



REPORT

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ASSOCIATION FOR SOLIDARITY WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS



2022 GLOBAL COMPACT STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY REPORT

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ASSOCIATION FOR SOLIDARITY WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS

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Ankara / Turkey

Being the first organization in Turkey to use “asylum seeker” in its name, Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM), since 1995, has been assisting Asylum Seekers, Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons, and Victims of Human Trafficking in generating solutions to the problems they face. ASAM continues to provide service by employing a rights-based approach, without making any discrimination based on language, religion, sex, ethnicity, age or political ideology. ASAM shares its experience that is more than quarter-century through its representation offices in Greece-Athens and Belgium-Brussels. Also, ASAM aims to spirit its experience for the people who were affected by the Ukrainian crisis in Poland, Hungary, Moldavia, Slovakia.

Through numerous projects that we continue to implement in 2022 and with the guidance of the “Sustainable Development Goals” and “Global Compact”, we are pleased to announce that our goal is to fulfill our responsibility pertaining to all of the principles of the Global Compact, mainly Human Rights, and also to make a lasting impact through our implementations.

With this Statement, we, as Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants, reaffirm our continued support to the United Nations Global Compact and its ten principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption, as well its implementation, and we are pleased to present to you our “Statement of Responsibility” that we prepared in this respect.

Best regards,



İbrahim Vurgun Kavlak
General Coordinator
Association for Solidarity with
Asylum Seekers and Migrants



INTRODUCTION

According to the Global Trends 2020 Report, published by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the number of migrants worldwide has reached 272 million, whereas the number of forcibly displaced people is 82.4 million. Today, one in every 33 persons worldwide is a migrant.

With the conflict and crisis that broke out in Syria in 2011, approximately 5.5 million Syrians have been forced to migrate to neighboring countries, namely Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Resulting from the mass migration movement that began in 2011, there are currently 3.750.462 Syrians living in Turkey based on official records. In addition to this population, around 400.000 asylum seekers from other nationalities, mostly from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran, also live in Turkey. These numbers make Turkey the country that hosts the greatest number of refugees* and asylum seekers in the world.

Ever since the beginning of the Syrian war, Turkey has set an example for the entire world in the area of migration, refugees and humanitarian aid.

Actions to meet the fundamental humanitarian needs of Syrian asylum seekers, which were initially carried out by public institutions during the first years of the crisis, are currently being conducted on

**Concepts in national and international legislation vary due to the geographical limitation regarding the definition of refugee. The term "refugee" in this report is used for Temporary Protection or International Protection applicants/ status holders under the Law on Foreigners and International Protection.*

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a more comprehensive axis while leaving behind the tenth year of the crisis, and now focuses on development, education, improvement of livelihood opportunities and social cohesion.

On the other hand, there are 3.8 million Syrians living in Turkey, of which approximately 1.8 million are children. 48% of these children are girls, 52% are boys. Refugee children have faced many difficulties ever since they have migrated. The trauma of war, struggling with financial losses, lack of opportunities that would enable children to interact with their peers, and inability of school-aged children to access education opportunities are among the main difficulties experienced by refugee children. While 685.000 children have been included in the education system as of March 2022, around 400.000 children are still out of school. It is crucial to

include refugee children in the education system to prevent a lost generation and to enable children to build their lives as well equipped, productive and strong individuals by gaining access to their right to education.

By being the oldest and most widespread non-governmental organization in Turkey operating in the field of migration, Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) currently offers services to all asylum seekers and refugees in over 40 provinces through more than 70 centers and offices, without making any discrimination based on language, religion, sex, race or political opinion. By opening its first representation office abroad in Athens in 2016 and its second overseas office in Brussels in 2019, ASAM has carried its 26 years of experience in the field of migration and refugees to an international level.



The projects implemented and the outputs obtained are also in conformity with the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, ASAM directly contributes to SDG1-No Poverty, SDG3-Good Health and Well-being, SDG4-Quality Education, SDG5-Gender Equality, SDG8-Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG10-Reduced Inequality and SDG11-Sustainable Cities and Communities through 17 different projects currently underway.



By establishing long-term and comprehensive cooperation with public institutions, local administrations, European Union, United Nations agencies, international organizations, universities and non-governmental organizations that provide services related to migration management and refugees, ASAM continues its works on needs analysis, irregular migration, protection, education, health, livelihood opportunities, social cohesion, research, capacity building and awareness raising.

In 2022, ASAM is pleased for being able to reach out to thousands of persons, for

touching their lives and helping them to make a difference through our ongoing and new projects, our traditional events and awareness raising activities. Furthermore, based on the necessity to reflect ASAM's experience in the field for over a quarter century and to convey practice into theory in the area of migration, ASAM Academy on Migration has been established. ASAM Academy on Migration aims to contribute to the generation of scientific knowledge, dissemination of information, and unification and transformation of practical and theoretical information by utilizing the knowledge and experience acquired in the field over the years.

International Organizations with Which We Cooperate



ASAM with Numbers in 2021

By paying regard to Covid-19 measures during the normalization process, ASAM continued to provide service in 2021 through its offices and phone, as well as via online platforms. Owing to the online options it offered, ASAM made the services easily accessible. Asylum seekers from over 18 different countries, mainly from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran, have applied to ASAM centers in 2021. In 2021, ASAM provided services 1.242.011 times to a total of 270.078 persons. These services include protection assessment, education assessment, counselling, activities, vocational trainings, skills development and language courses, referral to relevant institutions and interpreter assistance when required, and one-time cash and in-kind assistance offered during emergencies. The results of the satisfaction survey conducted with 394 respondents between 1 December 2020 and 10 January 2021 revealed that 88% of the beneficiaries would like to benefit from ASAM services again.

In 2021, 30% of the persons reached by phone or through offices and field works have benefitted from the provided services for the first time. Among these beneficiaries, the nationalities with the highest number of individuals are Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi, and Iranian, respectively. The prominent age and gender group among those having applied to ASAM in 2021 for the first time consist of women aged 18-49. While 57% of those having received services for the first time are children, women and children together constitute 80% of this group.

In **2021**,

ASAM provided services



1.242.011

times to a total of



270.078

persons.

75% of the counselling services provided throughout 2021 have been offered by phone. Based on the results of ASAM's 2021 satisfaction survey, 74% of those having received services by phone during this period noted that it was easy to reach ASAM via phone. While 9% of the beneficiaries responded "Neutral", more than half of the beneficiaries constituting 17%, who conveyed that it was not easy to reach ASAM via phone, noted that they were unable to reach ASAM because the phone lines were busy.

Service has been provided 1.486.189 times to 454.791 persons in 2021. Of the 454.791 persons, 172.377 have benefitted from the services offered at ASAM centers for the first time. 115.032 persons have attended 9520 activities organized at ASAM centers and online platforms throughout the year 2021. Of the activities held at ASAM centers in 2021, 43% are awareness raising activities, 34% are psychosocial support activities, 19% are social cohesion activities, 3% are non-certified educational activities and around 1% are focus group discussions. While the number of girls and boys participating in the activities are close, the number of adult females is more than 6 times the number of adult males.

