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# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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## **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Human Resources Development Foundation 2023 Summary

Activities of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors

2023 Activities

- Support Project for Refugees Under Temporary Protection and International Protection
- Support Center for Syrian Refugees
- Combating Human Trafficking

Membership

# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

## 2023 SUMMARY

Founded in 1988, the Human Resources Development Foundation (HRDF) has been carrying out projects covering advocacy, education and service provision in the field of population and development throughout our country for more than thirty-five years, aiming to empower women, youth and children in particular. Immigrants, an important component of the population, have had an important position since the establishment of our foundation. The fact that our country became the country hosting the most refugees in the world due to the influx of refugees that started due to the civil war in Syria in 2011 has shaped the priorities of our Foundation and placed refugee support on top of our priorities list. In this context, HRDF offers protection and support to refugees and organizes social cohesion events through its 8 representative offices throughout our country in 7 cities. The work carried out by our foundation through its representatives can be examined under three headings:

1. Support Project for Refugees under Temporary Protection and International Protection – in the provinces of Istanbul, Ankara, Eskişehir, Bilecik, Kütahya, Van and Ağrı - Legal, psycho-social support and social cohesion support activities for people under temporary protection and international protection
2. Support Center for Syrian Refugees
3. Combatting human trafficking - Advocacy, prevention, awareness raising

### ***Activities of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors***

The annual Board of Trustees Meeting of our Foundation was held on May 9, 2023. At the meeting, the annual and financial reports for 2022 were reviewed and approved, and the members of the Board of Directors and auditors were discharged. At the 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees, elections were held for the membership of the Board of Directors for a period of three years in accordance with our bylaws. Hasan Hasip Buldanlıoğlu, Ayşen Bulut, Demet Güral, Nuray Özgülner, Huriye Arıkan and Mehmet Kaytaç were elected as the members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of the Foundation continued its work by meeting regularly in 2023. The Foundation's Auditor's Board, which was elected for two years at the Board of Trustees meeting held in 2022, will continue its work until it is renewed at the 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

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Rukiye Akgün  
Serpil Akıllıoğlu  
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M. Nuri Aslan  
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**Their memories are with us**

İsmet Alver  
Ateş Amiklioğlu  
İnanç Ayas  
H. Celalettin Başaran  
Mehmet Batallı  
Mithat Çoruh  
M. Ersin Faralyalı  
A. Şükrü İskefyeli  
Olca Neyzi  
Bilgin Özsun  
Attila Taçoç  
Sunday Üner

## **SUPPORT PROJECT FOR REFUGEES UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION**

A large number of people come to our country every year to work, migrate to other countries or seek asylum, and the number of these people is increasing every year. As a result of the civil war in Syria that started in 2011, Turkey is currently the country hosting the largest number of refugees in the world, with a refugee population of nearly 4 million, including 3.6 million Syrians. The number of refugees who came to Turkey from various ways and countries outside Syria is approximately 400 thousand. About 60 thousand of Syrian refugees live in temporary accommodation centers (Presidency of Migration Management, 08.02.2024). The other large part of the population is scattered in almost all provinces, especially in Istanbul and South Eastern provinces.

Refugees, who are defined as people who have taken refuge in another country by having to leave their country due to their religion, nationality, membership in a certain social group or political opinions, have to reside in the provinces where they are registered in our country. Since Turkey is a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention, the fundamental international convention on asylum, with geographical limitations, it only accepts people from Council of Europe member states as refugees. In this case, the number of people granted refugee status is very limited in our country. Persons who request asylum in Turkey from outside the Council of Europe countries and whose request is justified as a result of an evaluation are given a conditional refugee status; Syrians who were forced to leave their country and came to Turkey en masse to seek emergency and temporary protection are included in temporary protection status. The most vulnerable of conditional refugees and people granted temporary protection status are expected to be recommended to third countries within the framework of the joint work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations unit for refugees, and the Presidency of Migration Management. The final decision on resettlement is made by the countries of acceptance. However, the number of refugees resettled to a third country each year rarely exceeds 20,000.

