

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

1988-2018

30
Years



After 30 Years



When we first established the Human Resource Development Foundation (HRDF) thirty years ago, our initial aim was “to contribute to the efforts to enhance human quality and productivity as the most important aspects of social development”. Through this aim, we wanted to emphasize our belief that social development can be achieved as a result of individual progress. Last thirty years proved us right, and also it taught us that social transformations are needed for individual progress.

When we, a group of academician and business persons, first headed out, the most important national agenda was the correlation between population and development. For thirty years, we contributed to the creation of a population based on healthy individual choices that would foster development. We supported migrants’ human rights because we believe that migration movements can positively affect our country’s progress only when migrants can fully exercise their rights. Even after thirty years, population issues still remain on the agenda in our country; a fact that proves we were right in choosing this area to work on, but on the other hand it is frustrating to see problems are still awaiting solutions.

We came to these days with the efforts of our founders, our staff and our executive board with voluntary spirit. There was great support to our Foundation by legal entities and individuals. However thirty years is a long period and some of our fellows are gone but not forgotten. I commemorate them with sorrow; and express my appreciation to those who have supported HRDF.

With my deepest regards,

Turgut Tokuş
Chairperson
Board of Directors



The main concern of the founders of the Human Resource Development Foundation (HRDF) who established the organization in 1988 was the rapid population growth and the uncontrolled development of the country without any rules. Turkey has fast become urbanized, cities have become industrial centers, and large migration movements have transformed the society. For, HRDF which was established during this transition period, the main working area became the changing fertility choices and unmet reproductive health service needs of the people.

While working in this area, it was not possible to undermine gender inequality and gender based violence and within time, the Foundation added elements to support women's empowerment in its ongoing programs. Turkey was not the only country that is going through changes, many changes were happening all over the world. The increasing economic disparities between the countries, improving means of communication facilitated the transnational migration and Turkey became a destination country while it was an origin country in the past. For an organization that works in the area of population, it was a duty to provide support for those who are affected by migration. HRDF developed and implemented programs that support asylum seekers, refugees and lately victims of human trafficking.

HRDF continues to contribute to the solution of the emerging problems in the society with its programs.



Human Resource Development Foundation (HRDF) is a leading non-profit, non-governmental and autonomous organization in Turkey. It was established in 1988 by 13 founding members comprised of businesspersons and academicians and currently has 43 members in the Board of Trustees.

The mission of the Foundation is "to perform any and all activities in order to contribute to the solution of health, education and employment problems which have a negative impact on the economic, social and cultural development of human resource".

Strengthening Reproductive Health and Rights in Turkey

Turkey is among countries with high population in the world despite considerable decrease in population growth rate in the last decades. Population, together with migration moves, is a result of people's reproductive behavior. Reproductive health and rights in Turkey is still an area where inequalities prevail, violence is evident and there are barriers for exercising basic human rights.

National statistics show great discrepancies in population and reproductive health indicators based on regional, urban/rural and socio-economical conditions. Maternal mortality rate is still

three times higher than that of developed countries and there are clear differences between regions regarding pre-natal care services. Violence continues to harm women's lives in all spheres of life; honor killings and incest continue to threaten women and young girls in Turkey.

Daily news and research show that people with different sexual orientation and identity face discrimination before the law and in daily life. Homosexuals and transgender individuals suffer from maltreatment and refusal. LGBT issues are taboo in society and homophobic attacks occur frequently.

Bearing in mind the potential population increase in the coming forty years; protecting and improving the health of increased population is of particular importance. The proper approach is directly connected to individual's exercising his/her reproductive and sexual rights.

HRDF implemented many projects to enhance reproductive and sexual health of individuals and to support them to exercise their reproductive



and sexual rights. In "Community Based Reproductive Health" Program that started in 1989; reproductive health and family planning information were provided to families in shanty town areas. Women were supported to access and benefit from health centers. HRDF also worked to empower health service providers on reproductive health and rights. Reference books were prepared and published; capacity building trainings were organized for health personnel. HRDF carried its experience to other countries and supported implementation of similar projects in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. HRDF also implemented trainings and makes publications on adolescent sexual health. HRDF worked to improve quality reproductive health services for youth in medico-social units of pilot universities; provided capacity building trainings to local NGOs regarding reproductive health.

Empowering Vulnerable Groups

Prostitution has always been an issue of debate in the realms of morality, sexuality, organized crime, health, exploitation of women and children, inequality between men and women and human rights.

Today, sex-work needs to be redefined both in the context public health in terms of HIV/AIDS and other STIs prevention and in the context of human rights and human dignity. It is essential to eliminate violence against sex workers and enable them access to economical and social support services.

