTEES IN LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

5.1. ESTABLISHMENT

Trabzon

Strong relations were established with local administrations during the preparation process of **Trabzon** LEAP. This development laid the ground for joint work culture experience. Following the proposal of the Provincial Assembly President, UNJP Provincial Coordination Unit made a presentation during an Assembly meeting on women's rights and importance of Equality Committees to be established. There was a unity of opinion in the discussions made with the Presidents of the Local Assemblies on the fact that Equality Committees are important instruments for the institutionalization of the work to be carried out on equality issues. A motion was put forward in the local assemblies following Political Parties "Group Presidents" proposal. Women's Rights Committee within the Provincial Assembly and Gender Equality Committee within the Municipal Assembly were established following the discussion and unanimous adoption of the motion. The Committees were renewed following the local elections of 2009. The Women's Rights Committee within the Provincial Assembly was composed of five members of who two are women whereas the Gender Equality Committee within the Municipal Assembly was composed of seven members of whom five are women. Both Committees are chaired by women. The responsibilities of the Committees were defined as; conveying women issues and women needs to the Assemblies to ensure gender equality, reflecting the issue in the decisions/implementations and assessing the compliance of the activities with gender equality.



"As the Provincial Assembly, since we started providing direct contribution to UNJP works, we placed an utmost attention to check whether our decisions fall within the scope of UNJP or not. UNJP logic and approach guided the approach we deployed with regard to social issues. UNJP's ideas shed light on our work as far as Committee works, investment planning and any type of social initiative were concerned."

Haydar Revi
President of Provincial Assembly, Trabzon

İzmir

Equality Committees were established following the adoption of **İzmir** LEAP both in İzmir Provincial Assembly and İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Assembly. At the outset, both Committees were titled as Women Committee of the Assembly. A “facilitator group” was gathered within İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Center for Women Solidarity to work on the establishment of the Committees in District Assemblies. On the other hand, Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee sent a recommendation letter to all districts on the establishment of the Committees. Therefore, the number of Equality Committees within the Assemblies reached up to 12 in İzmir. Hence, the names of all Assemblies were changed to Gender Equality Committees.



“We need to change and transform the individual and societal perspectives on women. I would like to highlight the establishment of the Gender Equality Committee within İzmir Provincial Assembly as a very important step. That is to say: almost all my male colleagues introduce me to their wives or others not as the Deputy President but as the President of the Gender Equality Committee. I appreciate it a lot in terms of the recognition of the Committee”

**Ayla Eğit, First Deputy President of Provincial Assembly,
President of the Gender Equality Committee
within the Provincial Assembly, İzmir**

Kars

In **Kars**, Gender Equality Committee within the Municipal and Provincial Assemblies were established in 2007. The Committees were renewed following the local elections of 2009. The Committee is composed of five members of whom one is woman. The duty of the Equality Committee within the Provincial Assembly was defined as supporting and monitoring Provincial Special Administration's activities aiming at women. However, the Equality Committee within the Municipal Assembly was composed of three members of whom one is woman, including the president. The Committee defined its duty as supporting and monitoring the activities of the Municipality in order to ensure the efficient continuation of UNJP works.



Nevşehir

In **Nevşehir**, the Gender Equality Committees, established in 2008 within the local assemblies, were renewed following the local elections held in 2009. In its first session, held in April 2009, Nevşehir Municipal Assembly established the Gender Equality Committee with its five members. Three out of the four women members of the Municipal Assembly took part in the Committee. On the other hand, UNJP Nevşehir Coordination Unit made a presentation at the Provincial Assembly session, held in May 2009. The presentation dwelled on UNJP and introduced Nevşehir LEAP. It has been emphasized that it is important to bear in mind gender equality in the investments and also while generating urban policies. Votes were taken following the presentation; the Committee was established with its five members.

Şanlıurfa

Gender Equality Committees were also established in **Şanlıurfa** within Provincial and Municipal Assemblies; Municipal Gender Equality Committee with three female members, and Provincial Gender Equality Committee with five male members. The Committees set their target as the carrying Şanlıurfa LEAP into effect. Women's organizations contributed significantly to the establishment of both Committees. Many authorities, including the Presidents of the Municipal and Provincial Assemblies, met to ensure the establishment and efficient activities of the Committees. Currently, the Committees collaborate with women's organizations. Thus, they serve as bridges between the Assembly and women's organizations.



“UNJP; by ensuring gender equality in local administrations as well as participation of women in local administrations, provided women with significant benefits.”

Aysel Göncü
President of Gender Equality Committee within the Municipal
Assembly, Şanlıurfa

Van

Gender Equality Committee within Municipal Assembly of **Van** was established on December 2nd, 2008 with five members of who two are women. The renewed Municipal Assembly, following the local elections of

2009, re-established the Committee for duration of one year. Directorate of Municipal Cultural and Social Affairs is holding the Secretariat of the Committee which is chaired by a woman. On the other hand, the Committee on Women within Van Provincial Assembly was established on May 5th, 2009. The Committee has five members of whom 2 are women. The woman President of the Provincial Assembly was elected as the President of the Provincial Committee on Women. The Provincial Assembly decided upon the establishment of Gender Equality Committee on October 7th, 2009 in addition to the Provincial Committee on Women. Yet again, a woman member is chairing the Gender Equality Committee.



“Though partially, UNJP ensured the reflection of an egalitarian perspective on the decisions of the Assembly. For instance, at first, those who deemed the establishment of the Gender Equality Committee within the Municipal Assembly unnecessary, later on, took a decision upon its establishment. The Municipality received commends after the establishment of the Committee. UNJP has significantly contributed to stretch out psychological fallacy and fixations; reduce relevant fears; and help Assembly members consider women phenomenon as a social issue.”

Deniz Bař
Gender Equality Committee within the Municipal Assembly,
Member of December 2008-March 2009 Period, Van

5.2. COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

İzmir

The Gender Equality Committees, established within the districts Municipalities of **İzmir**, took the lead in submitting proposals to the Assemblies. It resulted in taking some decisions on women related issues. The following are among the aforementioned proposals; making it a must to pass construction plans from equality committees, consulting the Committee on issuing licenses to places where alcohol will be consumed (meeting the condition either it is not placed behind public bus stops or it is away from spheres that women use), the Municipality to open up a nursery school or a shelter. The Municipality of Çiğli adopted unanimously the proposal to open up a nursery school where as rejected the proposal to open up a shelter.



“UNJP works resulted in the necessity of raising discussions on gender equality. So many Municipal Assembly members and employees realized for the first time ever that such a development is indeed necessary and it is a fact that women expect different services for their different needs.”

Pelin Erda
Director of Center for Women Solidarity
within the Metropolitan Municipality, İzmir

Şanlıurfa

The research and observations conducted within the scope of “Protection and Improvement of the Right to Health for Seasonal Women and Child Workers” Project, being implemented with the support of Sabancı Foundation 2007 Grant Program, made it evident that provision of Mobile Health Services were the most efficient health service that could be extended to seasonal agriculture workers. The matter was elaborated further by the representatives of Harran University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Public Health and members of the Gender Equality Committee within the Municipal Assembly. It was decided to integrate mobile health services into the system of Provincial Directorate of Health. Gender Equality Committee members drafted and submitted a motion to the Presidency of Provincial Assembly. The Assembly discussed and adopted the motion. General Secretariat of the Provincial Special Administration procured four mobile health vehicles. 8800 women have received so far services from the mobile health vehicles which were put in service by the Provincial Directorate of Health. In this respect, one of the most important developments has been the circular published by the Ministry of Health to replicate the mobile health service in other provinces.



