

Strengthening Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services for Syrian and Other Refugees thru Women and Girl Safe Spaces (WGSS)/Women Health Counselling Units

According to latest data of Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Migration Management, close to 3.579.254 Syrians are in Turkey in the status of temporary protection (dated 07.06.2018). In this context, approximately 98 thousand Syrian migrant population are living in Ankara. Most of this population consists of women and children.

“Strengthening Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services for Syrian and Other Refugees thru Women and Girl Safe Spaces (WGSS)/Women Health Counselling Units Project” is conducted in accordance with the protocol between Hacettepe University Research and Implementation Center (HUWRIC) and Ankara Health Directorate, in partnership with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and with the financial support of European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). This Project aims to provide safe spaces for migrant women and girls and also health counselling services.

The Project has started with a single center in March, 2015 and still continues with three centers since February, 2016. Still, project activities have been carried on **at three Women’s Health Counselling Units (WHCU)**.

1. **Alemdağ WHCU:** is in Alemdağ neighborhood of Altındağ district (previously it was at Ulubey neighborhood, however it was moved to Alemdağ with Migrant Health Center on the 30th of May, 2017).
2. **Gölveren WHCU:** is in Gölveren neighborhood of Mamak district.
3. **Yenimahalle WHCU:** is in Yenimahalle neighborhood of Yenimahalle district.

Indeed, these three Centers are all inside the Migrant Health Centers’ buildings belonging to Ministry of Health.

The main activity areas of this Project are sexual and reproductive health and family planning services, gender based violence prevention, supporting of women who experience violence and empowerment of migrant women.

In each of Women’s Health Counselling Unit; there are one woman social worker and a psychologist who speaks fluent Arabic. In addition to these, an Iraqi woman doctor who served as doctor’s assistant and an Iraqi nurse are employed at the WHCUs. Also, in order to serve as a bridge with their own community and Women’s Health Counselling Units, 14 Syrian women trained and employed as health mediators of the Project. Moreover, three security staff, three translator and two cleaning personnel are working to support services at the Centers. Apart from these, a woman project coordinator and a project assistance also employed for coordinating and implementing all project activities. (A total of 32 personnel, 21 of whom are migrant, are being employed within the project).

The services mainly provided at WHCUs are;

- Sexual and reproductive health counselling to women and young girls
- Psychosocial support for the woman subject to gender based violence
- Empowerment activities for women and young girls
- Giving information about institutions from where they could receive services,
- Referring them to other institutions if needed
- Legal counseling
- Conducting trainings for service providers and users
- Several social / cultural activities
- Activities for children
- Turkish lessons
- Distribution of kits that provided by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- City trips

Project has been a good example of collaboration between public institution, international organization and university. Number of new beneficiaries applying to the Centers is increasing gradually.

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Hacettepe University Research and Implementation Center on
Women's Issues
(HUWRIC)



Avrupa Birliđi
Sivil Koruma
ve İnsanî Yardım



ANKARA HALK SAĞLIđI
MÜDÜRLÜĐÜ





Current Situation

According to latest data of
General Directorate of Migration Management,
3.579.254 million Syrians are
in Turkey in the status of temporary protection
(07.06.2018).

In this context,
98.831
Syrian migrant population
are living in Ankara (07.06.2018)

Most of this population
consists of
women and children.



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Strengthening Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services for Syrian and Other Refugees thru Women and Girl Safe Spaces (WGSS)/Women Health Counselling Units Project

Project Coordination: HUWRIC

Responsible Person:

Prof. Dr. Ü. Şevkat BAHAR ÖZVARIŞ

Financial Support:

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

Technical Support: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Project Partner: Ankara Public Health Provincial Directorate



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Within the Scope of the Project;

- Three Women's Health Counselling Units were established.
- These three Centers are all inside the Migrant Health Center's buildings belonging to Ankara Provincial Public Health Directorate.