On the other hand, Turkey is a transit country for people who take action in the hope of going to European countries. For this reason, it is also known that there are many people in our country who do not apply for asylum and try to get the opportunity to go to European countries without documents when they have an opportunity and risk incredible dangers.

HRDF is the first non-governmental organization that started to provide legal and psychological counseling to people who came to our country with asylum requests starting from 2002. Following these pilot studies, in 2003, with the support of UNHCR, psychological support services were expanded to continue in Istanbul and Ankara. Since 2007, social counseling services have been included in the current program, and in addition to the provinces of Istanbul and Ankara, the provinces of Van, Ağrı, Bilecik, Kütahya and Eskişehir have been included in the program. The program is carried out by social workers, lawyers, psychologists and translators in 8 project offices in 7 provinces. The aim of the program is to provide protection and social support to people who are in our country seeking asylum and to facilitate their adaptation to the society they live in. Our "Multi-Purpose Community Center" in Esenler, one of our two offices in Istanbul, mainly serves Syrian refugees, while our other offices provide services to all refugees. In addition to UNHCR, the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Unit (ECHO), the German Agency for International Cooperation – GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH)

and Welthungerhilfe (WHH) provided financial support to our refugee support efforts in 2023.

Although we had to close our offices intermittently in the last three years due to the Covid-19 epidemic that affected our country, we managed to keep our offices functional with the support of our employees. During the period when the epidemic started and intensified, we formed mobile teams in the provinces where we carried out our work and carried out our protection and consultancy services over the phone. As of mid-2022, we opened our offices after the epidemic slowed down, and in 2023, we provided full-staff and full-time protection services. Within the scope of these efforts, a total of 39,297 refugees were provided with counseling and access to protection and social services through our representative offices in Istanbul-Beyoğlu, Istanbul-Esenler, Ankara, Eskişehir, Kütahya, Bilecik, Van and Ağrı in 2023, and financial assistance was provided to 6,328 refugees. In February 2023, the earthquake disaster in the southeastern provinces deeply affected the refugees, and people in the region were allowed to go to other provinces. Legal and psycho-social support was provided to 6,450 earthquake victims through our representative offices, and financial assistance was provided to 2,945 refugees to support their access to basic needs. They also referred to municipalities, social assistance and solidarity foundations, United Nations units providing various support services and non-governmental organizations.

### ***Social Cohesion Activities***

In addition to providing protection and social support to refugees, our foundation cares about their adaptation to the society they live in and organizes activities in this direction. Social cohesion activities, which were transferred to the social media environment during the pandemic, started to be held face-to-face again in 2023 with the easing and normalization of the epidemic. In 2023, in addition to the activities held with the beneficiaries, capacity building trainings for the employees of new non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local governments and universities in the field were among the activities of our Foundation.

In order to determine the contents of social cohesion activities throughout the year, focus group interviews were conducted with different beneficiary group members on different themes, and the themes and contents of the activities were determined together. In addition to refugee groups, activities were carried out to improve the support capacities of municipalities and non-governmental organizations, especially universities, in the field of asylum. The themes and contents of these activities were determined through focus group interviews. Social cohesion activities carried out in 2023 are summarized under the following headings.

### ***Activities for Children and Young People***

#### ***Critical Thinking Workshop***

In this workshop, which was carried out with participants between the ages of 8-11, critical thinking was emphasized. The workshop is based on the idea that teaching children to think critically is an investment in their future success and well-being, and it is aimed to empower children to become more capable, independent and responsible individuals who can cope with the complexities of the modern world and contribute positively to society. In this context, exercises were carried out with the children on decision-making, categorization and philosophical questions in a way that is appropriate for their age. The workshops, which were held 5 times in 2023, were carried out with 58 participants.

### ***Board Game Workshop***

In this workshop for participants between the ages of 8-11, different board games were played with children and different board game designs were introduced. The general features of board games were mentioned and it was aimed to reinforce social cohesion by designing a new game together. The workshops, which were held 5 times in 2023, were carried out with 36 participants.