Case management, which is one of the most important services provided at ASAM centers in scope of protection, ensures the registration of beneficiaries at Provincial Directorates of Migration Management and obtaining an identity card following counselling and referrals. In that regard, 2678 persons have obtained identity cards throughout the year 2021 with the support of ASAM centers. During counselling provided at ASAM centers in 2021, 28.490 out-of-school children have been identified.

Child Protection

47% of out-of-school children are girls and 53% are boys. Various steps have been taken for these identified children, including social counselling, protection assessment, and participation in certified courses and activities. In order for the necessary registration procedures to be performed for the inclusion of these out-of-school children in the education system, 54.581 children have been referred to Provincial Directorates of Migration Management.

42.56% of out-of-school children are girls and 57.44% are boys.

4.407 children engaged in child labor have been identified by ASAM. 18.76% of these children are girls, 81.24% are boys. Protection assessment, counselling and various activities have been organized for these children identified as child laborers. The children identified as being engaged in labor have been referred to Public Education Centers, formal educational institutions, the Turkish Ministry of National Education or Provincial Directorates of National Education, health institutions and Provincial Directorates of Migration Management. A total of 15.472 referrals have been made to other relevant institutions, including the ones mentioned above.

Access to Means of Livelihood

With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, vulnerabilities experienced in terms of access to means of livelihood and access to basic needs increased in 2021. 106 courses opened in 2021 to assist refugees in their access to means of livelihood. While 78 of these courses are Turkish language courses,



3 are skills development courses and 25 are vocational training courses. A total of 1.396 beneficiaries, including 1.013 women and 383 men, have attended these courses. Considering these numbers, it is seen that an average of 16 persons participated in each course. At the end of the courses, 518 persons have been eligible for A1 Level Turkish and 308 persons for A2 Level Turkish language certificates, while 258 persons have been eligible for vocational training and 36 persons have been eligible for skills development certificates.

In addition to these courses, 2.392 vocational counselling have been offered to 2.173 persons, of which 1.154 are women. As part of these vocational counselling, 1.974 persons have been referred to relevant institutions for employment purposes.

Health

37.732 health-related vulnerabilities have been identified in 34.882 persons during case management processes carried out in 2021. The main vulnerabilities consist of physical disabilities, chronic diseases, and critical health conditions. 146.785 health counselling, 11.093 nutrition counselling, and 14.151 disability counselling have been provided based on the vulnerabilities identified. 24% of the counselling provided in 2021 are related to health. Moreover, in 2021, 43.595 persons have been referred to healthcare institutions and organizations 96.708 times on the basis of counselling and needs assessments.

Also in 2021, 47.283 persons have been provided counselling 56.897 times on Covid-19; it has been ensured that 2.302 beneficiaries received the first dose of vaccination and 2.595 persons received the second dose of vaccination.



Courses, Trainings and Other Activities

In 2021, 115.032 persons participated in 9.520 activities and courses organized at ASAM centers and on online platforms following the pandemic. The breakdown of the children and adults attending the activities, trainings and courses are as follows.

Male (-18)	16%
Male (+18)	29%
Female (-18)	16%
Female (+18)	39%

Psychosocial support activities	27%
Awareness raising activities	25%
Social cohesion activities	6%
Non-certified educational activities	41%
Courses	1%

In addition to these activities and courses, 28 refugee committees, with 395 members, have engaged in efforts in 2021 in various fields as part of the social cohesion and social inclusion activities conducted to include refugees in decision-making mechanisms.

Type of Refugee Committee	Number
Children's committee	1
Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities	3
LGBTI+ committee	2
Neighborhood committee	2
Women's committee	14
Youth committee	6
Total	28

815 persons have attended 392 meetings and activities, held with the initiative of refugee committees where women constitute 75% of its members.

ASAM's activities during the COVID -19 pandemic

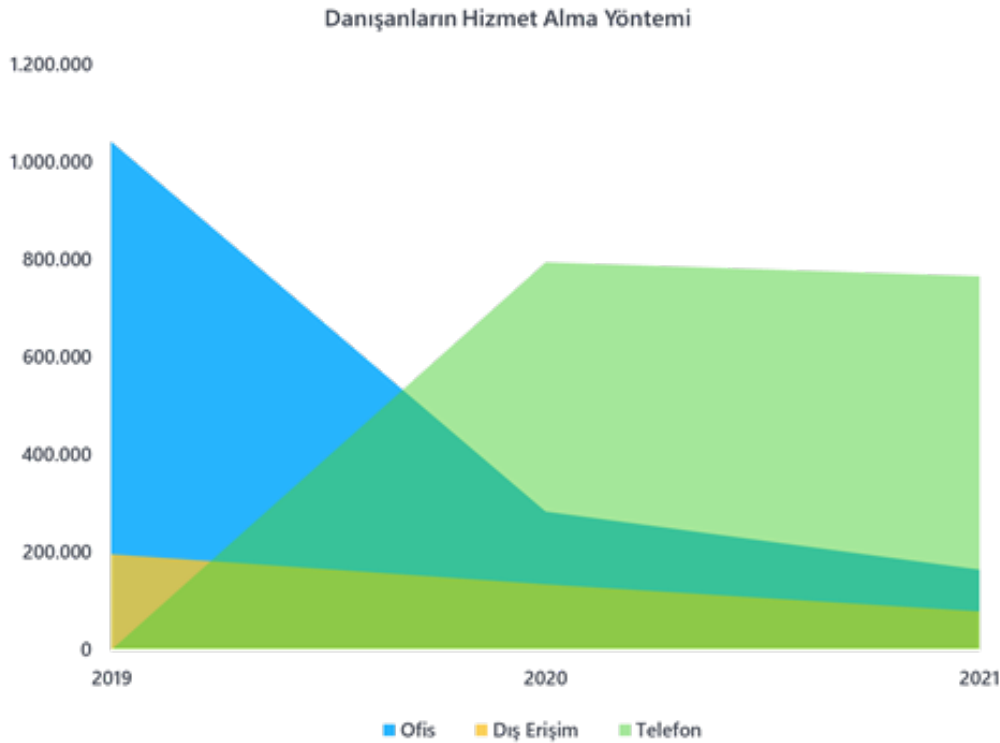
Having regard to the measures put in place against the Covid-19 pandemic, ASAM, just as last year, has continued its activities in order to meet the basic needs of persons under Temporary Protection and International Protection applicants or status holders as well as irregular migrants living in Turkey, and to assist them in their efforts of protection against the pandemic.

All activities, including awareness raising activities, counselling services, courses, and psychosocial support, have continued to be offered in 2021 through online platforms; depending on the structure of the given service, assistance has been provided to beneficiaries to improve

their access to these platforms.

75% of the services offered in 2021 have been provided through online platforms or via phone, and services have been accessible even during the pandemic.

51. 386 counselling services have been given by ASAM in 2021 regarding Covid-19. Owing to information provided on vaccination appointments, 2.302 beneficiaries have received their first dose and 2.595 beneficiaries have received their second dose of vaccination through ASAM's support.



Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

on Children under International Protection and Temporary Protection in Turkey

The research conducted within the report on “Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children under International Protection and Temporary Protection in Turkey”, published by ASAM in April 2021, has aimed to identify the challenges encountered by asylum seeking children by reviewing the impact of COVID-19 on families and children under International Protection (IP) and Temporary Protection (TP). It has also aimed to develop policies based on the condition and needs of asylum seeker children following the outbreak of the pandemic, to offer solutions and to contribute to reducing or transforming the long-term impacts of the pandemic, of which it is still difficult to predict how long its impacts will last. Five main topics composed of livelihoods and basic needs, health, psychosocial wellbeing, and education, have been addressed in the research. This way, the current conditions of children under IP and TP, their needs, their means of access to basic needs, and the chal-

lenges faced in access have been assessed in a holistic manner within the first year of the pandemic. A survey has been conducted in 49 provinces across Turkey, in which 1133 parents participated. 27.2% of the participants came from the Mediterranean and Aegean Regions, 25.1% came from Marmara Region, 24.2% came from Central Anatolia Region, and 23.1% came from the Southeast and Eastern Anatolia Regions. The breakdown of the participants’ nationalities are; 84% Syrian, 9% Afghan, 6% Iraqi, and 1% of another nationality (such as Palestinian, Iraqi, Iranian). Of the children taking part in the survey, 50.5% were boys and 49.5% were girls. 23% of the children were in the 0-5 age group, 25% were in the 6-9 age group, 27% were in the 10-13 age group, and 25% were in the 14-17 age group. The main findings of the research can be listed under the following headings;

Livelihoods and Basic Needs

- Due to the pandemic, incomes of 71 out of every 100 families reduced, while 20 of them totally lost their sources of income. 81 out of every 100 families are borrowing money; 74 of them are living on social assistance, such as state, NGO or municipal aid.





Health

- 65 out of every 100 children who have health problems requiring the use of medicines on a regular basis cannot regularly access their medication.
- From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, 45 out of every 100 children with a health problem who needs to see a doctor, cannot regularly access health services.
- 36 out of every 100 families cannot access healthcare services due to the COVID-19 related service cuts.
- 21 out of every 100 families cannot access healthcare services because of the COVID-19 related anxieties that prevent them from going outside.

Psychosocial Needs and Psychosocial Wellbeing

42 out of every 100 children frequently feel sadness and unwellness during the pandemic.

30 out of every 100 children who feel unwellness and anger during the pandemic have difficulty in communicating with their peers.

55 out of every 100 children have eating and appetite problems, while 49 of them experience sleeping problems.

Education

69 out of every 100 school-aged children are unable to access distance education during the pandemic period.

82 out of every 100 children who only continue face-to-face education are unable to access communication tools.

While 19 out of every 100 children discontinue education due to not being able to access distance education, 15 out of every 100 children discontinue education due to working in an income-generating job during the pandemic.



Ongoing ASAM Projects Launched in 2021

ASAM contributes to the provision and improvement of services in various sectors such as livelihoods, health, protection, basic needs and education through numerous projects it has been implementing over the years. In 2021, it has been implementing 24 projects together with the ongoing ones, and continues its efforts and works to encompass all target groups with the services it provides in different sectors with the help of these projects.

As in the preceding years, the scope of services has been expanded with newly launched projects in 2021 as well, and response solutions have been produced to address the needs of refugee and asylum seeking groups by taking into consideration the findings obtained by way of participatory methods.

ASAM projects launched in 2021:

Awareness Raising on MHPSS for the Refugees Living in Turkey Project

Launched in 2021 with the financial support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Awareness Raising on MHPSS for the Refugees Living in Turkey Project will cover 24 months and is being implemented in the provinces of Istanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Konya, Adana and Samsun. The Project aims to overcome the challenges encountered by refugees and key service authorities in terms of MHPSS and to fill the gaps in the field in the medium and long term. The overall objective of the Project is to raise awareness of the refugee population in Turkey about MHPSS with the help of mental health and psychosocial support materials and instruments, and to support and enhance the welfare of refugees and asylum seekers.

The targeted population of the Project consists of women, children, persons with disabilities, and refugees who are victims of gender-based violence. As part of the Project activities, a needs assessment is being carried out in order to establish the needs of refugees so as to raise their awareness on MHPSS, and informative brochures on 16 basic subjects to be determined in line with the outputs of this needs assessment are planned to be published. As the brochures in question are intended to reach a wide population, they will be prepared in Arabic, Farsi, English and Turkish. Moreover, brief and informative videos on the subjects determined will be produced and broadcast via Migrant TV founded by ASAM. As the final stage of the Project, it is planned to organize workshops and seminars regarding mental health and psychosocial support with the participation of both refugees and those working in the field.

Towards an Inclusive Workplace for Refugees Project

Implemented with the support of Inditex, the Project aims to protect the rights of migrants and refugees working at textile factories.

The Project focuses on identifying the needs and challenges of refugee workers and their employers, raising awareness on refugee workers' rights and responsibilities in work life, fostering a more socially cohesive working environment, and strengthening the adaptation of refugee workers to the working environment by developing a specific support mechanism.

The Project further aims to create non-discriminatory workplaces, ensure equal representation in workplaces and foster positive communication among workers.

One of the most important deliverables of the Project, which will be implemented for a period of 12 months in the provinces of Adana, Bursa, Istanbul, İzmir, and Mersin, is a mobile application called “Communication & Inclusion” (CommIn). With the “CommIn” application that will allow access to trainings, it is aimed to make the relevant trainings easily accessible to both workers and employers, regardless of place and time. The Project marks the first collaboration between ASAM and the private sector.

Strengthening the Capacity of Municipalities in the Field of Migration and Refugee Response in Turkey Project

In scope of the “Strengthening the Capacity of Municipalities in the Field of Migration and Refugee Response in Turkey Project”, implemented by ASAM with the financial support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, it is sought to support and strengthen the service providing capacities of municipalities concerning refugees.



During the 18-months Project, it is aimed to analyse and map the capacities and services provided by metropolitan and district municipalities in Ankara, İzmir, Bursa, Şanlıurfa and Samsun, raise the awareness of municipality personnel in the field of refugees and migration, improve their knowledge and capacities, develop strategic suggestions to strengthen municipalities' service mechanisms towards refugees, and ensure experience sharing among them. The target group of the Project are the experts employed in the relevant departments of metropolitan municipalities and district municipalities found in the Project provinces.

Through the Project, questionnaires and face-to-face interviews will be conducted in the identified 5 provinces to evaluate the services offered by municipalities to refugees, and a mapping of these services will be prepared. Training modules will be created for the municipalities depending on the identified needs, and training seminars will be organized in each province on relevant terminology and definitions related to refugees, Turkish migration policy, legislation, structure and actors of management, demographic profile of refugees, available services, fundamentals of working with refugees, false facts, measures to be taken on a local level, urgent needs of refugees during the pandemic, the strategic and spatial planning procedures of municipalities concerning problems related to refugees, and social cohesion.