Although limited, there are efforts to provide information to promote safe sex behavior to sex workers by NGOs. Sex workers are under risk not only in terms of HIV or other sexually transmitted infections but also human trafficking, substance addiction and various human rights violations.

Women's Door

Established by HRDF, "Women's Door" is a counseling center providing counseling and trainings to sex workers which was established under a previous program targeting sex workers. At the initial stage of the project, the center aimed to promote safe sex behavior to sex workers and to prevent HIV/AIDS epidemic. In the following years, the works shifted more to supporting human rights of sex workers. Women's Door supports sex workers on their social and psychological problems, provides sexual health and legal counseling. Different NGOs support Women's Door; among them are STD Prevention Society, İstanbul LGBTT, AIDS Prevention Society and Positive Association.



Community Development and Empowerment of Women Program

Turkey, like other countries in the world, encounters many problems due to rapid social change, urbanization and migration. Among these problems, intensive rural-urban migration, population increase, unhealthy settlements, services that are inadequate to meet the needs of a population with growing unemployment and poverty, lack of education are the main ones and they are more visible in shanty town areas of big metropolises.

HRDF's main aim, as a civil society organization, is to contribute to development of the society and has specifically incorporated women's empowerment activities into its programs in years. Right after HRDF's establishment, one of the first programs implemented in different cities of Turkey was "Community Based Reproductive Health Program" and starting with 1998, this program was enriched with activities that are putting more emphasis on women's empowerment.

This improved version of the program was implemented in İstanbul, Gaziantep and Kilis.

1999 Marmara Earthquake was a big disaster and it activated whole Turkey. HRDF, like many other NGOs, immediately went to the earthquake region and initially established an emergency aid program and then improved it to become a long term rehabilitation program. This program that was implemented in Gölcük and surrounding areas was one of the longest duration projects of HRDF, sustained during the period



of 1999-2006 and involved establishing and running the İhsaniye Social Center. In this Center, support programs were provided not only to women but also to children, youth and elderly. Services included: psychological and social rehabilitation for earthquake survivors; PC and English language trainings for students, music and art classes for youngsters, kindergarten for young kids, vocational trainings for women; special activities for elderly and leisure time activities for all population. Later on a new component was added to this program where trainings on agricultural techniques for women and men were provided and sample orchards and equipped workshops were set up. After seven years of implementation, the Center and its affiliated units were handed over to the Municipality at the end of 2006. Another project that has been implemented in Gölcük as well as in Adapazarı and in Yalova was parent school partnership project where, parents were empowered to contribute to their children's school education by becoming members of parent teacher councils or by helping with the needs of the schools in a collaborative manner etc. HRDF collaborated with partners for the implementation of this program.

HRDF implemented a series of activities, to empower squatter house dwellers to actively participate in upgrading their own neighborhood and to support them in their integration into the urban life in Ankara/ Yenimahalle Şentepe district in 2003–2004.



HRDF, using its previous experience

undertook the task to establish a Social Center in İstanbul's Fener/Balat district. Social Centre Component was part of the larger "Rehabilitation of Fener and Balat Districts – İstanbul Programme", which was funded by the EU. The overall objective of the Program was to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Fener and Balat districts of the Municipality of Fatih-İstanbul. The Social Centre component of the Program aims to increase access of women, children and youth to basic social services to develop the sense of belonging and coexisting in the same neighborhood.

HRDF, prioritizes supporting women's empowerment not only in community development projects but in all of its programs.

Education Scholarship

HRDF, following the 1999 Marmara Earthquake in Gölcük, has established a scholarship system that brings together students and private donors together. HRDF has been mediating this financial support program for years for anonymous donors and various firms.

Refugee Support Program

Migration phenomenon is one of the important outcomes of political and ethnic conflicts, environmental catastrophes and income inequality in the Third World. After the 1980s, Turkey has become a destination country for migratory movements. Among the new migrants are those who approach Turkey as a transit country to reach Western countries; asylum seekers; those who come to settle; those who come to work and lastly victims of trafficking.

HRDF is the first NGO that started providing legal counseling (since 2001) and psychological counseling (since 2002) to asylum seekers and refugees in Turkey. Psychological counseling services were expanded to İstanbul and Ankara in 2003 and social counseling services were added to the current program in 2007. Social workers, psychologists and translators at HRDF İstanbul and Ankara Refugee Offices are providing services to asylum seekers/refugees. The program is being implemented in collaboration with UNHCR.