“UNJP brought Women's Rights into the Provincial Assembly's agenda. We need to keep the matter alive in the agenda so that UNJP outputs are sustained. I think that we need to put ourselves in the shoes of women whenever we generate urban policies.”

Uğur Beyazgül
President of the Provincial Assembly, Şanlıurfa

Van

Gender Equality Committee within **Van** Municipal Assembly invited women's organizations to its Committee meeting on July 27th, 2009 to seek their views on the establishment of a shelter house by the Municipality.



6. STRATEGIC PLANS

Trabzon

Strategic Plan preparation process of **Trabzon** Municipality and Provincial Special Administration, for the period the covering 2010-2014, involved various studies to incorporate gender equality approach into the strategic plans. The Municipality addressed women's organizations opinions; UNJP Trabzon Provincial Coordination Unit called upon women's organizations for a meeting. The joint text, prepared at the end of the meeting, highlighted women's organizations' request to reflect activities aiming at gender equality within the objectives of the strategic plans. The proposal was finalized by incorporating each and every women organization's subjective requests. Having the necessary arrangements done, it was submitted to the Financial Affairs Directorate of the Provincial Special Administration. On the other hand, Trabzon Women Platform organized frequent meetings during the preparation process and developed strategies. Besides, regular meetings took place between UNJP Trabzon Provincial Coordination Unit, Trabzon Women Platform, Municipality's Strategy Development Directorate, Gender Equality Committee within the Municipality and Financial Affairs Directorate of the Provincial Special Administration. Equality Unit of Trabzon Governor's Office wrote an official letter addressed to the Municipality and Provincial Special Administration. The letter included the proposals that were put forward in the meetings and requested their incorporation into the Strategic Plans. The letter was sent following the assent of the Deputy Governor.

On the other hand, UNJP Trabzon Provincial meeting was held on July 2nd, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was; to convey/remind, following the local elections, UNJP's objectives and achievements to the Governor, Mayor, members of Provincial and Municipal Assemblies, and representatives of local administrations and non-governmental organizations, and to identify strategies to be incorporated LEAPs into the strategic plans of the municipality and Provincial Special Administration. The works have successfully been achieved. Municipality of Trabzon and Provincial Special Administration took ensuring gender equality as a strategic objective and carrying LEAP into effect as a goal in their Strategic Plans for 2010-2014.

İzmir

The Strategic Plans were discussed in the Provincial UNJP meetings, organized on June 1-2, 2009 in **İzmir**, where women demands were

addressed with a broad based participation. The institutions invited women to participate in the discussions on strategic plans. As a result of the above mentioned activities, the following text took place in İzmir's Strategic Plan for 2010-2014:

"Bearing in mind gender equality, the participation of women in local decision making processes will be promoted and supported. In line with the Local Equality Action Plan, a training-based support will be provided to prevent women's exposure to violence. Besides, vocational courses will be organized in various fields in order to enable economic empowerment of women in the social life. Metropolitan Municipality of İzmir, being the first municipality to establish a Local Equality Committee, will continue to carry its other projects into life and maintain its image as a Women Friendly City. "



"As a matter of fact, we were trying our best to provide support and meet demands of women's organizations. This has translated into a joint work together with UNJP. İzmir LEAP was prepared hand in hand with women's organizations and it has taken its place in our strategic plan. This is very important."

Semra Dinç
Director of Social Affairs, Metropolitan Municipality of İzmir

Likewise, the Gender Equality Committee within İzmir Provincial Assembly prepared a report with respect to Provincial Special Administration's Strategy Plan for 2010-2014. The report was adopted and the statement which read as "service provision based on gender equality and supporting the implementation of Local Equality Action Plan for İzmir" was incorporated into the strategic plan.

Şanlıurfa

An official letter, signed by the Governor of **Şanlıurfa**, was sent to the General Secretariat of the Provincial Special Administration and Municipality of Şanlıurfa on July 15th 2009. The letter was on; transposing Şanlıurfa LEAP into the strategic plans, opening up chapters in strategic plans either on "women" or "equality", preparing budget lines accordingly, and obtaining the views and suggestions of women organizations in the strategic plan preparation process. As a result of such initiatives, the Municipality of Şanlıurfa opened up a chapter on "women" and included strategic objectives that support Şanlıurfa LEAP in its Strategic Plan for 2010-2014. General Secretariat of the Provincial Special Administration has also included Şanlıurfa LEAP in its Strategic Plan for 2010-2014.



“As the Provincial Assembly of Şanlıurfa, we were not quite familiar with active women's organizations of our province prior to UNJP works. However, we strengthened our collaboration and dialogue within UNJP process. For instance, we organized a panel together with women's organizations and the university for the occasion on November 25, International Day for Violence against Women. Such cooperation has also impacted our policies. Thus, we opened a chapter on “women” in our Strategic Plan for 2010. Şanlıurfa LEAP's provisions were also incorporated into the relevant chapter of our strategic plan. Budget allocation has also been made.”

Uğur Beyazgül
President, Provincial Assembly, Şanlıurfa

Van

Provincial Special Administration's Strategic Plan works were accelerated following the local elections of 2009. A letter was prepared, with the support of **Van** UNJP Provincial Coordination Unit, on opening up chapters either on “women” or “equality” in the strategic plans and on obtaining the views and suggestions of women organizations in the strategic plan preparation processes of the Municipality and Provincial Special Administration. A letter, signed by the Governor of Van, was sent to the General Secretariat of the Provincial Special Administration and Municipality on July 23rd, 2009. Consequently, the Provincial Special Administration invited one person to represent women's organizations in the final meeting where the draft strategic plan was going to be assessed. The representative of Van KAMER represented Blue Lake Women's Association, Van Women's Association, Van KAMER and Yaka Women's Cooperative in the meeting. The representative made a reference to the Governor's letter and raised some suggestions such as opening a chapter in the strategic plan titled either “empowerment of women” or “ensuring gender equality”. The representatives of women's organizations have also participated in the relevant sessions of the Provincial Assembly and shared such ideas with the members of the Assembly.

Following the Assembly's meetings that took place in October and November 2009, a new chapter, “Improving Women's Status” was opened up in the Provincial Special Administration's Strategic Plan for 2009-2013. This chapter entails the establishment of an Equality Unit within the Provincial Special Administration, Gender Equality Committee within the Provincial Assembly and a Women's Rights Coordination Committee within the province.

7. BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY WORK

Kars

Municipality of **Kars** allocated funds from the Private Secretary's Office Budget for the activities aiming at women and children in 2008. The Municipality allocated 50 thousand TL from the 2010 budget: committing itself to use it for Equality Unit's and Women Solidarity Center's expenses and activities. Kars Provincial Special Administration allocated 10 thousand TL from its 2009 budget and 5 thousand TL from its 2010 budget for women work. Thus, both institutions have taken important steps ahead for the sustainability of women work.

Nevşehir

The Provincial Assembly took the motion submitted for supplementary budget for the expenses of the Equality Unit within the Governor's Office into its agenda after the approval of the **Nevşehir** Provincial Special Administration's budget for 2009. The Assembly allocated 10 thousand TL for meeting the Unit's needs. The Provincial Assembly took the expenses of the Equality Unit within the Governor's Office into budget hearings agenda for 2010 as well. By doing so, an additional 10 thousand TL was allocated for the Unit. This amount was distributed among the relevant items of the Provincial Special Support Unit.

Şanlıurfa

Some articles were incorporated into **Şanlıurfa** Provincial Special Administration's Strategic Plan: "Strategic Objective 4" heading which read as "strengthening non-governmental organizations serving for women issues in our Province" and the "Performance Target 4.1" heading which read as "providing logistical support to non-governmental organizations that carry objectives and targets aiming at women issues". These articles paved the way for the provision of support to women's organizations, upon their demand, for activities aiming at self-development.