It is also planned to hold a panel entitled "The Role of Municipalities in Turkey's Refugee Response" under the Project. In addition, experience-sharing workshops will be organized with the participation of experts from municipalities located in the Project provinces. Following these activities and workshops, the preparation of a document on "Strategic Suggestions for Municipalities in the Field of Refugee Response" that would serve as a guide for future implementations is also among the Project objectives.

Providing Legal Support and Assistance for Vulnerable Migrants in Turkey

Funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the "Providing Legal Support and Assistance for Vulnerable Migrants in Turkey Project" will be implemented in collaboration with the Fondation Caritas Luxembourg (FCL) and ASAM. The Project, launched on 15 September 2021 and scheduled for a period of 10 months, aims to fulfil the protection needs of vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants living/located in the provinces of Istanbul, İzmir, Balıkesir and Van and to facilitate their access to the available services.

In the scope of the Project, it is planned to provide protection and support to vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants in need through ASAM field offices and outreach teams. The Project also aims to identify vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants living in these provinces, analyse their demographic profiles and identify the needs in the field. The Project provides for the parties to be in close communication with the law enforcement, mainly the Directorate General of Migration Management and provincial directorates thereof, which provide services to asylum seekers and migrants who are vulnerable in the context of

irregular migration. Moreover, the needs of the target group will be responded by developing a supplementary component between the other ongoing projects of ASAM and the projects implemented by other institutions and organizations in the provinces selected within the scope of the Project and by implementing in-house/inter-institutional referral mechanisms.

The activities to be carried out in scope of the Project are as follows:

Providing legal information to vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants,

In addition to providing general legal information and counselling, providing support for drafting petitions and referral to legal aid mechanisms in order to take protective and preventive measures against gender-based violence and protective and supportive measures for children in need of protection,

Fulfilling the requests from relevant governmental bodies and organizations regarding translation support and humanitarian aid items,

Identifying the needs of vulnerable and at-risk individuals and providing financial assistance when required (accommodation, transportation, attorney fees, rent support, e-vouchers, etc.),

Reaching vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants residing in city centres and/or border districts through the help of the outreach teams,

Providing case planning and case management services as well as legal information on rights, available services and obligations in Turkey, and

Analysing the needs of vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants, and identifying and reporting the gaps in implementation.

Films on the Move: Migration from Women's Eyes Project

Funded by the Embassy of France in Ankara and implemented by ASAM in İzmir province, the “Films on the Move: Migration from Women's Eyes Project” aims to equip refugee women with self-expression skills, to raise their awareness on issues such as gender equality, gender-based discrimination, violence and rights and to enhance women's capacity. As part of the Project activities, trainings aimed at capacity building and awareness raising were held with the participation of ten (10) women beneficiaries under Temporary Projection and they were also enabled to receive basic training on filmmaking concurrently.

In the first sessions of structured activity series, sessions seeking to raise women's awareness on issues such as gender equality, gender-based discrimination, violence, rights and effective communication and to contribute to their social empowerment were held with the participation of women. The participants were encouraged to express themselves better during this process, and they formed an opinion about how cinema and films could be utilized as a form of expression.

The sessions in scope of the empowerment programme, the filmmaking and cinema training and the film screening were provided with a holistic perspec-

tive and within the framework of a communication approach based on social transformation and development. With the methods and instruments specific to this approach, it was aimed to enable women to express themselves through film/cinema and to transform even in the slightest bit the community of which they are a member.

Within this framework and in line with these objectives, while women empowerment sessions continued, the beneficiaries were also provided with trainings on the basic concepts of cinema and the stages of filmmaking. During this process, the women wrote their respective short film stories with the support of the trainers from İzmir University of Economics EKOKENT Research and Application Center. The film stories in question were shot as documentaries or fictional short films with the technical support of the EKOKENT team. The women took part in the filmmaking process as scenarist, directors or actresses depending on their preferences.

Facilitating Access to Services for the Refugees in Underserved Areas Project

Funded by GIZ and implemented in collaboration with ASAM in the provinces of Afyonkarahisar, Aksaray, Niğde, Nevşehir, Kırşehir, Kayseri, Sivas, Trabzon, Erzurum, Ağrı, Iğdır and Van, the Project aims to provide refugees with the services required, to foster social cohesion between refugees and the host community, and to meet the basic needs of members of host community and refugees with specific needs.

With the Project, in scope of which protection services are provided through ASAM offices and mobile teams, it is aimed to provide legal information and to refer refugees to legal aid mechanisms. It is planned to distribute food supplies, clothing and hygiene kits to refugees and local community in need by cooperating with the law enforcement and local authorities.

Besides, it is sought to improve social cohesion by organizing Turkish language courses and speaking clubs at A1 and A2 levels in the provinces of Afyon, Nevşehir and Kayseri.

With the help of the needs analyses to be carried out under the Project, referral of refugees to ongoing projects of ASAM or to relevant institutions, and provision of access to services are targeted.

In scope of the Project, it is aimed to reach 12,000 beneficiaries, of which 3,600 are from the host community.

Strengthening the Human Rights Protection of Migrants and Victims of Human Trafficking in Turkey Project

Funded by the Council of Europe and implemented in İzmir by İzmir Metropolitan Municipality as the main implementing partner with the support of ASAM,

the Project aspires to raise awareness on victims of human trafficking and to ensure that everyone living in the province is fully aware of the fact that they have a responsibility in this regard. The Project objectives include the preparation of visual materials consisting of film posters aiming to raise awareness, the organization of a poster competition throughout the province with the participation of youth and the organization of awareness raising trainings on human trafficking for the personnel of both İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and İzmir Bar Association.

In scope of the awareness-raising campaign, ASAM will produce 6 short films and 5 posters under the headings of “sexual exploitation”, “forced labour”, “forced marriage”, “forced begging”, “protective and preventive mechanisms for victims of human trafficking” and “developing a sense of responsibility for public servants and citizens”. Furthermore, it is aimed for İzmir Metropolitan Municipality to hold a poster competition and to organize an exhibition afterwards where the results of the competition will be showcased. It is planned to promote and disseminate all the materials in question through the communication channels of ASAM and İzmir Metropolitan Municipality.

As part of the capacity building efforts, it is planned for ASAM to develop a training module on human trafficking and to organize an online training with this module for the personnel of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and İzmir Bar Association. The contents prepared for the training will be integrated into the online training platform of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality.

It is aimed to organize a workshop entitled “Challenges and experiences encountered in combating trafficking in human beings, and future measures” at the end of the Project and to ensure an exchange of experiences.



Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Labor Market with Language Trainings Out of Working Hours Project

With a view to enabling the implementation of the Project, which is funded by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), of which ASAM is the implementing partner and which has been ongoing since December 2019, a protocol stipulating collaboration with Public Education Centres was signed with the Ministry of National Education Directorate General of Lifelong Learning (MoNE - DG LLL).