Our Programs

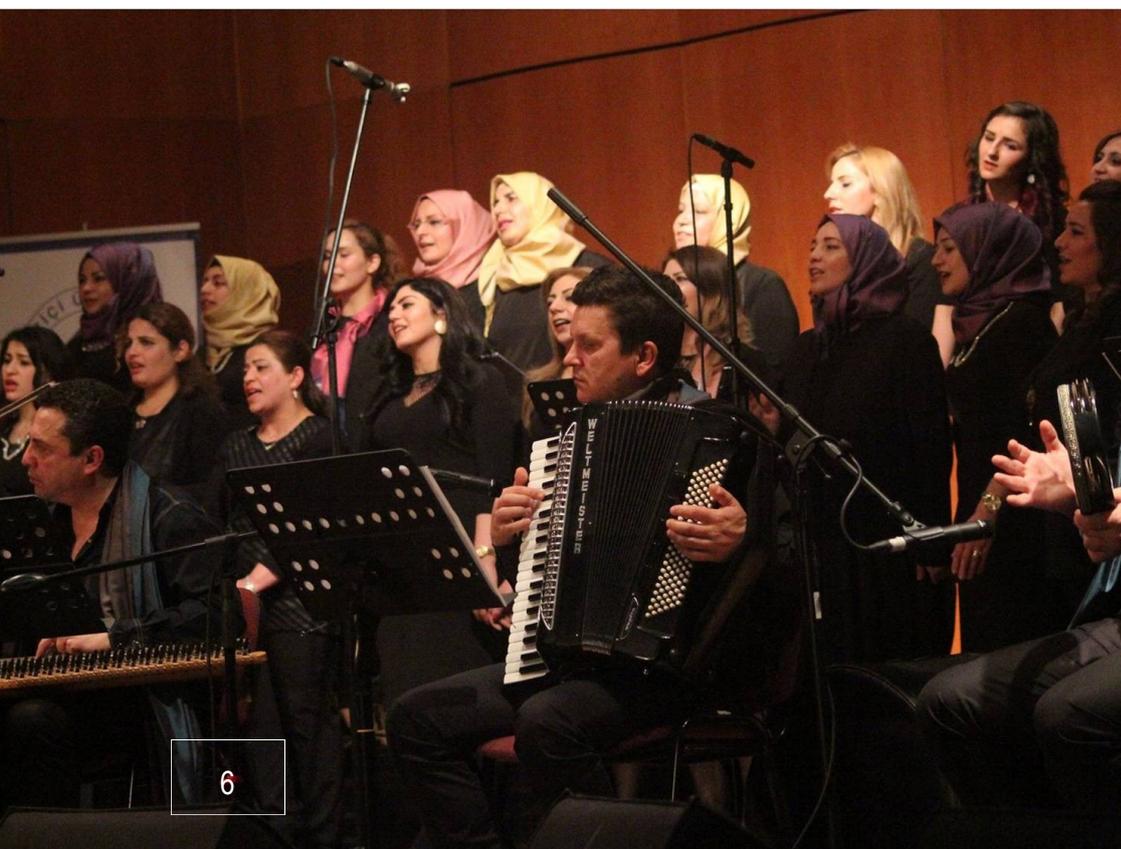
Reside in pre-determined satellite cities during their waiting period until a durable solution is found. Most of them are deprived of any social support in these cities. Local administrations and institutions lack necessary knowledge about refugees; they are unaware of the needs of refugees in their cities. Following a needs-assessment survey, HRDF's social workers started to provide social support to asylum seekers and refugees who reside in 3 satellite cities, Eskişehir, Bilecik and Kütahya in 2007 along with initial provinces. This program has been expanded to two new cities, Van and Ağrı in 2010.

The objective of this program is to mitigate the vulnerability of this group and strengthen social support. Social workers inform and refer members of the target group to access health, education and other services; they also work to raise the awareness of local administrators and institutions about refugee rights and provide advocacy activities.

HRDF refugee offices established regular contacts with local authorities and local NGOs in order to find other resources to meet the needs of asylum seekers and refugees in 7 cities. Through these relations, social solidarity foundations, state hospitals, municipalities, governorships, NGOs and philanthropists have started to be aware of the needs and started to provide assistance to cover financial needs, health related expenses as well as accommodation, clothing, nutrition and hygienic material needs.

HRDF also implements capacity building activities for human rights and advocacy NGOs to enhance their refugee protection. HRDF acts as a key actor to provide both protection and support to the target group. Increasing knowledge of NGOs, social and health service providers and the public in general strengthened protection for refugees. After HRDF's efforts, appropriate support started to be provided to refugees by the authorities in those satellite cities. Increased awareness of general public regarding international standards and human rights, improved social inclusion of refugees in the society.

Within the framework of this Program, refugees have found a trustworthy and secure atmosphere to talk and share their problems, feelings and concerns. They now have reliable, realistic and responsible source of information about asylum procedure in Turkey. Through positive feedback and advocacy activities, HRDF staff also support them in coping with problems they face in this transition process.