Trabzon

Gender sensitive budgeting trainings were organized in **Trabzon** within the scope of UNJP activities. Provincial Special Administration allocated funds in its 2009 budget for women work following the discussions and works carried out with the members of the Provincial Assembly and with the personnel of Financial Affairs Directorate of Provincial Special Administration. Similarly, funds for women work were allocated in 2010.

8. COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Van

Women's shelter (women guest house) was established in 2007, in **Van**, within the remit of the Provincial Directorate of Social Services. This women's shelter has a capacity for 10 women and serves as a temporary shelter. During the women's shelter establishment process, the Provincial Monitoring and Coordination Committee for Preventing Violence against Women and Children was established within the remit of Van Governor's Office with the participation of the relevant institutions. In pursuance of Article 3.1.3.9 of Van LEAP, correspondence to bring women's organizations (Van Women's Association, Van KAMER) working in the field of violence against women in the Committee was fulfilled.

Along with the Provincial Directorate of Social Services' Family Counselling Center, women's organizations working in the field of violence against women i.e. Van Women's Association and Van KAMER have also Women's Counseling Centers. Van Women's Association implemented "Developing Database for Women's Counselling Center" Project, supported within the scope of UNJP- Sabancı Foundation 2007 Grant Programme. A database system enabling keeping data in electronic environment, and thus, providing easy access to the data on women victims of violence who attend Women's Counselling Center.

A letter was sent on November 20th, 2008 with the signature of the Deputy Governor in charge of UNJP to the Provincial Gendarmerie Regimental Command to allocate special rooms, where applicable, in the gendarmerie stations for taking the testimony of women subject to domestic violence. Besides, an emergency intervention system was developed for handling the operations of women who have been exposed to domestic violence, and thus, in need of prompt protection, in a systematic manner and abiding by privacy procedures. Emergency intervention system operates under the coordination of Van Governor's Office and is composed of; the officers of Provincial Directorate of Health, Provincial Civil Registry Office, Directorate of Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation as well as the representatives of relevant public administrations.



“We are women's organizations working in the field of violence against women hand in hand with law enforcement offices. UNJP enabled an increase in the awareness levels of law enforcement offices with regard to the importance of violence against women.”

Madella Ertunç
KAMER Foundation, Van

In pursuance of Van LEAP Article 3.1.3.4, the employees of Provincial Directorate of Social Services' Family Counselling Center as well as the representatives of women's organizations gathered once in 2008 and once 2009. Exchange of opinion was made on the collaboration possibilities between public institutions and women's organizations in combating violence against women.

Notification/complaint boxes were put in each and every faculty of Van Yüzüncü Yıl University so that the female students would have an opportunity to raise the problems (insufficient lightening, sexual harassment, lack of security, transportation problems, etc.) that they experience within the campus. These boxes will be opened regularly on a monthly basis and the complaints will be addressed in the University Senate.

Van LEAP Working Group was established within the scope of Van LEAP preparation activities with the participation of the representatives of public institutions, municipality, women's organizations and Van Yüzüncü Yıl University Women's Studies Center. Van LEAP Work Group prepared three prioritized projects in the field of combating violence against women. The projects will be implemented through the next five years in partnership with public institutions, municipality, women's organizations and Van Yüzüncü Yıl University.

İzmir

Prior to UNJP activities, there were only two shelter houses in **İzmir**; one that belongs to Provincial Directorate of Social Services and another that belongs to Aliğa Municipality. The opening up of Karşıyaka Municipality Shelter in 2007, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Shelter in 2008, and Bornova Municipality Shelter in 2009 raised the total number of Shelter in İzmir to five. Karşıyaka Municipality is working on opening its second Shelter. On the other hand, Municipality of Buca provides shelter services, though it is partially, through its temporary shelter.

Associated with UNJP, Metropolitan Municipality of İzmir accelerated its work which has been initiated earlier on opening Women's Counselling Center as well as a shelter. Metropolitan Municipality of İzmir opened a Women's Counselling Center in 2008 and a shelter in 2009. Both activities were announced as important steps towards becoming a Women Friendly City. In the information given to the members of press, last year in March, İzmir Women's Counselling Center expressed that 47,3% of women who addressed the center within the scope of "Women Friendly City" Project were exposed to domestic violence, 76% did not have economic independence, and 49% lacked social security.

Women's organizations of İzmir do also provide women exposed to violence with support whenever they come to women's organizations. İzmir Branch of Women's Rights Association supports women via its telephone line which has permanent access. 20 women's organizations and women branches of political parties' joint establishment of Women Coordination Against Violence in İzmir stands as another activity that falls in combating violence against women. Along with ensuring coordination among women's organizations that are active in this field, the Women Coordination aims at assuming the task on monitoring public institutions that are responsible for combating against violence. Besides, trainings on raising awareness of men with regard to violence among workplaces in İzmir where the male staff is dominant were given within the scope of "Promotional Awareness on Domestic Violence Among Men" Project, supported by Sabancı Foundation and implemented by Aegean Women Solidarity Foundation (EKDAV) in 2007.

Kars

There is neither shelter house nor a temporary shelter in **Kars** yet. Therefore, delivering services to women victims of violence is relatively challenging. Bearing in mind to overcome this problem, the Governor's Office, the Municipality and Provincial Department of Security committed themselves in 2008 to open a temporary shelter which would serve as an immediate address for women victims of violence. According to the decision taken; the Governor's Office would allocate the property, the Municipality would meet the rent, and the Provincial Department of Security would ensure the security of the property. There are ongoing works with respect to allocation of property.

Nevşehir

The Provincial Directorate of Social Services opened a Shelter House in **Nevşehir** in July 2009 with a capacity of 40 persons for protecting and empowering women victims of violence. After its visit to the Shelter House in 2009, within the scope of November 25th activities, the Nevşehir Women Platform contacted women's organizations dealing with shelter at national level and demanded support for further strengthening.



“Having a shelter was beyond a dream. Now, we also have one opened up in our city through UNJP”

Hayriye Demirbilek

Cappadocia Association for Women Solidarity, Nevşehir

Şanlıurfa

The Governor's Office, the Provincial Directorate of Social Services, the Municipality and women's organizations conducted a joint work which resulted in the opening of a Care and Social Rehabilitation Center (temporary shelter) in **Şanlıurfa** in March 2008. The Center provides its services to girls between the ages 13-18 for whom a protection measure has been issued in conformity with Law No 5395. The new and more equipped Center with a capacity for 40 persons is under construction and will be operational in 2010.

Trabzon

The shelter project in **Trabzon** was initiated through the joint works of the women's organizations, Municipality of Trabzon, Provincial Directorate of Social Services and Gender Equality Committee within the Municipal Assembly. The construction of a shelter was initiated by the Municipality of Trabzon. The Provincial Directorate of Social Services will assume its operation once the construction is completed. Trabzon Women Platform is conducting a joint work with the Municipality and the Provincial Directorate of Social Services to ensure that a shelter is functional and fully meets the need.

9. ACTIVITIES and TRAININGS FOR RAISING AWARENESS ON EQUALITY

Van

135 health care personnel (specialist physician, general practitioner, midwife and nurse), working in **Van** city center, were provided with information on combating violence against women. The information meetings were organized with the expertise support of Yüzüncü Yıl University Women Studies and Implementation Center, Van Women's Association and UNJP Van Provincial Coordination Unit. Training on preventing violence against women for 412 police officers serving Van city center and its districts was given in 2008 within the framework of the Protocol signed between Interior Ministry and State Ministry responsible for Women and Family Affairs and Social Services and also in pursuance of Article 3.1.3.5 of Van LEAP. UNJP Van Provincial Coordinator has also participated and provided expertise to the trainers in some of the training activities. The training activities for the administrative staff of the Provincial Directorate of Social Services as well as managers and teachers working in primary and secondary schools on combating violence against women are planned to be accomplished in 2009.