The overall aim of the Project is to foster self-confidence, social resilience and social cohesion of refugee communities residing in Turkey by way of improving their Turkish language skills. With the Project, it is sought, in particular, to support the asylum seekers and refugees in labor market with Turkish language courses out of working hours and thereby to enable them to assume more active roles in their respective workplaces and to improve their employability. In this connection, it is aimed for adult individuals in labor market to take Turkish language courses at A1 and A2 levels out of working hours and to be granted language certificates accordingly. In addition, social cohesion activities and Turkish speaking clubs are organized for the trainees of the Turkish language courses.

Enabling Refugees Living in Turkey to Have Access to Reliable Information and Combating Misinformation through An Innovative Multimedia Tool Project

In the challenging period faced on a global scale with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, ASAM founded Migrant TV for the purposes of facilitating the access of the refugees living in Turkey to reliable and accurate information through effective and widespread means by eliminating the language barrier.

Through the “Enabling Refugees Living in Turkey to Have Access to Reliable Information and Combating Misinformation through An Innovative Multimedia Tool Project”, implemented with the financial support of the Embassy of Germany, it is aimed to facilitate the access of asylum seekers living in Turkey to reliable information through effective and widespread means.

Under the Project that is being implemented with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informative contents are produced on access to fundamental rights and services, mainly on components like protection, education and health, to be broadcasted in Arabic, Farsi, French, English, Somali and Turkish on Migrant TV. In this context, informative broadcasts are produced for refugees on issues such as the registration process in Turkey, rights

and obligations, irregular migration, access to education and health services, business culture, work permits and access to the labor market, social, cultural and urban life in Turkey, the legal system and legal aid mechanisms in Turkey, and access to legal mechanisms to combat violence.

Migrant TV broadcasts also draw attention to the risks and threats posed by irregular migration and provide information about entering into third countries through legal and safe means.

Especially with opportunities of face-to-face communication becoming more difficult and digital media gaining more significance with the Covid-19 pandemic, asylum seekers' access to accurate, reliable and updated information is being supported through Migrant TV.

Programs that contribute to the global goals, specifically the UN Sustainable Development Goals of SDG 3-Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 4-Quality Education, SDG 5-Gender Equality, and SDG 10-Reduced Inequalities, are prepared by ASAM's Protection Unit and Corporate Communication Unit to be broadcasted on Migrant TV.

Informative brochures, prepared in scope of the Project, are distributed to ASAM field offices and to beneficiaries at community centres.



Green Children Project

Implemented with the financial support of the French Embassy, the “Green Children Project” aims to raise environmental awareness of refugee children and children from the host community and to foster their social cohesion through these activities. With this Project, it is sought to ensure that awareness of children about climate-related issues is raised, that they familiarize themselves with eco-friendly practices, that social cohesion is promoted and that awareness of parents and caregivers about gender equality is raised.

These objectives will be achieved by organizing interactive green workshops, developing and distributing education kits about the environment, showcasing the drawings produced by children during the workshops in the green spaces of ASAM offices and finally, organizing awareness-raising sessions on gender equality for parents or caregivers.

Syrian Support Workers Programme

With the Syrian Support Workers (SSW) Programme implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), it is aimed to enable the access of asylum seekers living in Turkey to available social service mechanisms and opportunities through employment.

The objectives of the Programme include the employment of 1,100 Syrian volunteers, who had previously participated in the Syrian Volunteer Education Personnel (SVEP) Incentive Programme, so as to be placed in ASAM offices and/or other local stakeholders and institutions located in Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Konya, Malatya, Mardin, Mersin, Sakarya and Şanlıurfa provinces.

Provision of an orientation package and training materials in scope of the Programme with a view to improving the labor capacity of 1,100 Syrian Support Workers and ensuring their effective participation in the Programme activities and refugee support mechanism is also among the Programme objectives.

The job description of Syrians to be employed within the framework of the SSW Programme includes providing translation and interpretation services where necessary in relevant institutions in order to assist asylum seekers in their access to social services, offering translation, logistics and organizational support for all kinds of awareness-raising and training activities to be carried out in relation to social cohesion, providing interpretation services at events such as trainings and meetings, providing support during organizations involving



the distribution of non-food items, e-vouchers, etc., and providing interpretation services in field screening and assessment activities carried out for the identification of vulnerable asylum seekers who are unable to access offices.

Increasing Access of Refugees with Disabilities to Protection Services in Turkey Project

Launched in January 2021, implemented through an implementing partnership between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and ASAM, and run with the financial support of Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the “Increasing Access of Refugees with Disabilities to Protection Services in Turkey Project” aspires to engage in efforts for refugees with disabilities and their support persons living in two provinces of Turkey to be in a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and to have access to social protection services.

The Project objectives also include identification of refugees with disabilities and their support persons, assessment of related protection risks, raising awareness of refugees with disabilities about gender-based violence, protection, social rights and healthcare services, and development of a service map.

It is planned for the service unit personnel providing services to refugees with disabilities and their support persons in the Project provinces of Ankara and İzmir to carry out capacity building, awareness-raising and coordination activities for public institutions and NGOs. The Project’s İzmir activities are carried out at Konak Disability Care Center in collaboration with İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and ASAM, while Ankara



activities are carried out at ASAM Ankara Community Center. As part of the Project, each of the service units was allocated 1 accessible vehicle for persons with disabilities.

In order for refugees with disabilities and their support persons to benefit from the specialized protection services related to their needs, psychosocial support services are provided, necessary referrals are made and hospital attendant support is offered. There are social workers, psychologists, outreach/mobile team protection assistants, interpreters, and support staff among the Project team members.

In the Project provinces, Disability Committees consisting of refugees with disabilities and their support persons were established in order to ensure that refugees with disabilities and their support persons benefiting from the services are a part of the decision-making mechanisms and that the services better respond to the needs.

All ASAM Projects implemented in 2021

- 1- Refugee Protection, Community Outreach and Solutions in Urban Areas (UNHCR)
- 2- Strengthening Social Cohesion and Inclusion through Sports among Refugee and Turkish Youth (ORF)
- 3- Al Farah Child and Family Support Centers for Refugee Children (UNICEF)
- 4- Support for School Enrolment Programme (UNICEF)
- 5- Syrian Support Workers Programme (UNICEF)
- 6- Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities (UN Women)
- 7- Empowering Refugees and Promoting Social Cohesion in Ankara (GIZ)
- 8- ASAM Support to WHO Refugee Health Programme Efforts to Improve Access to Health Services for Syrian Refugees in Turkey (WHO)
- 9- Women and Girls Safe Spaces (UNFPA)
- 10- Strengthening Economic Opportunities for Syrians under Temporary Protection and Turkish Citizens in Selected Localities (World Bank)
- 11- Strengthening the Legal Aid Mechanisms for Persons with Specific Needs (Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands)
- 12- Increasing Access of Refugees with Disabilities to Protection Services in Turkey (UNFPA)
- 13- Social Cohesion and Life Trainings Programme (British Embassy)
- 14- Awareness Raising on MHPSS for the Refugees Living in Turkey Project (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- 15- Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Labor Market with Language Trainings Out of Working Hours (IOM)
- 16- Towards an Inclusive Workplace for Refugees (INDITEX)
- 17- Enabling Refugees Living in Turkey to Have Access to Reliable Information and Combating Misinformation through An Innovative Multimedia Tool (German Embassy)
- 18- Strengthening the Capacity of Municipalities in the Field of Migration and Refugee Response in Turkey (Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs)
- 19- Providing Legal Support and Assistance for Vulnerable Migrants in Turkey (ECHO)
- 20- ASAM Phone Application to Bolster Humanitarian Worker Psychological Resilience (BOOST Programme, UNDP –Koç Holding)
- 21- Strengthening the Human Rights Protection of Migrants and Victims of Human Trafficking in Turkey (Council of Europe)
- 22- Films on the Move: Migration from Women's Eyes (Embassy of France)
- 23- Green Children Project (Embassy of France)
- 24- Facilitating Access to Services for the Refugees in Underserved Areas