Combating Human Trafficking Program

While Turkey has long been a source country in the context of international migration flows, for the last decades it has become a destination country. The main factors affecting migration flows to Turkey are the political turmoil, disparities in income distribution, macro economic problems of the countries and gender inequality that directly increases women's migration.

Within the this context Turkey has also become a destination country for the human trafficking crime due its geographical position, democratic and economical conditions and development level compared to other countries in the region. While hoping for a better life, some migrants, especially women find themselves trapped by traffickers and become human trafficking victims in Turkey.

In general terms, human trafficking is a process by which a victim is exploited and subjected to many human rights violations. Victim works free of charge, her/his freedom is restrained; s/he is subjected to violence and faces all types of vital threats. Among many others; forced prostitution, forced labor in domestic sector, factories, sweatshops and agriculture are the most common forms of trafficking in the world. Men, women and children can become victims of this crime. Nationals of a country can also be victims of trafficking; however migrants are more vulnerable to fall prey to traffickers due to their disadvantages as foreigners.

Turkey has been fighting with this crime since early 2000s. Relevant international conventions have been ratified, legal amendments made, trainings for judiciary members and law enforcement officers have been organized and a simple national referral mechanism for victim support has been established.

HRDF is the first NGO in taking initiative to combat trafficking in Turkey. Initially developed in 2003, HRDF's "Combating Human Trafficking Program" improves and expands through the years. The components of this program include: Trainings/Awareness Raising: human trafficking trainings for relevant government officers such as judiciary, law enforcement and health personnel, as well as NGOs; awareness raising for general public; developing and distributing informative materials; Victim Assistance: providing support for the female victims of trafficking; Networking: National/international networking to improve the program and to be able to provide better support for the victims. HRDF has signed cooperation protocols with Turkish Ministry of Interior. HRDF experts follow national and international developments related to trafficking and share their experience in national and international platforms.

Civil Society Development Program

The EU funded Project, "Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations" (TACSO) is being implemented in Western Balkan countries and Turkey. The project is implemented by a Consortium led by SIPU International, Sweden and is composed of the Civil Society Promotion Centre (CSPC), Human Resource Development Foundation (HRDF), Foundation in Support of Local Democracy (FSLD) and Partners Foundation for Local Development (FPDL). The TACSO project intends to strengthen the overall capacities and accountability of CSOs, to guarantee the quality of services of CSOs and their sustainable role in the democratic process.





Community Based Family Planning Services

1989-1996

HRDF, as a first in Turkey, provided family planning information for women living in urban slum areas and ensured their full access to health facilities. We supported 125.000 women to benefit from reproductive health services in İzmir and Gaziantep. We achieved a 35% increase rate for modern contraceptive methods.

Orientation Trainings for Migrants

1991-1992

We assisted Turkish originated Bulgarian citizens who migrated from Bulgaria to Turkey in their adaptation to Turkey's social conditions and administration systems. We supported around 7.000 migrants for their settlement, living and employment.



Women and Child Health Training and Research Unit

1992-1998

We supported a model family planning and reproductive health training and research unit providing services in a holistic approach at İstanbul University Faculty of Medicine campus. The unit contributed to reproductive health in general by research and in-services trainings.

1988.....1989.....1990.....1991.....1992..

Contraceptive Technology Training

1989-1993

We evaluated the needs of family planning service providers and enabled their utilization of innovations in contraceptive technologies and provided them the most updated information. We organized seminars at the Medical Faculty and conducted meetings at FP centers. We translated a source book called Contraceptive Technology / International Edition in Turkish and distributed 10.000 copies.



Development of Family Planning Service Standards

1992-1996

We contributed to the implementation of family planning services with up-to-date scientific standards. Internationally accredited and used guide books were adapted to Turkish and distributed to health service providers.

İstanbul Küçükköy Community Center Family Planning Implementation Center

1992-1993

We provided quality family planning services to families in Küçükköy Municipality region. Pregnancy follow-ups and breastfeeding counseling were also provided.



Voluntary Vasectomy Counseling and Services

1992-1994

With the aim maximizing family planning services by the participation of men as well, we established voluntary vasectomy services and counseling units. A total of 1700 men accessed to vasectomy services with this project.

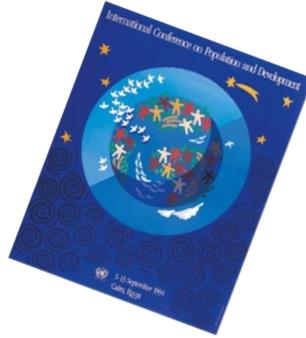


Support to Bosnian Victims – Support to Refugees from Bosnia and Kosovo
1993 and 1999

We provided treatment to wounded people after the war in Bosnia by bringing patients who were in need of hand surgery and microsurgery operations to Turkey. In 1999, we conducted a research to identify the living conditions and future expectations of refugees coming from Kosovo and Bosnia and who live in İstanbul.