### ***Toys and Gender***

In this workshop for children between the ages of 5-7, the issue of gender was covered through toys. 23 children participated in the workshop.

### **23 April Children's Festival**

On April 19, 2023, refugees and Turkish children celebrated April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day, which was gifted to the children of the world by Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, together at Anadolu University Turkish World Science, Culture and Art Center. In the Second Traditional Children of the World Festival, which was organized under the leadership of Eskişehir Provincial Directorate of Migration Management and of which we are the main stakeholder, games, improvisational theater, face painting and painting activities were held for children throughout the day. In addition, our African Children's Dance Group, consisting of 7 African refugee children, performed its first show and received great acclaim.

### ***Activities for Parents***

#### ***Safe Motherhood***

In this activity, in which women who are pregnant, have just given birth or have young children were invited, topics such as safe motherhood and positive parenting were mentioned. 73 women participated in the workshops in 4 sessions.

#### ***Sexual Development and Sexual Health in Children and Young People***

This workshop, in which the sexual development and behaviors of infants, children and young people at different stages starting from infancy to the age of 19 were explained. The workshop was organized 2 times, in Persian and Arabic, and was carried out with 19 participants.

#### ***"Best Narcotics Police: MOTHER" Project Information Seminar***

Within the framework of the "Best Narcotics Police: Mother" project carried out by the Kütahya Police Department Anti-Narcotic Crimes Branch Directorate, an information and awareness-raising event was held for refugees residing in Kütahya on the prevention of drug use and addiction. A total of 38 people, including 6 Iranian and 32 Afghan women, attended the seminar, which aimed to provide information about drugs and their effects, symptoms of addiction, and institutions where support can be obtained for addiction.

### ***Reproductive Health/Sexual Health and Women's Health Activities***

#### ***Breast Self-Examination and Breast Cancer Awareness Training***

In the workshop, what needs to be done for early diagnosis of breast cancer was explained and how to perform breast self-examination at home by eye and hand was explained. The workshop was held 5 times in Istanbul and 68 women participated. Two similar studies to inform beneficiaries about breast cancer were carried out in cooperation with Cancer Early Diagnosis, Screening and Education Centers (KETEM) in Van and Bilecik provinces. Within the framework of these trainings, 30 women were informed.





MİZE  
gazhane

# GÜNÜMÜZ GÜN

AYŞEGÜL BULUT ATALAY  
İRİS BİLEN  
ŞENYİL ARMAN

10 KASIM 2023 SAAT 14.00

ETKİNLİK ÜCRETSİZDİR



EMİTİYÖ  
İSTANBUL

İBMEK



İBB KÜLTÜR





## ***Workshops on Sexually Transmitted Infections***

This workshop was organized for women and sexually transmitted infections were introduced, their symptoms and ways of protection were discussed. 45 women participated in the workshops and they were organized 4 times. Condoms were also distributed to women at this event,

## ***Contraception***

Methods of contraception, the ways of action of these methods and the well-known misconceptions about the methods were discussed with the participants. The workshops were conducted in 3 sessions with 36 women.

## ***Workshops for Women***

### ***Power Flower Workshop***

In this event, which received the most demand of the year, the participants discussed with the help of a flower template how the society classifies and differentiates us; Our strengths and weaknesses have been identified. The Power Flower workshop was held in places such as Pera Museum and Gazhane Cultural Center as well as HRDF offices. 125 women participated in the workshops, which were organized in 7 sessions.

### ***Turkish Language Speaking Club for Women***

In this program, which was carried out jointly with the Zeytinburnu Municipality Family, Women's Support and Disabled Center (AKDEM), workshops were held to encourage Afghan women living in the region to speak Turkish and to support their daily speaking practice. The workshops were conducted in 19 sessions with 172 participants.

### ***Cultural Cuisine***

In the workshops implemented in cooperation with İBB Women's Houses, women from different nationalities cooked dishes from their own cultures, told their stories and contributed to social cohesion. The workshops, which were carried out with 62 participating women, were organized in 3 sessions.