Awareness-Raising Activities of ASAM ■

The influence of local and international media on the perception of asylum seekers and migrants reveals itself through various concepts used in newspapers and on television. The concepts regarding refugees that are the most frequently repeated are observed to be based on the terms of “victim, aid-beneficiary, threat and economic burden”. Populist concerns prevail in the media outlet’s contents on refugees, and this harms the social cohesion between the local people and refugees.

Non-governmental organizations play a significant role in sharing the humanitarian dimensions of migration with the pub-

lic and informing the community on false facts concerning refugees. Ever since its establishment, ASAM has been conducting awareness raising activities in order to eliminate any prejudices related to refugees within the community. While including elements like culture, art, sports and music that unite communities in awareness raising activities, ASAM also draws attention to how asylum seekers are depicted in the media and organizes awareness raising activities for media representatives in order to support accurate reporting of news. As part of ASAM’s activities, awareness-raising activities are also conducted on gender-based violence, children’s rights, and disability.

TRADITIONAL CAPPADOCIA WOMEN’S GATHERINGS ■

Cappadocia Women’s Gathering, which was first organized on the occasion of 8 March International Women’s Day in 2008 with the participation of hundreds of asylum seeking and Turkish women, turned into a traditional event of ASAM and was held in 2019 with the participation of over 2,000 asylum seeking women. Although this traditional event, held with the aim of increasing awareness and social cohesion activities towards refugees, was unable to be organized owing to the Covid-19 pandemic that took hold of the entire world, it is aimed to organize





it for the 13th time in 2023. It is observed that social cohesion and awareness-raising activities contribute significantly to the strengthening of relations between local communities and refugees.

With the event, held to celebrate 8 March International Women's Day, it was aimed to draw attention to similar problems experienced by women coming from different geographies, strengthen the solidarity among women and contribute to social cohesion between the local community and asylum seeking women. Another purpose of the event, organized with the slogan "Women are Stronger Together!" and aiming to bring women together on

a common platform, was to acquaint Turkish and asylum seeking women with the unique beauties of Cappadocia. The women who attended the event conducted a cultural tour of historical places like Üç Güzeller (Three Beauties), Çavuşin Church, Göreme, Üç Hisar (Uchisar) Castle and Paşabağları (Monks) Valley, accompanied by the Balkan Orchestra. The "Neighboring Women's Patchwork", prepared by hundreds of Turkish and asylum seeking women coming from dozens of provinces under the leadership of ASAM Ankara Community Center, was also displayed at the event.



23 APRIL CHILDREN'S FESTIVALS



ASAM celebrates 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day, which has been dedicated by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk to all children of the World, by organizing major events for Turkish children, as well as Syrian, Iranian, Iraqi and Afghan children who had to flee their countries and sought asylum in Turkey. With the notion that every investment made in children is actually an investment made in the future of those countries, ASAM aims to ensure that thousands of children from Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan forget the war and its difficulties and remember that they are a child by having an enjoyable day, and in this regard, includes the children's festival among the traditional events organized by ASAM.

The 3rd Children's Festival was organized in 2019, which was the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, at Ahlatlıbel Atatürk Park with the support of

UNICEF and Çankaya Municipality. During the great festival, more than 6 thousand Turkish and refugee children had an enjoyable time together and played games, accompanied by animators who impersonated cartoon characters, flew kites, had an entertaining time with the Balkan Orchestra's songs, and sang along with ASAM Al Farah Children's Choir and Ankara Multi-Service Support Center Children's Choir. Thousands of children had fun to their heart's desire at the festival where there was music, games and stage performances. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 23 April was celebrated on online platforms. With the Children's Festival that is planned on being organized for the fourth time in 2022, it is aimed to bring a smile to the children's face once again and to contribute to the development of peace, fraternity and friendship between children by bringing them together.

ASAM AL FARAH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Works regarding the ASAM Al Farah Children's Choir first started when Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi and Turkish children came together in Al Farah Child and Family Support Centers that were established with the collaboration of UNICEF and ASAM. Formed in 2016, the choir has now turned into a music group consisting of hundreds of children who perform dozens of concerts with their Turkish-Arabic songs. The name "Al Farah", which means "My Happiness" in Arabic, was chosen by the choir member children themselves. At ASAM's 2nd Children's Festival, the children's choir performed on the stage together with Sertap Erener. The repertoire of the choir, the members of which receive 3 hours of training every Saturday, consists of 18 Turkish and Arabic songs. ASAM Al Farah Children's Choir performs a number of songs ranging from past to present. Some of the children visiting Al Farah Child and Family Support Centers that were established in collaboration with UNICEF can play several musical instruments. In the centers, musical instrument trainings continue along with the choir practices.

Besides the events held on special occasions such as the International Day of Peace, World Refugee Day and 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day, ASAM Al Farah Children's Choir has also performed numerous concerts during meetings organized by institutions and organizations such as TGNA Human Rights Commission, UN Women and GIZ. Expressing that they take great joy in taking part in the choir activities, the children convey that the music training have a positive impact on their daily lives. ASAM Al Farah Children's Choir has received coverage dozens of times in the visual and print media so far.





MEDIA AND REFUGEES PRESS MEETINGS

The 'Media and Refugees Press Meetings', launched by ASAM in 2016, commenced with five workshops, which became the first of its kind in Turkey, where hundreds of journalists from across Turkey came together and discussed the role of the media in relation to migration and refugees. Over 2,500 members of the press have attended the meetings up until now held in Ankara, Istanbul, Antalya, Gaziantep, Adana, İzmir and Van. The Media and Refugees Press Meetings also continued in 2017 and 2018, and was held again as a series of meetings for the fourth time in 2019.

During the Press Meetings, prominent figures of the media world, such as war photographer and documentary producer Coşkun Aral, Kanal D Ankara Representative Ercan Gürses, Haber Global Ankara Representative Faruk Demirel, TRT News Presenter Ahmet Görmez, Chair of Photojournalists Association of Turkey Rıza Özel, and President of the Turkish News Cameramen Association Aytekin Polatel shared their journalistic experiences in the area of migration, contributing to the press meetings with their presentations.