**The Project has started
with a single center
in March, 2015.**



**Still continues
with three centers
since February, 2016.**



MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT



- Sexual and reproductive health and family planning services
- Supporting women who experience violence
- Gender based violence prevention
- Empowerment of migrant women and girls



32 Personnel have been Working at the Centres...

- A **project coordinator**.
- A **project coordinator assistant**.
- 3 **social workers** and 3 **psychologists** who can speak Arabic very well.
- 1 Iraqi **doctor** at Alemdağ Center.
- 1 Iraqi **nurse** at Gülveren Center.
- 3 Syrian women **cleaning personnel**.
- 3 Syrian women **translators**.
- A total of 14 Syrian (5 at two Centers, 4 at one Center) **health mediators** at three centers.
- 3 Turkish women **security personnel**.

21 migrant women have been employed within the Project.





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Sađlık Bakanlıđı
Türkiye Halk Sađlığı
Kurumu

ANKARA HALK SAđLIđI
MÜDÜRLÜĐÜ

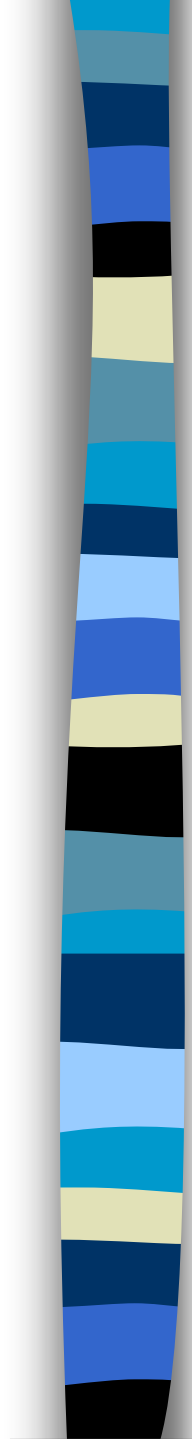


SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE CENTERS

Services Provided at the Centers (1)

**Individual counselling and
group trainings on SRH and
Family Planning.**



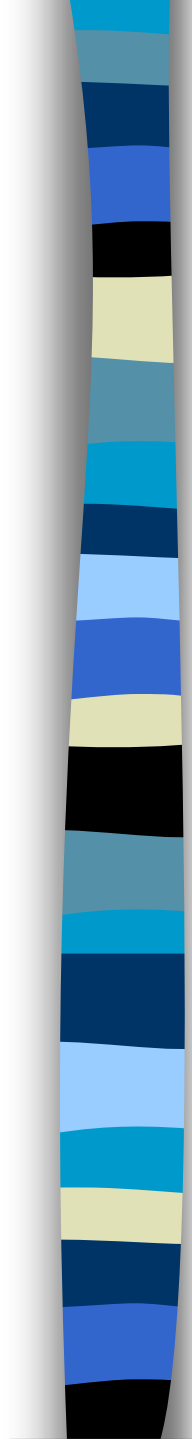
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- Women are referred to hospitals and other related institutions in order to receive more comprehensive services.
 - Many women were referred to hospitals due to hypertension and diabetes which were detected during antenatal follow ups.
 - Many women received group or individual counselling on modern contraceptive methods.
 - Also, counselling is given to women with regard to ID problems.



Services Provided at the Centers (2)

**Awareness raising
activities on
gender based
violence.**



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- Women and girls attend to several training programmes which empower them.
 - Routine training programmes are being conducted at the Centers both for the service providers and for the service users.
 - Visit was organised to Ankara Violence Prevention Center (ŞÖNİM) for our health mediators in order to raise their awareness on ŞÖNİM's services and procedures.
 - Two Panels were organised on Child Marriages (One for women and young girls and the other for men.)