Advocating Cairo Conference

1994
We promoted the 1994 Cairo World Population and Development Conference in Turkey which was a milestone in the area of population and development.



Prevention of STIs and AIDS
1995-1997

In order to prevent STIs and HIV epidemic we worked with sex workers who constitute an important at-risk group. We implemented a peer-education program for the first time in Turkey in order to promote safe-sex behavior among sex workers through a counseling center named "Women's Door". We also provided in-service trainings to STI health service providers.



.....1993.....1994.....1995.....1996.....1997

İstanbul – Alibeyköy Community Based Safe Motherhood Program
1994-1996

We provided counseling and information on reproductive and family health including prenatal, postnatal and infant care to women. A total of 10.000 women were reached in İstanbul, Alibeyköy. Information on contraceptive method use was increased by two times.



Support for Working Children

1994-1995
The aim was to raise the awareness of relevant authorities regarding the child labor. We provided information on the problems of working children to primary school inspectors and school teachers at selected neighborhoods where there was high rate of child labor.

Supporting "Women's Health and Family Planning Service System" (KAPS)

1996
We implemented reproductive health and family planning trainings targeted at pharmacists. A total of 5 training seminars were organized for 110 pharmacists working in İstanbul.



Community Based Reproductive Health Services and Strengthening Women's Status

1997-2000
Throughout the project, 25.000 women were provided with family planning, STIs and HIV/AIDS and safe motherhood counseling in Kaynarca, Pendik. Moreover, literacy courses and vocational training were provided.

Supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health Training for Adolescents

1997-2004

Our aim was to develop and advocate for a model for in-service and pre-service training for trainers who would implement sexual health education at formal education. We provided trainings and guide books to 5000 intern teachers and 500 teachers.



Reproductive Health Services in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan

1998-1999

We promoted the community based service model in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. We analyzed reproductive health services for women and conducted activities that improved quality of services.

Prevention of STIs and HIV / AIDS in Azerbaijan

1998-2001

We transferred our HIV/AIDS prevention experience to institutions in Azerbaijan. We contributed to the training of health personnel who are responsible for STIs diagnosis and treatment services and to train teachers who will give sexual health education at formal education in Azerbaijan and to support the development of a National STI/AIDS Program in Azerbaijan.



1997

1998

1999

Empowering Women's Status in Gaziantep and Kilis

1998-1999

We conducted courses to improve reproductive health knowledge and social status of women in Gaziantep and Kilis. Women who were informed on safe motherhood, prenatal and postnatal care through home-visits were also referred to nearby health institutions when necessary. We increased the use of modern and effective family planning by two times.



Supporting Social and Cultural Development of Young Girls and Women

1998-1999

We supported the improvement of the status and employment rate of women through conducting several courses including literacy courses and vocational trainings through functional education in Kaynarca, İstanbul. We also informed women on reproductive health and rights.



Sex Wise

1999-2000

We translated and distributed an informative booklet called "Sex Wise" that was prepared by IPPF to young people on responsible sexual behavior.



Post Earthquake Programs in Gölcük

1999-2006

Our aim was to meet the urgent and long-term health and social needs of earthquake survivors after the catastrophic 1999 Earthquake in Western Marmara. At the first phase, we met the urgent and humanitarian needs. Following the emergency activities, we contributed to the rehabilitation of the population at the earthquake area.



Trainings for Refugees/Asylum-seekers on Reproductive Health and Refugee Rights

1999 and 2001

We provided reproductive health trainings to asylum seekers residing temporarily in Turkey. We provided counseling to facilitate their access to health services. Women, men and adolescents attended the trainings on reproductive health, personal hygiene, sexual rights, domestic abuse, legal rights and third country practices.

Strengthening the Quality of the Reproductive Health Services through Provision of In-Service Training for Residents

2001-2004

We contributed to the in-service trainings for students of specialization on reproductive health in 25 different research and education hospitals. We supported RH training and certification of 215 assistants.



Communication and Reproductive Health Rights Trainings at Willows Foundation Service Sites

2002–Ongoing

We are supporting health service providers working in cities where Willows Foundation has project sites. We are providing trainings on quality service provision using communication, reproductive rights and legal rights modules. Up to now, we reached more than 600 health personnel in 17 provinces.

2000

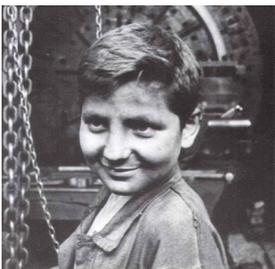
2001

2002

Re-enrolling of Working Children back into Education

2000-2001

We implemented activities to encourage children working in textile, furniture and auto repair sectors in Pendik to enroll them back in formal or vocational education system. By cooperating with families and employers, we succeeded in 500 children's reenrolling back into school.