## ***Capacity Building and Collaborations with Other Institutions***

### ***Istinye University Department of Sociology – What is Social Cohesion?***

In this workshop, which was organized in cooperation with Istinye University, the students of the Department of Sociology shared what social cohesion is from the perspective of migration and observations from the field. 21 students participated in the workshops, which were organized in 4 sessions.

### ***Civil Society Development Center Association (STGM) Civil Society School (STOK) Training Program***

The approach to migration in our country is security-oriented, and this approach results in discrimination and exclusion of immigrants in most countries. Instead of a security-oriented approach, a "migration and development" oriented approach is advocated on international platforms and it is argued that this approach is for the benefit of the host country as well as the migrants. In line with this approach, an online training program for civil society workers was prepared by our experts within the scope of the Civil Society Development Center Project, which is being carried out together with the Civil Society Development Center Association in 2022. The training program is available on the STGM website - STOK Training Program - <https://egitim.stgm.org.tr/?redirect=0>. The face-to-face version of the training was implemented as a 3-day training program in July with the participation of 23 non-

governmental organization employees. In the program, the concept of "Migration and Development" was introduced and information was provided to NGO employees on protection and social cohesion.

### ***İBB Neighborhood Houses- Capacity Building Trainings***

In cooperation with İBB Neighborhood Houses, social cohesion trainings were organized for the capacity building needs identified in the focus group interviews for İBB employees. 27 İBB employees participated in the workshops held in 2 sessions.

### ***İBB Istanbul Foundation – Institute Istanbul İSMEK – Today's Day Study***

This activity was organized jointly with İBB Istanbul Foundation and Institute Istanbul İSMEK, refugee and Turkish women were brought together to determine their needs and information was provided to the participants on issues such as women's health, our prejudices, and women's rights. 108 women participated in the workshops organized in 5 sessions.

### ***Zeytinburnu Municipality AKDEM- Capacity building activities***

In cooperation with the Zeytinburnu Municipality Family, Women's Support and Disabled People Center (AKDEM), a training program was prepared for capacity building in order to support the development of professional staff in the field of migration. The training program, the content of which was determined by focus group interviews, was applied to 41 employees in 4 sessions. The trainings are expected to last until the end of April 2024.

### ***Mimar Sinan University – Non-Governmental Organizations Elective Course Seminars***

In cooperation with Mimar Sinan University, 2 seminars on social cohesion were organized in the Non-Governmental Organizations elective course given at the university. The seminars, which provided information about the scope of social cohesion in general and the studies carried out in this field, were held in 2 sessions with the participation of 28 students.

### ***Civil Society Development Center (STGM) Civil Voices Festival***

We participated in the Civil Voices Festival organized by STGM in Izmir and our Foundation was represented. In the exhibition opened in the festival area, the participants were informed about our publications and works, and a workshop on "What is Social Cohesion and Why is it Necessary?" was held. 25 people participated in the workshop organized within the scope of the 2-day festival, and more than 250 visitors learned about our Foundation from our stand.

### ***Bahçeşehir University "Harmony – Social Cohesion Meetings"***

Within the scope of the "Harmony, Social Cohesion Meetings" organized by Bahçeşehir University, a social cohesion workshop was held, and more than 50 students studying in different departments were informed about both social cohesion and the activities of our Foundation in 2 different information sessions.

### ***Social Events Held on Special Days***

Activities were planned in all our offices that provide support to refugees within a 16-day period starting with 20 June World Refugee Day, 23 April Children's Festival, 8 March International Working Women's Day, and 25 November International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, including 1 December World AIDS Day, and continuing until 10 December Human Rights Day, a number of special events such as concerts, meetings, exhibitions and conferences were organized. During the organization and execution of most of these activities, HRDF representatives have developed cooperation with the Provincial Directorates of Migration Management,



Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Services, municipalities and NGOs with which they work in the field. Thanks to the collaborations developed, information activities and activities were delivered to more beneficiaries and the effectiveness of the studies was increased by receiving the support of expert organizations.