Over 900 women and men from six neighborhoods of Van city center where mainly migrated families live were provided with information on gender discrimination, legal rights of women against domestic violence within the scope of "Towards Healthy and Conscious Generations" Project, implemented by Van Community Training Center and Directorate of Evening School of Arts within the scope of UNJP-Sabancı Foundation 2007 Grant Programme. The training seminars were organized in the neighborhoods with the supports of the project partners, Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Van Bar Association, Yüzüncü Yıl University Women's Studies and Implementation Center, Provincial Office of the Mufti, Provincial Directorate of Health, Women Hand in Hand Association and expertise support of UNJP Van Provincial Coordinator. The leaflet and hand outs which have been prepared within the scope of the project were distributed free of charge to men and women living in the neighborhoods.



“Our project, implemented with the support of Sabancı Foundation, provided disadvantaged people living in Van with the opportunity to learn their rights, adapt themselves to city life, to learn family planning, how to access social institutions and where to apply. Women grasped the importance of education and the absolute necessity of sending their daughters to the school.”

Muhyettin İnci
Director of Community Training Center and
Evening School of Art, Van

Experts from the Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Yüzüncü Yıl University Women's Studies and Implementation Center trained over 100 persons attending vocational training courses in the Provincial Directorate of Van İŞKUR on gender equality and women's rights with regard to forced marriage and marriage at an early age. On the other hand, two members of Van Women's Association, with a certificate on Women's Human Rights Training, applied the Human Rights Education Programme for Women (HREP) to 60 persons attending vocational training courses in Van Community Training Center and Evening School of Art during 12 weeks.

Yüzüncü Yıl University Women's Studies and Implementation Centre provided information to 492 students from the University on gender roles and gender equality.

İzmir

The Training Unit was set up in **İzmir** within the remit of Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee. The Training Unit launched a training activity on gender equality, women's rights and violence. The training activity lasted three days and, in total, 84 teachers benefited from the training activity. The trainers were composed of women's organizations, representatives of public institutions and academicians. Teachers accomplishing the trainings received certificates. Afterwards, this activity was put in a project format and submitted to and approved by Sabancı Foundation for the 2009 Grant Programme. Within the framework of the project; 45 teachers will receive one week training on becoming “trainer”, receive certificates and then, they will start giving trainings in different local agencies. The Project withdrew great attention from the local press.



“Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee meetings organized under UNJP as well as the sub-committee meetings helped some administrators understand to what extent some concepts such as the patriarchal structure, gender equality and feminist struggle are linked to their own lives. Indeed, they had the opportunity to face the truth that internalized stereotypes on gender equality are indeed present in their own lives.”

Derya Şaşman Kaylı
Aegean University Women's Studies and Implementation
Centre (EKAM), İzmir

As far as violence issues are concerned, Women's Organizations in İzmir have also organized awareness activities. They organized information meetings in the neighborhoods where they familiarized women with Law No 4320 along with campaigns on preventing violence.

Kars

Awareness trainings were organized in **Kars** by various public institutions and organizations as well as non-governmental organizations. Kars KAMER's “Women are everywhere” Project, implemented within the scope of Sabancı Foundation 2008 Grant Programme, aimed at women living in neighborhoods and conducted awareness raising activities on gender equality. Community Training Center informed its trainees and their families, during the courses, on gender equality, women's rights, domestic violence, citizen rights, constitutional rights and responsibilities. Provincial Office of the Mufti carried out community information activities on women's rights, domestic violence, violence against women, and women in society through preaches sermons and conferences. The Provincial Directorate of Education, on the other hand, incorporated gender equality and women's rights into the curricula and targeted raising awareness by teaching courses on gender equality and women's rights. Counselling and Research Center trained parents of the students on intra-family communication, child development and parenthood. Women's Rights, societal role of women and violence against women were the topics of the awareness raising seminars organized by Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Kars-Ardahan Regional Bar Association, and Community Center. Provincial Human Rights Committee informed the public on domestic violence and gender equality with the brochures and flyers that it published. Provincial Department of Security organized in-service training for 179 of its personnel within the scope of “Women Friendly Police” Project.



“By gathering all institutions together, UNJP, developed inter-institutions relations and also rendered violence against women visible and made it a point of discussion.”

Arzu Orhankazi
KAMER Foundation, Kars

Nevşehir

Bearing the objective of training civil servants and also supporting non-governmental organizations' activities, 33 civil servants with a training of trainer background on domestic violence and gender equality were identified in **Nevşehir**. The identified pool of trainers will be deployed in the trainings. However, the priority will be given to the representatives of the Equality Unit within Nevşehir Governor's Office and personnel of the Social Support and Solidarity Foundation.

In addition, Municipality of Nevşehir prepared posters to familiarize women with contact points located within the province. The posters were hung on the buses and minibuses circulating within the city and districts. A brochure providing detailed information on the issues mentioned in the posters was prepared and distributed to households.

On November 25th 2009, within the scope of “The International Day for Violence against Women”, Nevşehir Women Platform organized “White Ribbon to Men” campaign. White ribbons were attached to the Governor of Nevşehir, Deputy Governors, directors of all institutions and also to male personnel to symbolize that they do not remain silent against violence exerted against women and children, and that they promise women a world free of violence. Hand outs on the importance of the day were delivered as well.



“It is known and accepted by everybody that women are exposed to multi-dimensional discrimination, they are targets for violence, their fundamental rights and freedoms are violated. Bearing in mind that single sided enjoyment of fundamental freedoms is against human rights; elimination of discrimination in various fields, informing women to avoid ill-treatment, training and increasing the awareness level of women reveal the innovative dimensions of UNJP”

Vural Demirtaş
Deputy Governor, Nevşehir

Şanlıurfa

In **Şanlıurfa**, a training activity aiming at safeguarding and supporting the rights of women and children was given by Harran University's Public Health Department within the scope of Sabancı Foundation 2008 Grant Programme to 55 mukthars of neighborhoods with low socio-economic levels as well as 25 mukthars selected from the villages attached to the city center. 61 mukthars were trained during five days with a total duration of 30 hours within the scope of the projects on gender equality. Besides, the mukthars were also trained on; how to benefit from social services such as education, health and courses on job skills, the outcomes of violence against women and polygamy, and what should be done about it.

Four work groups were established, within the scope UNJP in Şanlıurfa, and under the chairmanship of the Deputy Governor with the participation of the representatives of public institutions and non-governmental organizations. The work groups carried out activities related to their fields. One work group was titled "Participation in Local Decision Mechanisms, Violence, Mindset Transformation and Creating Awareness". It was composed of the representatives of Yaşamevi Women Solidarity Association, KAMER, Bar Association, and Association for the Protection of Children in need of Love and Affection, General Secretariat of the Provincial Special Administration, Provincial Department of Security and Provincial Directorate of Social Services. With the collaboration of Yaşamevi Women Solidarity Association, a group member, and Provincial Office of the Mufti "The Custom and Honor Phenomenon, Providing Information and Raising Awareness on Domestic Violence" Project was prepared and submitted to Sabancı Foundation Grant Programme. The Project was incepted in Şanlıurfa Gazi High School Proje, with the support obtained from the Grant Programme. The students received awareness trainings on violence in the schools whereas the parents received the same training in the mosques.



"UNJP opened a discussion on the rights of women and children in a conservative province such as Şanlıurfa, and thus, created awareness."