Music for Youth

2002

We established music workshops to provide music training to disadvantaged youth groups from the slums of İstanbul. A total of 120 young people have benefited from our Project.



Legal Aid for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

2001-2002

We provided legal aid to asylum seekers and refugees and seek solutions to their problems. We provided legal aid and counseling on weekly basis.

Introduction of Model Youth Reproductive Health Services at Selected Universities

2002-2005

We supported the establishment of Reproductive and Sexual Health Units in Medico-Social Centers of selected Universities. We contributed the improvement of youth health by giving training to service providers.





Psychological and Social Support to Asylum Seekers and Refugees in İstanbul and Ankara

2002-2007

We are the first NGO that started psychological counseling (2002) for asylum seekers in Turkey. Within this Project, we provided psychological and social support to asylum seekers and refugees in İstanbul and Ankara.

Social Centre Component of the Rehabilitation of Fener and Balat Districts Program

2003-2006

We supported women and children to be involved in the social life of the big city and contributed to the strengthening of social integration and solidarity among the many disparate groups in Fener and Balat Districts.



Supporting Safe Sex Practices among Sex Workers

2004-2006

We re-activated "Women's Door" a counseling center, providing counseling and trainings to sex workers, which was established under a previous program and has become a frequently visited unit for the target group. Sex workers were provided with training to attain safe sex behavior. We also distributed condoms and informative brochures.

2002

2003

2004

Social and Physical Improvement in Şentepe / Ankara

2003-2004

We supported Şentepe dwellers through a social center; improve their reproductive health and social conditions. Women were supported to establish a cooperative to utilize their home-based labor.



Development of HRDF's Combating Human Trafficking Program

2004

We established a communication network among NGOs from different countries and prepared HRDF's Combating Trafficking Program. Advocacy, training and victim-support activities are being implemented since then.



Trainings on Human Trafficking for Law Enforcement and Judiciary Officials

2004

We implemented in-service trainings to improve Ministry of Justice and General Directorate of Security officials' knowledge on human trafficking.



In-service Training for Health Service Providers on Gender Based Violence

2004-2006

We provided in-service training to health personnel, especially to forensic medicine experts to create awareness that gender-based violence is a public health issue and also to increase accessibility of victims of gender-based violence to quality health services. We contributed to training of 500 health personnel and distributed ten thousand brochures and posters.



Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking - Shelter

2004-Ongoing

We are providing humanitarian support for the victims of trafficking. We established the first shelter for female victims of human trafficking in Turkey. Safe accommodation, medical and psychological support and translation services are being offered to victims in our shelter during their stay in Turkey until they are repatriated voluntarily back home.

Technical Assistance for Improving Co-operation between NGOs and the Public Sector and Strengthening the NGOs Democratization Level

2005-2006

We provided support for the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the cooperation between the NGOs and the Public Sector by participating at a consortium composed of British Council, Helsinki Citizens Assembly and Dialogue Development.



Mobile Counseling Unit to Support Safe Sex Behavior among Sex Workers

2006-2007

We reached sex workers working on the streets by a vehicle in Istanbul to promote safe sex behavior among them by providing information and counseling. We distributed condoms and helped them access health services.

.....2005.....

.....2006.....

.....2007.....

Cross-Border Cooperation for Effective Victim Support

2005

We facilitated introduction of international anti trafficking standards to Turkey with a project implemented together with partners from NGOs and state units in Bulgaria, Turkey and other Balkan countries.

Prevention of HIV/AIDS through Supporting Safe Sex Behavior among Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

2006-2007

We worked on prevention of HIV/AIDS through supporting safe sex behavior among MSM groups at specific districts of Istanbul, including male sex workers and clients. In this informative project, condoms were distributed and health services were promoted to this risk group.

Supporting Safe Working Conditions of Sex Workers Working in Streets

2007-2009

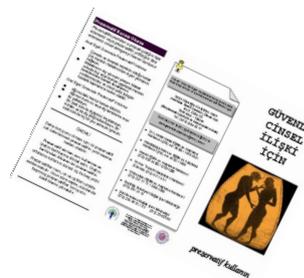
We reached sex workers in Istanbul through counseling unit to change their knowledge, attitude and behavior about safe sex and safe working conditions. Approximately 1.000 sex workers were reached and brochures, condoms and lubricants were distributed.



Increasing the Demand for Screening Services of Breast Cancer through Improving the Capacity of Local NGOs

2006-2007

We aimed to reduce the deaths resulting from breast cancer through raising awareness within the community and increasing the utilization of early diagnosis services in six provinces of Turkey where there are Cancer Screening and Training Centers. We reached 4000 women by giving seminars and peer counseling on breast cancer with the help of partner local NGOs.