Throughout the meetings, information was provided as regards how refugees have been depicted in the media, the use of correct terminology in the field of migration, false facts, and the legislation governing the right to seek asylum. Awareness-raising presentations were also given in order to raise awareness about news generation processes, and to prevent possible hate speech and any kind of prejudices that may result from the language to be used in news reports, while focusing on the humanitarian dimensions of migration.

The way asylum seekers are depicted in the media and news generation processes could influence the Turkish community's perception of asylum seekers. Therefore, focusing on the humanitarian dimensions of the issue in news related to migration and asylum seekers, preventing xenophobia that could be caused by the language used in the media, and raising the knowledge and awareness of press members on false facts, migration terminology, rights of asylum seekers, confidentiality of personal information, and the framework of the presentation of news contribute to social cohesion. By raising awareness, the local community and refugees could become familiar with one another more closely and the prejudices to emerge could be broken down easily. By way of supporting cultural diversity in the media, it is possible to ensure social cohesion and to make use of the benefits created by social differences.



REFUGEE FILM FESTIVALS

The first of the Refugee Film Festivals was held in Ankara in 2015 and the second in Ankara, Yalova and Karabük in 2019 by ASAM, and both were joined by film lovers with the screening of films.

The 2nd Film Festival started with a gala held at CerModern in Ankara. Famous films and documentaries that address the theme of migration and asylum seekers such as, Capernaum, The Guest, The Other Side of Hope, Fatima, Le Havre and The Good Postman, were watched by an audience of approximately

three thousand persons. The Festival contributed to raising social awareness on the issues of migration and refugees and to eliminating prejudices that may come into existence in respect of refugees.

The gala of the 2nd Refugee Film Festival, which took place in Ankara, was attended by Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Turkey Eleftheria Pertzinidou, Director of the film "The Guest" Andaç Haznedaroğlu, representatives of international





2. MÜLTECİ FİLM FESTİVALI REFUGEE FILM FESTIVAL



institutions and organizations, and film lovers. During the Ankara section of the Festival, which aimed to contribute to the understanding of humanitarian dimensions of migration, Director Andaç Haznedaroğlu also came together with film lovers for an interview following the screening of the film “The Guest”. The Festival drew great attention in Yalova and Karabük as well.

Organized with the understanding that art

is one of the most effective ways to explain a subject, the Refugee Film Festival aimed to better convey the stories of refugees with the concept of migration, which is as old as the history of civilization itself. With the help of cinema, which is a mirror of human life, it was intended to increase the awareness of the host community about the issues of migration and asylum seekers and to eliminate the society’s negative perceptions towards asylum seekers.





THE WALK PROJECT

The Walk Project, of which ASAM is a Turkish partner, tells the journey of a 3.5-meter-tall puppet named Amal, symbolizing a 9-year-old asylum seeking Syrian girl, from the Turkey-Syria border all the way to the United Kingdom. During the journey she embarked on to find her mother, Little Amal travelled 8.000 km in total, crossing the borders of 8 countries in a period of 4 months in scope of this traveling art and hope festival held in support of asylum seekers. Representing all displaced children, many of whom were separated from their families, Little Amal aimed to embody an urgent message: “Don’t forget us.”

In this period of global change, The Walk is characterized as an extraordinary artistic response. With The Walk, Little Amal told the new story of shared humanity by advocating and supporting asylum seeking children and transcending borders, politics and languages. With the journey of Little Amal, it has been aimed to remind the world of the millions of displaced children all over the world, each with a different life story, and children who are now more vulnerable than ever on account of the pandemic.

Little Amal was welcomed in every village, town and city she visited in Turkey with many cultural and artistic public events held by artists and non-governmental organizations. Symbolizing children separated from their families during their migration journey, Little Amal’s route in Turkey started in Gaziantep. Drawing attention to the challenges experienced by asylum seeking children across the world, Amal, following Gaziantep, continued her journey through Adana, Tarsus, Mersin, Antalya, Pamukkale, Denizli, Selçuk, Urla and İzmir. Little Amal left Turkey on a boat she boarded in Çeşme.

With the help of the events broadcasted online, the stories of hundreds of people, who hosted Little Amal in their homes and cities along the route and who met her on the road, met an international audience. Little Amal’s walk received coverage on TRT Kids and Migrant TV channels.

Online Awareness-Raising Activities During the Pandemic Process ■

During 2020 and 2021, where many events were transferred to digital media due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ASAM held a great number of interviews, conferences and meetings on its YouTube channel. Migration Talks held by ASAM Academy on Migration on a regular basis continue to be broadcasted on SGDD-ASAM YouTube channel. So far, the online conferences and interviews broadcasted on SGDD-ASAM YouTube channel have reached thousands of viewers.

TRILINGUAL WEBSITE ABOUT COVID-19



Ever since the date of the first positive Covid-19 case declared in Turkey, ASAM quickly initiated works and shared the declarations made by public institutions and organizations as well as the information on how to protect from the virus and what to do during the days of quarantine on its website that has been prepared in Turkish, Arabic and Farsi. Prepared to provide information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, the trilingual website was set up on 26 March 2020 and has reached more than 70 thousand users in total so far.

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

ASAM produced books for three different ranges of age to raise children's awareness about the Covid-19 pandemic and to help them understand the process more easily. The books, which contain age-appropriate information and activities to increase psychological resilience of children in the pandemic period, were delivered to children through psychosocial support kits distributed in cooperation with UNICEF. The books titled "Farah Butterfly Has Things to Tell" for children between 4-6 years of age, "Coronavirus and Feelings

in My Scales" for children between 7-11 years of age and "My Coronavirus Diary" for children between 12-15 were also distributed in ASAM Al Farah Child and Family Support Centers. Based on the feedback regarding their efficiency and the interest they received, these books were included in the kits to be distributed within the scope of the SCORE project carried out with the support of the European Union and delivered to asylum seeking children and their parents in 13 more provinces.



ASAM AL FARAH CHILDREN'S CHOIR VIDEO CLIP



With the performances of ASAM Al Farah Children's Choir, the video clip of "Blue Planet" was produced on 23 April 2021. Shot in six different perspectives, the video clip was broadcast on TRT Kids and Show TV channels. On June 20 World Refugee Day, the songs performed by the members of ASAM Al Farah Children's Choir in five provinces were broadcast on SGDD-ASAM YouTube channel. ASAM Al Farah Children's Choir World Refugee Day Special Concert, which included seven songs in total, received wide coverage in the media and was broadcast in various news channels.

COUNSELLING LINE IN 5 PROVINCES



ASAM established a counselling line providing services in five languages to ensure that asylum seekers easily find answers to their questions during the pandemic period. With the counselling line, it is aimed to respond quickly and comprehensively to the information needed by people who are unable to visit ASAM centers due to the pandemic. The counselling line aiming to help all

families in need, especially women and children, provides services in Arabic, Farsi, English, French and Turkish languages. The beneficiaries who called the counselling line, which is accessible from all over Turkey, were informed about the services provided by the institutions on issues such as health, education, social assistance and how to benefit from these services.