İmhan Sütpek
Gender Equality Committee within the Municipal Assembly
Member of January 2008-March 2009 Term, Şanlıurfa



Trabzon

The “White Ribbon to Coffee Houses” Campaign was launched in **Trabzon** under the coordination role of the Equality Unit and with the partnership of Provincial Department of Security, Provincial Directorate of Social Services and Trabzon Women Platform. The campaign covers 17 districts and the center, the men is identified as the target mass, and coffee houses were chosen as implementation location. The campaign targets to deploy expert visits and provide trainings to create awareness with regard to violence against women. A token of appreciation will be given to coffee places visited and where training activities were held in order to symbolize the white ribbon. During the first coffee house visit of the campaign, a social worker informed the audience on violence against women whereas the Public Prosecutor and members of the Security Forces gave information only on the process. In addition, women's organizations shared their relevant experiences. November 25, the International Day for Violence against Women was selected as the inception day of “White Ribbon to Coffee House” Campaign.

Besides, seminars aiming at women living in rural areas of Trabzon were also organized. Following the suggestion put forward by Turkish Mothers Association's Trabzon Branch, cooperation was developed between Trabzon Bar Association, Provincial Directorate of Social Services and Community Training Centers. This cooperation resulted in the provision of training activities on women's rights in the districts identified by Turkish Mothers Association. An additional activity run by Turkish Mothers Association in the rural areas was initiated within the scope of “Travel to Women Friendly Villages”. The objective of the Project is to access rural and mountainous settlement areas with mobile vehicles and provide information on violence against women as well as sexual health. The first activity of the Project, prior to the training activities, was to conduct surveys in the determined areas and inquire information on issues including violence against women.

10. WOMEN'S PLATFORMS, WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY and COLLABORATION

Trabzon

At the outset of UNJP, there were only four women's organizations in **Trabzon**. This figure increased to 11 at the end of the Programme. Awareness and training activities within the scope of tUNJP and particularly Trabzon LEAP preparation process contributed both to the strengthening of women's organizations and developing a joint work practice. An e-group called trabzonkadinplatformu@googlegroups.com was established to accelerate the work and remain informed about the works being carried out in the city. This relatively active e-group attracted member not only from women's organizations but also among women who were not organized under an organization but who aspired to be kept posted on the on-going activities. Women's organizations gained experience in working with each other as well local administrations. The necessity to set up a platform to be more efficient and to be heard was felt during the activities. The idea to set up a platform was born during the “40 Neighborhood 40 Women Mukthars” Campaign which was launched prior to the local elections of 2009. Afterwards, the Platform signed a Protocol with the Provincial Directorate of Education to give citizenship trainings to women. The Platform was becoming more and more efficient. Lacking a clear definition, function and operation created a challenge for the Platform's activities. UNJP Trabzon Provincial Coordination Unit's and Civil Society Development Center's (STGM) support was sought to overcome the problems faced. STGM experts came to Trabzon and organized twice two day training sessions with women's organizations. An ID card for Trabzon Women Platform was prepared following the trainings. A speaker and a secretary were assigned as well as a management board was selected with the participation of one representative from each association. Short-term objective of the Platform was determined as transposing gender equality perspective into strategic plans. A planned work paved the way for the successful accomplishment of the first objective. This accomplishment served as an important source of motivation for all women's organizations that are members of the Platform.

İzmir

Following the inception of UNJP works in **İzmir**, Women Writers Association was established. Besides, so many women's organizations



became capable of establishing e-groups, make announcements on their campaigns, and organize joint actions. The establishment of Women Coordination against Violence in İzmir was among the most important example of women solidarity. Another example of women's organization is the İzmir Union of Women Organizations (İKKB); 35 member women's organizations and deploys term spokes model for a period of two years.

Kars

Two new women's organizations were operational in **Kars** with the support of UNJP Kars Coordination Unit. Established in 2007, Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Kars (KAGİKADER), implements projects aiming at women employment. On the other hand, also established in 2007, Kars Culture Promotion and Women Entrepreneurs Association opened up handicrafts courses and carried out activities aiming at women. Women's organizations communicate via an e-group and organize joint activities.



“We are an association established with UNJP support. We did not have the slightest idea on what is an NGO, how to establish an association and how would an association function. We started improving ourselves thanks to the UNJP trainings on NGOs, advocacy, lobbying and projects. Thus, we gained self-confidence with respect to our relations with local governments. All doors are opening out more easily for women's organizations”

Serap Çağatay
Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Kars

Nevşehir

Nevşehir's women's organizations published a press release on the day that marked the 78th anniversary of granting women the right to vote and the right to stand for elections. Emphasizing on the anniversary, the press release announced the establishment of Nevşehir Women Platform. Organizing activities on important days, Nevşehir Women Platform signed a Protocol with two neighborhoods' Mukhtars in October 2009 to set up neighborhood units of the platform. Besides, in November 2009, Nevşehir Women Platform submitted a petition to the Provincial Assembly requesting two permanent psychologists to fulfil the two vacant positions in the Family Counselling Center affiliated to Provincial Directorate of Social Affairs.

The Platform signed protocol with 10 organizations and institutions for November 25th activities on the International Day for Violence against Women.

Şanlıurfa

The women's organizations of **Şanlıurfa** have been strengthened during UNJP both in terms of quality and quantity. Women Family Education Culture Solidarity Association, Şanlıurfa Entrepreneur Businesswomen Association and GAP, Women Family Education Culture Association were amongst the new women's organizations established during UNJP process. While increasing the communication and cooperation among women's organizations, UNJP, on the other hand, laid the ground for a positive impact on City Council Women Assembly.



“UNJP has helped us increase our knowledge through its seminars both in our province and other provinces; develop our sense on associations; and enlarge our perspective and come up with alternative opinions”

Müzeyyen Şansal
Women, Family, Education, Culture Solidarity Association,
Şanlıurfa

Van

UNJP's momentum in empowering women and improving gender equality in **Van** paved the way for the establishment of three women's organization in 2007. Women's organizations in Van established “Van Women Solidarity” e-group in 2008 in order to enhance communication and cooperation among themselves. Institutional and individual membership to the e-group was enabled for women's organizations. The preparations and announcements of joint activities were run through the e-group. The e-group has currently 15 members.

UNJP has also enabled the women's organizations increase their inter-relations as well as their dialogues and joint culture experiences with public institutions and organizations. Yaka Women Cooperative, a beneficiary of UNJP-Sabancı Foundation 2008 Grant Programme, and Blue Lake Women Association, a beneficiary of UNJP-Sabancı Foundation 2009 Grant Programme, rented a joint office and decided to cooperate. Representatives



of women's organizations visited the Office of the President of Van Chamber of Commerce and Industry on May 14th, 2008 and briefed him on the activities of their organizations. On November 7th 2008, they got together with a female Member of the Parliament in Van Governorate, briefed her on Van LEAP and asked for her support.



“UNJP strengthened the communication and cooperation first amongst ourselves and then with the public administration. It enabled interaction among women's organizations, joint work culture and agreeing upon a common denominator.”

Sevnur Pekbay
Association for Supporting Women Entrepreneurship, Van

11. ACTIVITIES BY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE LOCAL ELECTIONS

UNJP Programme Manager visited İzmir, Kars, Nevşehir, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon and Van during the Local Elections process in 2009. Along with the UNJP Programme Manager, the Provincial Coordinators visited all mayoral candidates of all political parties. Their support, in the event of their election, was sought for incorporating gender mainstreaming into projects and policies as well as incorporating equality principle into the strategic plans.