Legal and Social Support to Asylum- Seekers and Refugees 2007-Ongoing

We support asylum seekers' and refugees' access to international protection measures in İstanbul, Ankara, Ağrı, Van, Eskişehir, Bilecik and Kütahya. We provide solutions to their accommodation, nutrition and offering psychological support. We reached a capacity to assist 25 thousand asylum seekers and refugees per year.



Support for the Development of Reconciliation Measures and Civil Society in the Turkish Cypriot Community 2008-2011

We provided support for the development of a conducive environment for the further development of trust, dialogue, cooperation and closer relationship between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities through a consortium with B&S Europe and Diadikasia S.A.



Monitoring and Supporting Safe Sex Behavior among Sex Workers 2009-2010

We conducted a research on monitoring safe sex behavior among sex workers with an effort to contribute to Turkey's response towards HIV/AIDS epidemic. We provided information on safe sex and delivered condoms.

2007

2008

2009



Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations (TACSO) 2009-Ongoing

The EU funded Project, "Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations" (TACSO) was implemented in 7 Western Balkan countries and Turkey. HRDF was a member of the consortium lead by SIPU International. The consortium supported the efforts to strengthen overall capacities and accountability of CSOs, to guarantee the quality of services of CSOs and their sustainable role in the democratic process.

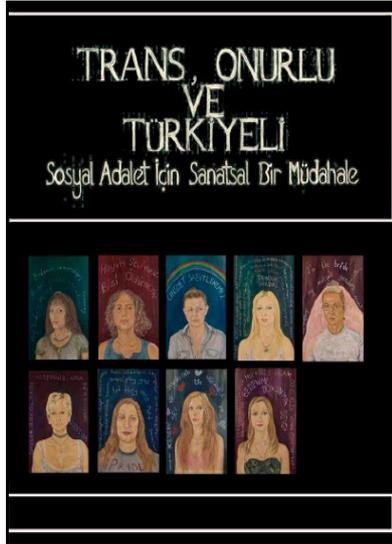
Dance4life 2010-2011

We implemented national activities as a part of a global program that aimed to reach one million young people in 28 countries to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and to change behavior through dance.



The Global Partnership to End Violence against Women 2010

We have participated at the meeting entitled "The Global Partnership to End Violence against Women" as the Turkish Delegation, organized by Vital Voices Global Partnership, Avon Foundation and USA Department of State.



Proudly Transgender in Turkey 2011

We supported an art Project conducted by South African artist and activist Gabrielle Le Roux. The Project aimed at prevention of discrimination and marginalization of trans people by strengthening their images in society. The artist portrayed 18 trans individuals and conducted in depth interviews.



Book on Human Trafficking: Wellcome to Turkey 2011-2012

We prepared and published an advocacy book to inform Turkey's parliamentarians and relevant state authorities about human trafficking with the aim of advocating the new trafficking draft law in Turkey's agenda.



Supporting Rights of Sex Workers and Transgender Individuals

2010-2011

We published a report on the effects of prostitution legislation on sex workers in Turkey. We provided counseling and legal aid to sex workers in a specialized unit. We supported advocacy efforts aiming to protect rights of sex workers and transgender individuals.



Legal and Ethical Problems of Reproductive Health Service Provision: Reproductive Rights in Turkey

2011-2013

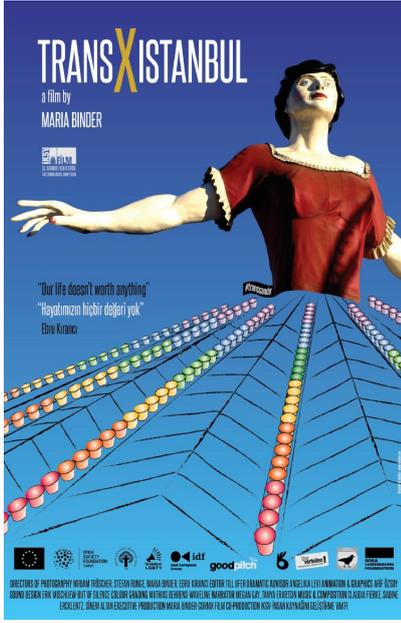
Our aim was to support the improvement of rights based reproductive health service provision in Turkey with a strong emphasis on medical ethics. We published two books on legal and ethical issues and distributed 1000 copies of each to reproductive health personnel; implemented seminars to enhance quality of services.



Awareness raising activities to support the human rights of trafficking victims in Turkey

2011-Ongoing

Overall objective of the project is to advocate for improved victim identification, victim assistance and protection of the human rights of victims in Turkey by raising the awareness of general public, relevant states authorities and service providers.