## **UPPORT FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES - ESENLER MULTI-PURPOSE SUPPORT CENTER**

The support activities for asylum seekers and refugees initiated by our Foundation in 2002 have gained a new momentum due to the civil war that started in Syria in 2011. People who took refuge in our country due to the civil war were first settled in border cities and then allowed to go to other provinces. Istanbul is the province that hosts the highest number of refugees under temporary protection status among these provinces. Due to the increase in the number of Syrian refugees in Istanbul, it was deemed necessary to open a second support office in 2014 and our Esenler Multi-Purpose Support Center, which provides services only to Syrians with temporary refugee status, was opened in Esenler. In 2023, protection and psycho-social support services were provided to Syrian refugees through our center, and activities were carried out to support their social cohesion. While the effects of the Syrian crisis continued, as a result of the earthquake in Kahramanmaraş and the surrounding provinces in 2023, some of the Syrians living in these provinces were allowed to go to other provinces, and our Center continued all its activities without slowing down, including the earthquake victims who came to Istanbul.

In 2023, HRDF Esenler Multi-Purpose Support Center provided services to Syrians living in Istanbul or temporarily migrating to Istanbul from the earthquake zone via face-to-face, telephone and online platforms (Whatsapp, Skype, etc.). In this context, 27,110 counseling sessions were provided to 7,800 Syrian refugees in various fields (psycho-social legal support, social cohesion, etc.) through individual or group interview at the community center in Esenler. In 2023, counseling services were provided to 778 earthquake victim families and cash support was provided to 385 families. The total population of the families provided with cash support is 1,800 people.

Esenler Multi-Purpose Support Center organized social cohesion activities in order to improve the adaptation of Syrian refugees to the society they live in and their relations with the host society.

Social cohesion activities are carried out by our volunteer supporters as well as a professional team of 30 people in our center. +60 Women's Solidarity Program +60 KADAP program and health seminars were developed and implemented with the support of Nurse Hafize Gonenli Çokar, member of the Board of Directors of the Yarenlik Platform and Dr. Jale Saridoğan, Breast Cancer Screenings for women over the age of 30 were carried out in cooperation with Europa Donna (European Breast Cancer Coalition) and Breast Foundation General Coordinator Senior Nurse Violet Aroyo, as in previous years.

The activities carried out in 2023 are summarized under the following headings.

### ***Social Cohesion Activities***

#### ***Hobby Hour Workshops***

An average of 20 people participated in the workshops organized to improve the hand skills of refugee women and to support their social lives outside the home. In the workshops, women of different age groups were tried to gain skills such as watercolor, embroidery and simple sculpture making, and some of their products were exhibited at the İBB Cultural Center in Esenler on June 20, Refugees Day. A total of 50 hobby hour workshops were organized in order to provide different hobby gains for Syrian women, and 994 Syrian women participated in the workshops.

### ***Games and Hobby Workshops for Children***

For the purpose of social cohesion, 117 workshops were organized for the children of parents who came to the Center for workshops, aiming to improve their cognitive and manual skills through methods such as marbling paper printing, watercolor painting and group games, and 2,004 children participated in the studies.

### ***Rhythm Workshops***

In the 21 rhythm workshops organized for women, it was aimed that the participants gained the ability to use rhythm and note knowledge apart from the basic knowledge of playing the bendir. As a result of these studies, the participants had the opportunity to present the songs they learned in the workshop with a short concert on June 20, World Refugee Day.

### ***Turkish Speaking Club***

The aim of the Speaking Club, which attracts the most attention within the scope of social cohesion studies, is to improve the basic grammar and speaking practice of male and female clients over the age of 18 with limited Turkish through group work. In the seven-week workshops of the Club, themes such as "doctor visit in the hospital" and "grocery shopping" were discussed, and 480 Syrian refugees participated in 32 workshops.

### ***20 June World Refugee Day Event***

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, an exhibition was held at Esenler Adem Baştürk Cultural Center and the products produced by Syrian and Turkish women in the workshops were exhibited. In the exhibition, women who learned to play the bendir in the Women's Rhythm Group organized a concert. 130 women participated in the World Refugee Day event.