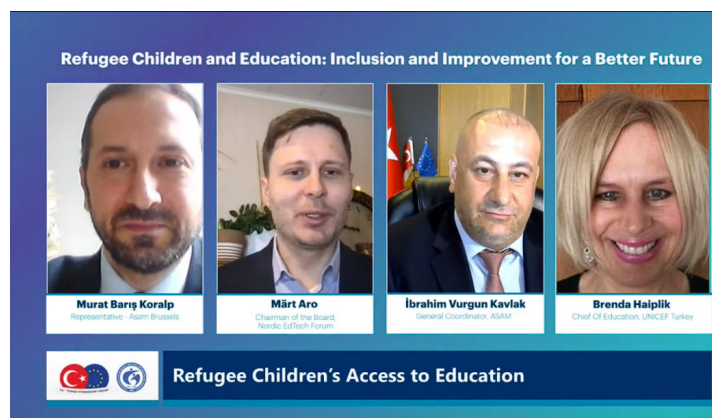


MEETING ON REFUGEE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION



Hosted by the European Parliament EU-Turkey Friendship Group and Brussels Representative Office of ASAM, the meeting on “Refugee Children and Education: Inclusion and Improvement for a Better Future” was held with the participation of over 2,500 attendants on 28 January 2021. The meeting was organized online on ASAM’s YouTube and Facebook accounts due to the pandemic conditions.

The conference, where ASAM Brussels Representative Murat Barış Koralp delivered the opening speech, was attended by Secretary-General of the European Parliament EU-Turkey Friendship Group İpek Tekdemir, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the European Union Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay, Chair of the European Parliament EU-Turkey Friendship Group Ryszard Czarnecki, ASAM General Coordinator İbrahim Vurgun Kavlak, Chief of Education at UNICEF Turkey Brenda Haiplik and Chairman of the Board of Nordic EdTech Forum Märt Aro.



MEETING ON THE 5TH YEAR OF THE EU-TURKEY STATEMENT ON MIGRATION



The meeting on the “5th Year of the EU-Turkey Statement on Migration: Historical Perspective, Practical Experiences and Future Insights”, hosted by the European Parliament EU-Turkey Friendship Group and ASAM Brussels Representative Office, was held with the participation of over 1,000 viewers on SGDD-ASAM Youtube channel. The opening speeches of the meeting were delivered by Secretary-General of the EU-Turkey Friendship Group and Political Advisor İpek Tekdemir, Former President of Romania and Member of the European Parliament Traian Băsescu, ASAM General Coordinator İbrahim Vurgun Kavlak, Chair of the European Parliament EU-Turkey Friendship Group Ryszard Czarnecki, and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and Director for EU Affairs Faruk Kaymakçı.

In the second session of the meeting, historical perspective, practical experiences and future insights on the fifth year of the EU-Turkey Statement on Migration were addressed by Legal Counsellor of the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the EU Murat Şen, Turkey Team Leader of the Directorate General of European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) Youcef Hammache, Turkey Team Leader of Directorate General of European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) Ruud Van-Enk, Secretary-General of European Stability Initiative (ESI) Alexandra Stiglmayer, and Director of the European Neighborhood Council Samuel Doveri Vesterbye.



Migrant TV

Founded by ASAM in 2020 for the purposes of enabling asylum seekers living in Turkey to follow up the developments regarding the country and the world agenda without the presence of a language barrier and to access reliable information, Migrant TV continues its broadcast life with a wide range of programs.

On account of the Covid-19 pandemic, fundamental changes have taken place not only in many aspect of our lives, but also in the digital world. Spending more time at home than ever before, people have started to utilize digital communication tools to a much greater extent in this period. With a view to assisting asylum seekers in this challenging process, Migrant TV has produced contents in many areas covering all components of cultural, social and economic life, from education, protection, health services to meeting basic needs in times of emergency.

Breaking a new ground in the history of broadcasting, Migrant TV produces contents in 6 languages, namely Arabic, Farsi, French, English, Somali and Turkish, and reaches its followers through YouTube and social media channels. Up until now, Migrant TV has reached 4 million refugees living in Turkey through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube in particular.



Migrant TV with Its Expanding Range of Programs

In scope of the “About Migration” program of Migrant TV, a variety of programs have been produced with regard to issues of importance for asylum seekers and migrants, such as third country resettlement, legal transit, access to health services of persons under Temporary Protection and holders of International Protection status in Turkey, fraud, asylum procedures, registration process and obligations in Turkey, business culture, work permits and access to the labor market.

A series of programs titled “False Facts” has been produced with the collaboration of Teyit.org and Migrant TV, and contents have been generated to prevent the spreading of unfounded allegations about asylum seekers and to provide accurate and reliable information to wider audiences.

Important topics such as employment projects, success stories, empowerment of women, cultural and artistic events, current information and news have been featured in the broadcast stream of the “What’s New” program.

Life stories of athletes and artists from different branches have been shared

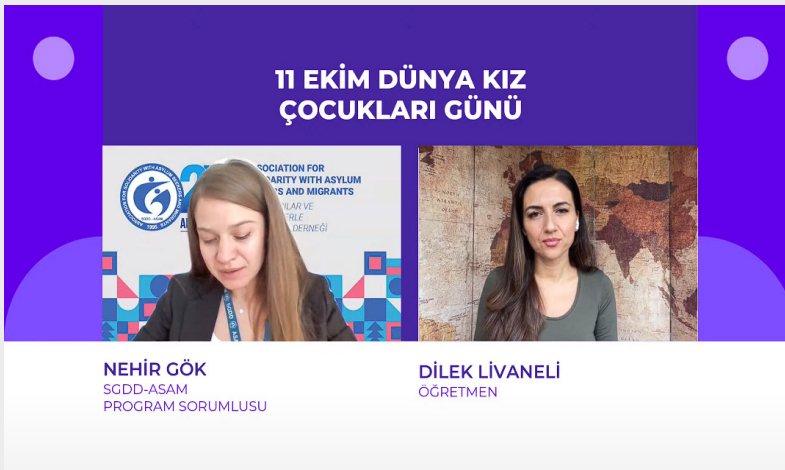
through the “Inspirers” program, while contents have been produced that include children being introduced to new information while enjoying themselves, and interviews have been held with children in the “Explain to Me” program.

With the “Migration Stories” program, a documentary series has started being prepared, which shows segments of the lives of asylum seekers and migrants living in Turkey.

A video series that provides health-related information, which asylum seekers in Turkey could reach, and explains which measures to take when faced with a health problem has been shared in the “Health Line” program.

Migrant TV, which brings together many people from different cultures, also introduced an intercultural food program concept with the “Keepsake Flavors” program. Recipes from different countries that are passed down from generation to generation are shared in the program where the stories of the woman owners of those recipes are also conveyed.

Live Broadcasts on Special Occasions with Guests Specialized in Their Respective Fields



“30 July World Day against Trafficking in Persons Special Broadcast”, “20 November World Children’s Day Special Broadcast”, “Al Farah Children’s Choir World Refugee Day Concert”, and the broadcasts held with members of the Refugee Olympic Team who took part in the Tokyo Summer Olympics are among the live program category of 2021.



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