Şanlıurfa

Women's organizations in **Şanlıurfa** launched advocacy and lobbying activities during the Local Elections process in 2009 with respect to women's participation in local politics and women friendly city services. In this respect, they met on a weekly basis and regularly with the members of Parliament, political parties, mayoral candidates and mukhtar candidates. Another important development was independent women's participation in meetings organized in the City Council Women Assembly and posing questions to candidates on city policies that would be followed. Consequently, it was observed that mayoral candidates were referring to the proposals put forward by women in their projects. Besides, a political party nominating a female mayoral candidate in Şanlıurfa was an important step forward with regard to women's participation in local politics.

İzmir

Prior to the Local Elections in 2009, women's organizations of **İzmir** devoted significant efforts and visited political parties to allocate promising ranks to women in the lists. Women's organizations identified the ranks of women candidates in the lists and announced to the press. They drew attention on the headings of İzmir LEAP and voiced their demands both in the press conferences that they had organized and their visits to mayoral candidates.

Kars

“Women in Local Administrations” Project, implemented by **Kars** Governor's Office, Directorate of Local Administrations within the scope of Sabancı Foundation 2007 Grant Programme, had an important place in the works devoted for local elections. 58 women, including two mukthars, participated in the Project which aimed at increasing women's participation in local decision mechanisms. District Governors and academicians gave trainings to all participants on issues such as constitutional rights, Law on Political Parties, right to vote and stand for election, the duties and responsibilities of all institutions defined as local administrations, village and neighborhood mukthars, women quota in politics, lobbying and campaign management. Certificates were given to the participants at the end of the trainings. 4 women put their candidacies in the local elections of 2009 for local Assembly membership and neighborhood mukthars. Two participants, already mukthars, were re-elected in the local elections.



“We also participated in 'Women in Local Administrations' Project, implemented by Kars Governor's Office, Directorate of Local Administrations within the scope of Sabancı Foundation support Programme. Having received trainings on Political Parties and their functioning, lobbying and campaign management, we started feeling more interest in politics. Some participants put their candidacies in the Local Elections to become Assembly members and mukthars. This project revealed the political will of so many women.”

Belgin Kesemen
Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Kars

Nevşehir

A Panel was organized in **Nevşehir** on February 26th, 2009 jointly by Nevşehir branch of Turkish Women Association and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Foundation. Women candidates for the Local Assembly and Mukthar's Office were introduced in the Panel titled “Women and Politics”. On the other hand, Nevşehir Women Platform visited each and every mayoral candidate and shared an announcement, conveyed their expectations from local administrations and expressed that they would be following up the activities.

Trabzon

“40 Neighborhoods 40 Mukthars” was the campaign launched during 2009 Local Elections, in **Trabzon**, to increase the participation of women in local assemblies. Women's organizations gathered during the campaign preparation process, prepared a work plan and defined their activities for the campaign. An Association experienced in Projects prepared a project for the campaign and obtained funds to this end. Initially, women working in women's organizations on a voluntary basis received “Training of Trainer”. Trabzon KA-DER representation provided documents and its contributions. Then, trainings took place in the neighborhoods on issues such as gender equality and citizenship rights. Candidates for mukthar's office were identified and trained in the next step. Some of the identified 12 women candidates were so strong that male candidates had to join their forces against them.

Van

Prior to the Local Elections of 2009, **Van** women's organizations got together with female candidates of Cumhuriyet and Vali Mithat Bey Neighbourhoods of Van Center during a dinner and expressed their support for their candidacy. In 2009 Local Elections, for the first time ever a female mukthar was elected in a central neighbourhood. Various sponsors donated construction materials to be used in the construction of mukthar's office to the newly elected single female mukthar in Van center and its districts.



12. COOPERATION BETWEEN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS and LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Kars

In a joint effort of non-governmental organizations in which women are working dominantly and Municipality of **Kars**, all active women's organizations in Kars organized a celebration event on March 8th, 2008 within the scope of International Women's Day. To this end, a panel was organized under the leadership of Caucasus University Women Studies and Implementation Center (KSAUM) and with the participation of the Governor, Mayor and Rector of the University. Another panel was organized by Provincial Directorate of Social Services with the participation of Mufti of the Province, Provincial Director of Health, Deputy Director of Provincial Department of Security and a barrister from Kars-Ardahan Regional Bar Association. Women's organizations have also visited the Governor and his wife on March 8th occasion. In addition, they visited Municipal Assembly members and accepted the greetings conveyed to them from the Assembly's stand. In return, they conveyed their appreciation to Assembly members for the support devoted to women work.

Nevşehir

A cooperation protocol has been signed between **Nevşehir** Women Platform and Mukthars Offices of Cumhuriyet and Memişbey on October 16th, 2009 in pursuance of the city services heading of Nevşehir LEAP and as a first step towards carrying into effect the article on city services being delivered and disseminated at neighbourhood scale. The pilot study is projected to last for three months and comprises fields such as identifying common needs through voluntary participation of the residents, improving the livelihood of the neighbourhood, exchanging ideas on neighbourhood related issues and also cooperation with the Municipality and other public institutions and organizations. The pilot study's neighbourhood unit model is targeted to be replicated in other neighbourhoods.

Nevşehir Women Platform had cooperated with Nevşehir Municipality in 2008 and 2009 on March 8th International Women's Day occasion. In a similar vein, Nevşehir Women Platform signed a protocol for November 25th, International Day for Violence against Women events with the Municipality, Provincial Directorate of Education, Provincial Office of the

Mufti, Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Provincial Department of Security, Nevşehir University, local TV station, local newspapers (Kent Haber, Kapadokya, Yeni Gün) and Nevşehir Association of Mukthars.

Şanhurfa

UNJP **Şanhurfa** had a positive impact on dialogue and cooperation between women's organizations and local administrations. The institutions developed a joint work practice. An illustration of this development has been the joint work conducted by women's organizations and the Provincial Assembly. Presidency of the Provincial Assembly and women's organizations jointly organized a panel on November 25th, 2009. The panel laid the ground for a discussion on the services that should be delivered to women and girls. The suggestions developed in the panel were brought into the agenda of the Assembly.

Trabzon

Protocol on “Empowering Women and Citizenship Training” was signed between **Trabzon** Provincial Directorate of National Education and Trabzon Women Platform. The Protocol stipulates training activities to be given by the volunteers of all non-governmental organizations, including Trabzon Women Platform, to women on gender equality, women's human rights, general and local management and communication skills and similar subjects. Besides, as an outcome of the discussions held with Deputy Governors and relevant directorates, it has been decided that women's organizations should be represented in Committees which are efficient in the generation of urban policies. Women's organizations started to be represented in the Committees as far as the regulations permitted.

March 8th 2008 events demonstrated a good example of the cooperation between local administrations and women's organizations in Trabzon. Trabzon Municipality's vehicles were allocated free of charge to women within the scope of the events. Following a proposal put forward by women's organizations, the Municipality allocated an area in the city center to women's organizations so that they could to open up stands where they could promote their activities during March 8th week.



“UNJP made us understand the importance of cooperation with women's organizations. We had the opportunity to witness how cooperation translates into important achievements. We now act accordingly and undersign powerful activities.”

Hüseyin Turan
Deputy Mayor, Trabzon

Van

Neighbourhood committees were established in 28 neighbourhoods in **Van** under the coordination of the Provincial Directorate of Social Services. The objective of neighbourhood committees is to facilitate women's participation in decisions pertaining to the neighbourhood and accelerate their access to services. Each neighbourhood committee is composed of a sociologist from the Provincial Directorate of Social Services, a midwife or nurse from the health center of the neighbourhood, the mukthar, a female teacher from the primary or secondary school of the neighbourhood, and a representative from women's organizations. There is a plan to invite volunteering women residents of the neighbourhood to the works of the committee.