### ***8 March International Women's Day Event***

After the February 6 earthquakes, women came together in workshops aimed at raising awareness and discussing gender equality, as well as hobby workshops aimed at women having a good time "together" within the scope of the activities held for March 8, International Working Women's Day. In this context, 186 Syrian women participated in different workshops.

### ***İstanbul Trips***

Syrian refugees residing in Istanbul have very limited access to the city's culturally important places due to economic and social reasons. The trips aim to encourage them to get to know the historical places of Istanbul closely and to encourage social cohesion. The trips are mostly attended by women and their children. In this context, 388 Syrian refugees participated in 11 trips in 2023. The aforementioned trips were organized as Pera Museum, Cat Museum, Emirgan Grove, Miniaturk, Fire Brigade Museum and Bosphorus Tour activities.

### ***Women's Solidarity Group (KADAP)***

The Program, which has been implemented since 2015, aims to create safe environments where Syrian women can share their positive and negative experiences due to gender and refugee status, to develop skills that will support their empowerment processes, and to reinforce these skills with solidarity. The program contributes to the development of participants' self-confidence and resilience. In 2023, 9 groups of Women's Solidarity Groups were organized. A total of 90 workshops were organized and 1,105 Syrian women participated in the workshops.

### ***KADAP Social Cohesion and Coexistence Program***



The program is implemented with the aim of strengthening peaceful dialogue and social ties between local and refugee women belonging to different cultures. The program also aims to empower women in terms of practical knowledge that they can use in their daily lives, gender equality and women's solidarity. In 2023, a social cohesion program was organized with two groups. 14 workshops were held in two groups and 160 local and Syrian women participated in these workshops.

### ***KADAP Programı Suriyeli Moderatörlere Yönelik Süpervizyon Buluşmaları***

KADAP'ta kolaylaştırıcı olarak görev alan Suriyeli mülteci kadınlarla düzenli gerçekleştirilen süpervizyon toplantılarında, ihtiyaç ve beklentileri tartışılmıştır. 32 süpervizyon buluşmasına yirmiye aşkın Suriyeli moderatör katılmıştır.

### ***KADAP Program Supervision Meetings for Syrian Moderators***

The needs and expectations of the facilitators were discussed in the regular supervision meetings held with Syrian refugee women who work as facilitators in KADAP. More than twenty Syrian moderators participated in 32 supervision meetings.

### ***Refugee Women "Protection" Module***

The aim of the "Protection" program, which consists of two sessions, is to convey Syrian refugee women to their fundamental legal rights in Turkey and to inform them about the official mechanisms they can use when they are exposed to violence. The program has been implemented since 2017 and 575 women participated in 31 workshops held in 2023.

### ***Health Seminars***

Since 2015, under the direction of Dr. İlker Kayı, a faculty member of the Department of Public Health at Koç University, health seminars have been given by the interns of the university in Esenler with an interpreter. 316 people participated in 16 health workshops held in 2023. Some workshops are "gender-specific" to the participants. For example, a seminar on prostate health and cancer for men was organized for male participants.

### ***Law Seminars***

The seminars, which aim to provide information to Syrian refugees about their rights and responsibilities in Turkey, were organized by our legal consultants, and 136 clients participated in 9 seminars. Depending on the changing socio-economic conditions in 2023, issues related to tenants' rights, civil rights for women, as well as "forced" or "voluntary" repatriation to Syria were discussed in law seminars.

### ***Women's Solidarity Program Over the Age of 60 (+60 KADAP)***

Syrian refugees over the age of 60 are one of the groups most severely affected by the war and post-war migration processes in their country. In addition to the social and cultural difficulties they experience after coming to Turkey, psychological and physical health problems related to their advancing age negatively affect their quality of life. In the light of these problems, the aim of the program is to enable clients aged 60 and over to come together with their peers "outside the home" and to encourage them to spend quality time by establishing new social ties.