Panels on «Child Marriages»

April'2017 – Ankara

September'2017 – Ankara

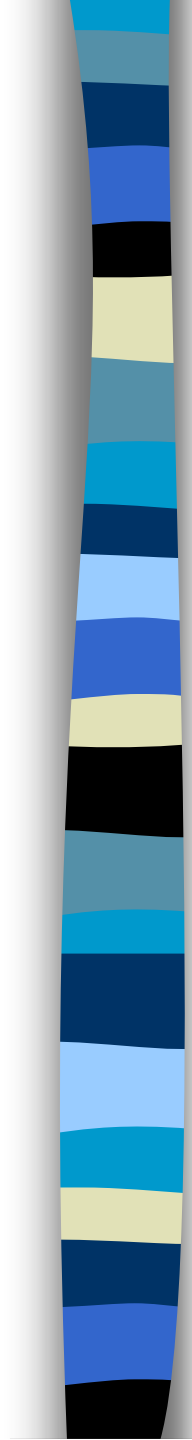
- Approximately 350 refugee women and 250 refugee men participated.
- Panel Programme:
 - Child Marriages and Health Results
 - Child Marriages According to Legislations in Turkey
 - Early Marriages According to Islamic Law
 - 2 Refugee women/men shared their experiences



Services Provided at the Centers (3)



Psychosocial support for women exposed to gender based violence.

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- Many women received psychological support after they were exposed to violence.
 - Women who have been applied to the Centers due to violence are directed to Violence Prevention Centers (ŞÖNİM).
 - Some children are taken under protection / institutional care due to neglect and abuse.
 - Many child marriage cases have been managed in collaboration with related institutions.

Services Provided at the Centers (4)



**Empowerment activities
(ex. Turkish courses, city
trip, bazaar trip, picnic,
etc.).**





Turkish language courses

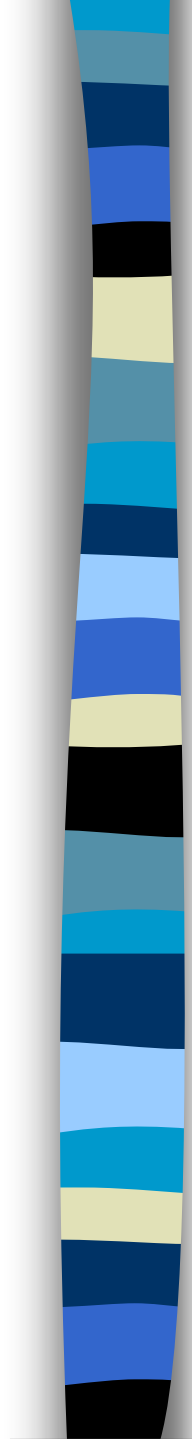




«I Know My Rights» Training May'2017 - Ankara

- Migration System in Turkey and in the World
- The Law System in Turkey
- Rights of Migrants in Turkey
- Procedures Related to Marital Status
- Common Problem Areas and Suggested Solutions





Two lawyers have been giving
legal counselling to our
service providers
at the Centers.



Other Empowerment Activities...

- Cultural Sensitivity Focus Group Discussions (August'2017)
- Child Marriage Focus Group Discussions (September'2017)
- Beypazarı and Eskişehir visits
- Coordination Meeting on Cultural Sensitivity (24 November 2017)
- Women Tracing the Light of Hope (28 November 2017)
- Panels on Raising Awareness Regarding SRH Problems and Rights (December'2017)
- Visit to Ankara Bar

Services Provided at the Centers (5)

**Programmed
trainings of migrant
health mediators
who are employed
within the scope of
the Project.**





Training Programme of Health Mediators

- Personal hygiene
- Family Planning Methods
- Pregnancy
- Mother-Child Relationships
- Infant Care and Child Care
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Communicable Disease Prevention
- Adolescence
- Healthy Life and Nutrition
- Human – Women – Refugee Rights
- Violence Against Women
- Awareness Raising on Laws and Public Institutions in Turkey
- Health System in Turkey
- Differences and Richnesses of Cultural Norms and Traditions
- Daily Life in Ankara

Services Provided at the Centers (6)



Activities for
migrant children





Services Provided at the Centers (7)