“Van LEAPCOM meetings paved the way for a joint work and cooperation with women's organizations. Gathering around the same table helped curbing mutual prejudices of the institutions and organizations.”

Kemal Çelik
Director of Provincial Social Services, Van

Yaka Women Cooperative, a women's organization working for the social and economic empowerment of women cooperated with Van Community Training Center and Directorate of Evening School of Art and implemented “Our Second Roof” Project within the scope of UNJP- Sabancı Foundation 2008 Grant Programme. Yaka Women Cooperative opened a women center and a play room for children within the scope of the project in Süphan Neighbourhood, where mainly migrating families live. Project partner Van Community Training Center and Directorate of Evening School of Art assigned women hairdressing instructors to provide women with vocational training. Free of charge care services were provided to the children of trainee women in the play room.

13. WOMEN and THE CITY

Kars

The names of three women opinion leaders were given to three streets in **Kars** city center, bearing in mind a more sensitive local administration approach on gender equality. Following the Mayor's proposal, and in line with the report submitted by the Construction Committee street name change proposals were submitted to the Assembly for discussion and approval. The following changes were approved with the majority of the votes: Ortakapı Neighborhood, 2nd Buzhane Street's name was changed as Yıldız Laçinel Street, Kars Central Ortakapı Neighborhood 3rd Buzhane Street's name was changed as Vasfiye Eriş Street, Kars Central Ortakapı Neighborhood 4th Buzhane Street's name was changed as Neşe Doster Street.

İzmir

In a similar vein, Municipality of Narlıdere named the new counselling center opened in the district after Pakize Ateş who participated in UNJP works on behalf of **İzmir** Metropolitan Municipality. The Counselling Center was called Narlıdere Pakize Ateş Women Counselling Center.

Neveşehir

Bearing in mind enabling the promotion of women working in local administrations to decision making levels as well as coming up with in - service training and promotion activities, a survey was prepared and sent to 43 public institutions in **Neveşehir** to identify the profile and needs of women personnel working in Governor's Offices as well as identify institutions that do not employ women personnel. 1541 female personnel responded the survey. The necessary works in the fields withdrawn from survey results will soon be launched.

Şanlıurfa

The Municipality of **Şanlıurfa** re-organized Aleppo Market Place under the name “Hanımeli Market Place” and allocated free of charge work place for 50 women. In addition, micro-credits were given to those in need among

the 50 women who received a work place. Some women sell their own products whereas others run soup restaurants or hairdressers. The Municipality continues to provide women with work places in the market place.



“Since 2006, UNJP has been pioneering capacity development and technical assistance programs which resulted in achieving an extremely good communication network.”

Fevzi Yücepete
Deputy Mayor, Şanlıurfa

Trabzon

National Productivity Center's (NPC) Black Sea Regional Directorate has been a participant of the training activities and meetings organized in **Trabzon** within the scope of UNJP. In light of the information and experience shared in the latter activities, it was deemed beneficial to run a research project on service benefit levels of women living in cities, the problems that they face, and solution proposals with an effort both to support previous activities and shed light on future activities. In line with this idea, a decision was taken to run a research project on “Women's Benefit Levels from City Services, Problems and Solution Proposals: Trabzon Province Case”. A protocol was signed with the Municipality of Trabzon as it was deemed necessary to cooperate with the Municipality, the most important actor in the delivery of city services. Meetings with the directors of relevant institutions were organized following the completion of the survey; problems were shared and appropriate solution proposals were generated. Following the finalization of the activities, the research study was published in a book. The research book is accessible in National Productivity Center Regional Directorates (İzmir, Gaziantep, Trabzon, Istanbul) and NPC Headquarter (Ankara).



“With UNJP, I started showing interest on issues which would not attract my attention before. It had positive impacts; on empathizing on stereotyped women-men roles within urban-rural lives, considering how such practices would impact women, and putting myself in the other one's shoes. New perspectives were developed i.e. how could a baby pushchair get off the curb, or how could one get on the minibuses more comfortably.”

Mahmut Halal
Deputy Governor, Trabzon

In addition, Trabzon Equality unit conducted “Women Employment in Trabzon” research laying the ground for the preparation of a project aiming at women employment. Within this framework, a survey has been prepared and applied on 1121 women between the ages 15-65. The objective of the survey is also to lay the ground for; micro-credit application launched in the city, future activities in the field of employment, and providing contributions to the development of a policy on women employment. A protocol has been signed with National Productivity Center's (NPC) Black Sea Regional Directorate and Turkish Statistical Institute's (TurkStat, TÜİK) Black Sea Regional Directorate for the project that will be implemented with the women work fund allocated by the Provincial Special Administration in the 2009 budget.

Van

A letter, signed by the Deputy Governor in charge of UNJP, has been sent in pursuance of Article 3.1.2.2. of **Van** LEAP to 10 institutions that own facilities on lake shore. The letter requested to allocate such facilities on certain day(s) of the week to women and to deploy similar methods to increase possibilities that would allow women enjoy the lake.

City Council Women Assembly Temporary Coordination Committee was established in December 2007 in Van with the participation of active women's organizations. Within the six months that followed its establishment, the Temporary Coordination Committee prepared Women Assembly Draft Directive and submitted it to City Council Steering Committee. Members of the Temporary Coordination Committee organized a press conference to share the Women Assembly Draft Directive with the public on August 25th, 2008 in the Municipality Women Club.



“I had never thought that there is a difference between men and women prior to UNJP. However, now I notice the outcomes of gender inequality that exists in the society on any given issue i.e. the lightening in the parks, security of the streets, etc. Walking down the streets, I look around by considering gender equality perspectives.”

Sevnur Pekbay
Association for Supporting Women Entrepreneurship, Van

In 2008, the Municipality of Van re-organized the fishermen market located in the city center and transformed it to “Women Handicraft Market”. 76



stands were set up in 32 stores and were allocated free of charge to women who wanted to sell own products. In addition, six women's organizations were provided with five stands each. In addition, a woman runs the tea shop of the market place. Van KAMER organized 5 training activity on the rights of women against violence to more than 10 women who have stands in the market place.

14. HEALTH RELATED ACTIVITIES

Kars

As far as health related activities in **Kars** are concerned, KETEM (Cancer Early Diagnosis Screening and Training Center), established in the beginning of 2009 within Kars State Hospital, has a very important place. KETEM provides women with free of charge diagnostic tests on common cancer types such as breast cancer and cervical cancer. KETEM personnel reach out women living in the neighbourhoods through the help of mukthars offices. Along with free of charge diagnostic cancer tests, KETEM Center also trains women on how to perform breast self-examination. Besides, Kars Provincial Directorate of Health organizes in-service training activities for its personnel on issues such as gender roles, women's human rights, patient rights, reproductive health, breast self-examination, safe motherhood, family planning, and sexual health. On the other hand, Provincial Directorate of Health and Community Center cooperate and provide training seminars on issues such as patient rights, gynecological diseases, general health information, healthy nutrition, breast cancer and cervical cancer.

Nevşehir

The Municipality and Provincial Directorate of Health in **Nevşehir** cooperate and provide women trainees attending various courses in Cappadocia Training Center with information on fundamental health issues such as maternal and child health, balanced nutrition, contagious diseases, diabetes and cancer. The trainings are given in Han Chamber Women Training Unit and are repeated each semester whenever new women trainees start attending courses.