In the six-week program, in addition to activities that support socialization such as "Hobby Workshop", health-oriented workshops such as "Home Accidents", "Hygiene and Self-Care" and "Physical Exercises That Can Be Done at Home" were held. 441 Syrian women refugees participated in 36 workshops.





### ***"Quality Time" Program for Mothers and Children***

The aims of the program, which was implemented for the first time in 2023, are to support the development of children who cannot go to pre-school education institutions. contribute to the establishment of a healthy communication between parent and child and to create an opportunity for mothers to share their experiences, problems and solutions, to strengthen the awareness of children and mothers on gender equality.

The program targeting mothers with children in the 3-6 age group, consists of seven sessions. In 2023, in addition to informative sessions such as "Explaining Sexuality to Children and Body Privacy", "Gender and Child Education", "Home Accidents for Children" and hand skills for mothers such as toy making. 363 women participated in the program.

### ***Group Counseling with Psychologists***

In the group activities (at least one and at most three sessions) organized by psychologists working in the Esenler center, issues such as discrimination experienced by Syrian refugees, peer bullying, the mourning process after the earthquake, communication within the family, and establishing relationships with adolescent children were discussed. A total of 122 Syrian refugees participated in 18 sessions.

### ***Social Workers Group Consultancies***

A total of 821 clients participated in 41 workshops in which social workers working at the center provided information on the rights and responsibilities of Syrian refugees living in Istanbul in Turkey and access to social, health, education and services.

## **COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM**

The Human Resource Development Foundation became involved in combatting human trafficking in the early 2000s, when it became visible in Turkey, and in 2003 it became the first non-governmental organization in Turkey to launch a program in the field of human trafficking. Since the establishment of the General Directorate of Security and the General Directorate of Migration Management in 2014, HRDF has continued its program in cooperation with the new institution. Believing in the importance of international cooperation as well as national cooperation, HRDF has joined forces with international communication networks established to combat human trafficking over time. In this context, she took part in international joint projects, participated in meetings and published reference materials.

The activities of the Anti-Trafficking Programme were carried out in two areas.

### ***Support for Victims of Human Trafficking***

HRDF opened Turkey's first shelter serving victims of human trafficking in Istanbul in 2004 and supported migrant women who are victims of human trafficking within the framework of the rights and opportunities granted to them in Turkey. Our support program was carried out within the framework of human rights / women's rights / victims' rights. Between 2004 and 2016, 551 trafficking women (10 infants/children) identified by state units benefited from the Istanbul Shelter. At the end of 2016, HRDF terminated the activities of the Istanbul Shelter.

### ***Advocacy, Prevention, Awareness Raising***

Although the Foundation's Advocacy, Prevention and Awareness Raising activities on human trafficking are gradually losing their intensity, it continues to be recognized as

an organization with knowledge and experience on this subject in Turkey and in the international arena.

In 2023, HRDF experts continued their training activities for both the Foundation's staff and other NGOs.

- Two human trafficking awareness trainings were organized under a project we carried out within the scope of the GIZ CLIP II program.
- On May 10, 2023, 17 people from 3 NGOs were reached with a one-day face-to-face training;
- On December 15, 2023, 40 people from 12 NGOs were reached with an online webinar.
- Expert support was provided to the "Anti-Human Trafficking Training" held in Nicosia on 23 November 2023 within the scope of the "Human Rights Platform Project" supported by the European Union and implemented by the Cyprus Human Rights Platform.

## **MEMBERSHIPS / SUPPORTED PLATFORMS**

The main international and national networks, platforms and accredited organizations of which our foundation is a member are listed below.

1. Internationally accredited enforcement agencies of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) since 1997.
2. Special consultative NGO at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2002.
3. ÇTCS Network/Network for Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children – Turkey since 2009
4. Member of GAATW/Global Cooperation Network to Combat Trafficking in Women since 2013
5. Checks and Balances Network, 2013
6. Member of the Association of Refugee Aid Societies – Refugee Council of Turkey, 2016
7. La Strada International – NGO Platform Against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2019
8. Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (CISU) Platform - 2020
9. Localization Advocacy Group (LAG) - 2020