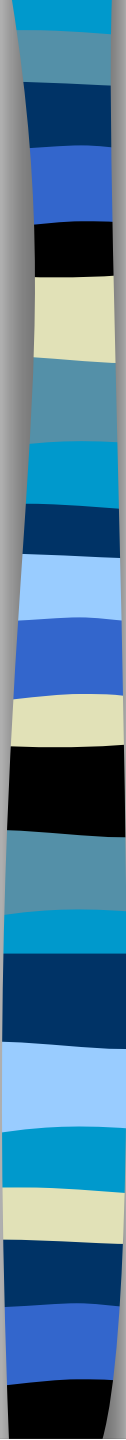
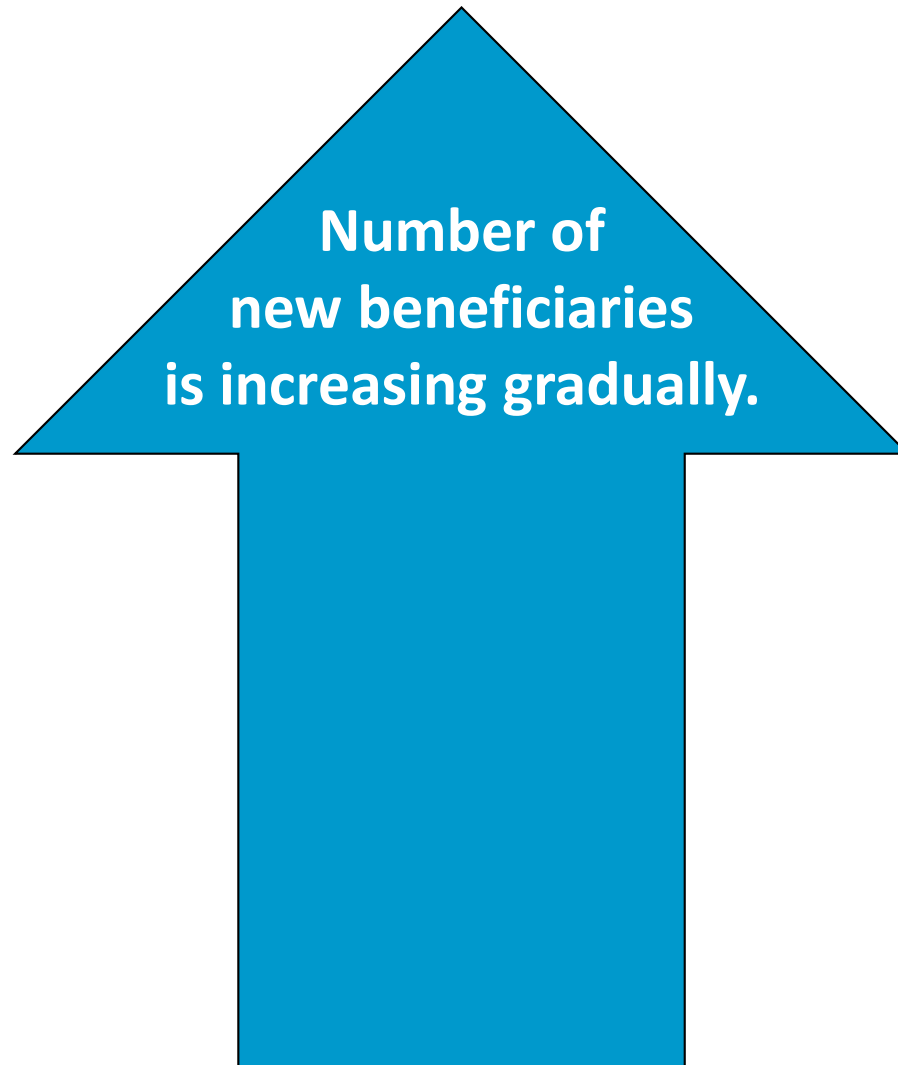
**Distribution of
kits provided
by UNFPA**



Ankara-Ulubey









From in-depth interviews conducted with women...

- *«When I first came to the Center, I was so embarrassed and I stayed outside. I had nothing to do outside, but I stayed there (laughing). I came in, checked in, joked with the social worker and then I felt as if we have been knowing each other since many years. After I came to the Center, I started socializing with people a little bit.»*

- *«My children are still afraid of everything. When they hear something outside, they suddenly come and embrace me. However, they are getting better day by day as they are going to school and they feel relieved gradually.»*



**Sincere gratitudes
for your consideration...**