TRANSXİSTANBUL

2012-2014

Under the framework of "Awareness Raising on the Prevention of Hate Crimes Against Trans Individuals" Project, a documentary film titled TransXistanbul was prepared to strengthen images of trans individuals in society. The film was used in advocacy activities. The film was rewarded in Istanbul Film Festival and was shown in many international festivals.

Promoting the Human Rights of Undocumented Migrant Workers

2013-Ongoing

We have conducted a research on the rights violations of undocumented migrant workers in İstanbul. Informative materials will be prepared and distributed for the target group and a research report will be distributed to the relevant authorities.



2012.....2013.....2014.....2015.....



Awareness Raising for Hate Crimes against Transgender Individuals

2012-Ongoing

We are preparing a documentary film to prevent hate crimes against transgenders. We aim to strengthen the LGBT organizations' capacity to better support the trans rights.

Gender-Based Violence Counseling: Training to Asylum Seeker/Refugee Service Providers

2012

We provided training to social workers providing counseling to asylum seekers and refugees who are victims of domestic violence and strengthened their counseling skills.



Esenler Multi Service Community Center

2014-ongoing

With support from UNHCR, we have opened a multi service community center to provide services to Syrian refugees in İstanbul that have fled the war in that started in 2011. Activities of the Center continue with additional support provided by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and GIZ on behalf of the German Government.



Anti-Trafficking Trainings to NGOs
2016-2018

With financial support from UK Embassy, we have implemented a project to mitigate trafficking risk of Syrian refugees by targeting NGOs that provide services to refugees. We prepared training and informative materials, organized trainings and established a network called SİTAG (NGO Network to combat trafficking) to raise awareness on trafficking crime.

Syrian Women's Choir

2016-ongoing
A Syrian women's choir has been established as one of the activities of Esenler Multi Service Community Center's social cohesion activities. The choir has shared its voice with wider audience in time. It was decided to support social cohesion among host and guest communities by preparing a music album for the choir. The album was recorded in CD format and distributed.



Medical Equipment Support for Disabled Syrian Refugees in İstanbul

2018
Wheel chairs and other medical equipment will be provided to disabled Syrian refugees living in İstanbul with a small project supported by the Consulate General of the Czech Republic.



Migration Network in Europe and Turkey

2016-2017
This 14-month project was implemented in cooperation with ANCE (Athens Network of Collaborating Experts), ASAM and İstanbul Kültür University / Global Political Trends Center. The overall objective was to enhance EU-Turkey CSO cooperation, migration and asylum policies in terms of EU standards. The Project also facilitated developing a common response to migration management between Turkey and EU.



Refugee Service Delivery Project

2016-2017
With this project extended experience exchange between Turkish and European civil society organizations was aimed to establish permanent solutions for refugees in Turkey and Europe. HRDF was partner and the lead applicant was ICMC Europe (International Catholic Migration Commission). A number of international meetings were organised; a pilot volunteering program was prepared and an E-Learning tool was developed within the project framework.

Neighbouring Stories

2017
This book was prepared as one of the activities of supporting increased social harmony among citizens and refugees. We compiled stories that were told by refugees from different countries. The compiled stories were enriched by illustrations and a multi lingual (Turkish, Arabic, Persian and English) book was prepared and distributed to the stakeholders.



We kindly thank for your cooperation and support

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The Ministry of EU Affairs
The Ministry of Family and Social Policies
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Ministry of Health
The Ministry of Interior
The Ministry of National Education
Turkish Prime Ministry - Social Risk Mitigation Project
Turkish Prime Ministry - General Directorate of Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation
Turkish National Police
The General Command of the Gendarmerie
General Directorate of Migration Management
General Directorate of Mother and Child Health and Family Planning
Turkish Labor Agency
İstanbul Governorship
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Esenler District Governorship
İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality
Gölcük Municipality
İhsaniye Municipality
Şişli Municipality

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Embassy of the United States
Episcopal Relief and Development - ERD
European Union
The Futures Group International - TFGI
The Global Fund
The German Organisation for Technical Cooperation - GTZ
Global Dialogue - UK

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İstanbul Kùltür ve Sanat Vakfı
İstanbul Üniversitesi Çocuk Sađlığı Enstitüsü
Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning - JOICFP
JHPIEGO - Johns Hopkins Population Information and Education for OB/GYN
Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Population Communication Services Program
Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı - KADAV
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Philip Morris
Sadberk Hanım Museum
Clowns Without Borders
Türk Lions Beceri Kazandırma Vakfı - TÛLBEK
Flying Gorillas
International Planned Parenthood - IPPF
International Labour Organization - ILO
International Organization for Migration - IOM
United Nations Development Programme - UNDP
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR
United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA
The United Methodist Committee on Relief - UMCOR
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