Şanlıurfa

AÇSAP (Directorate General for Maternal and Child Care) Branch Directorate has been implementing “Guest Mother” project in the field of women health protection since April 2008 in **Şanlıurfa**. The Project necessitates pregnant women give birth in a hospital certainly with the help of health care personnel. Project also aims at prompt transfer of pregnant women living in remote settlement areas and having difficulties in accessing



hospitals particularly under harsh weather conditions. Along with transferring to hospitals, the Project targets to ensure that they give birth under hospital conditions. 1537 women risking giving birth outside of the hospitals were accessed within the scope of the Project. 313 of these women were within the last 4 weeks of their pregnancy; they were invited to the hospitals where available conditions were better. 27 pregnant women accepted to come and give birth in a hospital.

Trabzon

Women in **Trabzon** are provided with free of charge mobile health screening. The establishment of a partnership between Trabzon Women Platform, Provincial Directorate of Health and Municipality of Trabzon has been the very first step laying the ground for such a service. Afterwards, women's organizations identified three neighbourhoods where health screening announcements were made in cooperation with the mukthars offices. Municipality of Trabzon allocated buses, free of charge, priority was placed on those who lacked a health certificate, and thus, women were brought to where the cancer screening unit was located. Some 100 women were screened and informed on cancer. Provincial Women's Rights Coordination Committee took a resolution to perform systematically the application which took place within the scope of March 8th events and that did not produce the desired outcome. The resolution was sent to the relevant institutions along with an official letter.

Besides, "My Healthy Family" Project was launched under the leadership of the wife of Trabzon's Governor in cooperation with Provincial Directorate of Health. The project with a duration of one year targeted providing information all around Trabzon on issues such as women's mental health, nutrition, child health, modern birth control methods and identification of cancer types seen in women. Experts participate in the information meetings organized in neighbourhoods.

15. UN JOINT PROGRAMME FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF OUR LOCAL PARTNERS IN SIX PROGRAMME CITIES



“UNJP is an innovative program; that brings women, non-governmental organizations struggling for the elimination of gender inequalities and public authorities all together, enables joint work culture, accelerates works aiming at the elimination of obstacles impeding women from benefiting public services on an equal footing.”

**Kızbes Aydın,
Çiğli Evka 2 Women Culture House Association, İzmir**



“UNJP stands as a reference model; for ensuring cooperation, preparing and implementing joint programs on issues such as gender equality and city - women problems jointly by the State, local administrations and non-governmental organizations.”

**Engin Demir,
Protecting Women's Rights Associatio, President of İzmir
Branch, and Representative of Federation of Women
Associations, Aegean Region, İzmir**



“Tackling women's rights issues at such a level, in such an environment where societal insensitivity is so high is a highlight on UNJP's genuineness.”

**Adnan Atakav,
Deputy Director, Provincial Directorate of National Education,
President of Community Training Centers, İzmir**



“UNJP helped public administrations and non-governmental organizations get closer. UNJP helped institutions recall their responsibilities that need to be fulfilled besides the major ones. Institutions started questioning themselves thanks to UNJP. Besides, women found it easier to convey their demands to public institutions”

Doğan Gül, Provincial Director of Social Services, Kars



“UNJP contributed significantly to the cooperation between local administrations and women's organizations and gender equality through its project partnerships as well as program activities.”

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aysel Güven,
Caucasus University KSAUM Director, Kars**



“Thanks to UNJP, we established an idea on women's organizations, the shortcoming in women's participation in the social life, and that although men and women are equal before the law, women are not able to enjoy their rights due to traditions and customs. UNJP oriented us towards a search for solution on women problems. UNJP made us realize that we really needed LEAP in Nevşehir. Thus, we took an active role in LEAP.”

**Hayriye Demirbilek
Cappadocia Association for Women Solidarity, Nevşehir**



“We have not experienced so far in our province such a work on such a significant subject which targets improving the social status of the women under the support of an international organization. In that sense, UNJP is an innovative project and its foremost output has been that it opened a discussion on a social issue, sought concrete solution methods within the scope of a plan, and guided relevant public/civilian institutions and individuals to get informed and demonstrate ownership.”

**Erdem Yazgi,
Acting Director of Provincial Planning and Coordination,
Equality Unit Representative, Nevşehir**



“UNJP is a program paying attention on hearing and observing the people of the region and non-governmental organizations. Therefore, it is a frank program. Sabancı Foundation Grants helped successful implementations of various projects on training women, women leadership and women employment.”

**Gülşen Hamavioğlu,
Turkish University Women Association, Şanlıurfa**



“Following the promotion of UNJP throughout the region, the perspectives of local administrations and non-governmental organizations on women issues have changed; local administrations launched activities on carrying new projects into life to enable women development in the fields of accommodation, education and culture.”

**Mehmet Yavuzaslan, President of Provincial Assembly
Gender Equality Committee, Şanlıurfa**



“Gender inequalities were brought into the agenda with UNJP; it became an open discussion issue and it was defined in words in LEAP.”

Doç. Dr. Zeynep Şimşek, Harran University, Şanlıurfa



“Carrying out activities by placing importance on inter-institution cooperation is the most important feature that differentiates UNJP from other projects”

**Nuray Kansız, National Productivity Center
Black Sea Regional Director, Trabzon**



“It is a significant innovation to have Interior Ministry, UN and women's organizations together. Gender equality issue was brought into the agenda of local administrations with UNJP. All activities of the Action Plan should be successfully implemented. Women's organizations should effectively take part in the activities. Gender equality work is study for which the results take time to appear. In other words, gender equality will be achieved through a process. Public administrations took a step forward with this program to ensure gender equality. ”

Zozan Özgökçe, Van Women's Association, Van



“We did not have any other women related comprehensive project in the province. In this respect, UNJP is a new project. UNJP helped public institutions and women's organizations get together. It enabled public administrations take a step forward on women issues.”

Saime Sürme, Blue Lake Women Association, Van



“I believe that UNJP created synergy in our province. Non-governmental organizations started getting themselves acquainted with each other. Joint activities have been implemented. UNJP helped public institutions and organizations of our province familiarize themselves with women issues.”

**Sema Sancak, Yüzüncü Yıl University
Women Studies and Implementation Center,
Director, Van**



“Women's organizations, public institutions and the Municipality gathered under the same roof together with UNJP. Both parties opinion on each other has changed thanks to UNJP. Such a joint cooperation has never taken place before; neither with women's organizations nor with any non-governmental organization.”

**Ruşen Alpaslan,
Responsible for Municipality Local Agenda 21 (2006-2009), Van**



“Equality Committees and Equality Units, established within the scope of UNJP, should be rendered permanent by the means of necessary legislation.”

**Abdullah Çalım,
Deputy Mayor (2006-2009), Van**

	İZMİR ¹¹⁹	KARS ¹²⁰	NEVŞEHİR ¹²¹	ŞANLIURFA ¹²²	TRABZON ¹²³	VAN ¹²⁴
NUMBER OF ACTIVE WOMEN IN THE CITY	4,285 (social, sportive and cultural)	216	330	573	1154	301 (center), 299 (districts)
NUMBER OF WOMEN'S NGOs	57 (festivals etc.)	5	5 (3 center, 2 districts)	7	13 (10 center, 3 districts)	26 (12 center, 14 districts)

¹¹⁹ Ministry of Interior Department of Associations, İzmir Development Agency Due-diligence Analysis June 2009

¹²⁰ Ministry of Interior Department of Associations

¹²¹ Ministry of Interior Department of Associations, Nevşehir Provincial Directorate of Associations 2009

¹²² Ministry of Interior Department of Associations

¹²³ Ministry of Interior Department of Associations, Trabzon Provincial Directorate of Associations

¹²⁴ Van Provincial Directorate of Associations 2009



SABANCI VAKFI



Canada



Denmark



Finland



France



Germany



Norway



Sweden



Switzerland



The Netherlands



United Kingdom