

Orientation Trainings for Turkish origin Bulgarian Citizens

In order to facilitate the settlement, living and employment conditions of Turkish origin Bulgarian citizens who migrated to Turkey from Bulgaria, a series of trainings were organized. Around 7.000 migrants participated at 33 seminars in 4 provinces within 9 months; and the participants evaluated the Orientation Trainings to be successful in terms of content and approach. This unique project with its magnitude and the characteristics of its target population provided HRDF the experience to work nationwide and to sustain similar activities.

Objective _____

To provide orientation trainings for Turkish origin people migrating from Bulgaria to facilitate their new lives in Turkey

Date of Implementation _____

1991-1992

Funding Organizations _____

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Social Employment Agency of Turkey





Support to Bosnian Victims

Support to Refugees from Bosnia and Kosovo

In 1993, a number of Bosnians who were wounded during the Bosnian war were brought to Istanbul to be treated with the cooperation of voluntary physicians

In 1999, a baseline survey was conducted among 364 refugees coming from Kosovo and Bosnia to Istanbul to identify their living conditions and future expectations. HRDF experts developed the research methodology; designed the questionnaires, and executed data collection, data entry and analysis. The results obtained were submitted to UNHCR to feed into future policies regarding this population.

Objectives

- To provide treatment to wounded people who were in need of hand surgery and microsurgery after the war in Bosnia by bringing them to Turkey.
- To identify the living conditions and future expectations of refugees from Kosovo and Bosnia who were living in Istanbul.

Date of Implementation

1993 and 1999

Funding Organizations

Embassy of Bosnia -Herzegovina; local funding;United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



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

Durable solutions for refugees in Turkey are limited with resettlement to a third country. The waiting periods for resettlement to a third country are long. HRDF, with the support of UNHCR, developed a training program for refugees living at the satellite cities in Turkey waiting for the decision about their statuses.

The trainings were initially implemented in Nevşehir and Aksaray and was repeated in Van after two years. The trainings contained modules on reproductive health, personal hygiene, woman's rights, refugee rights, and third country practices. The participants of the trainings were asylum seekers and refugees who resided in Turkey until statuses or/and resettlement options were clear. Almost 400 asylum seekers and refugees participated at the training programs which were provided in Arabic and Persian languages. Apart from trainings, asylum seekers and refugees were supported to access education and health facilities in their temporary residence provinces.

Objective _____

To provide trainings and social support to asylum seekers and refugees in three satellite cities.

Date of Implementation _____

1999 and 2001

Funding Organization _____

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)







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Legal and Psychological Support to Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Istanbul and Ankara

HRDF is the first NGO that started legal counseling (2001) and psychological counseling (2002) services for refugees and asylum seekers in Istanbul. Upon the success of this pilot project that was supported by MATRA/KAP Program of the Dutch Embassy, psychological support services were extended and expanded to continue in Istanbul and in Ankara with the funds received from UNHCR. Starting in 2007, social counseling services were included into the current program and HRDF's team of social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists, interpreters provided social and psychological counseling services to the target group at HRDF's refugee offices in Istanbul and in Ankara. The project activities still continue.

Objective _____

To provide legal and psychological and social support to asylum seekers and refugees in Istanbul and Ankara.

Date of Implementation _____

2001- ongoing

Funding Organization _____

MATRA/KAP Program of the Royal Netherlands Embassy,
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)







Support to Asylum- Seekers and Refugees in Eskisehir, Bilecik and Kutahya

Refugees in Turkey are referred to satellite cities that are designated by the Ministry of Interior during their waiting periods in Turkey. Most of the times, these people are left without any support in these provinces where the local administrations and institutions are unaware of the needs of this new community in their city. HRDF's social workers started to provide social assistance for the asylum seekers and refugees residing in three of these satellite cities in 2007. The primary aim of the project was to mitigate the vulnerability of the target population and to strengthen the local social support. HRDF's social workers worked with translators and assisted the target population to access the health and education services as well as other support services while advocating for the rights of the refugees at local and national platforms.

Objective _____

To provide counseling to the refugees and asylum seekers to promote their rights and to facilitate their access to the services they are entitled to in the satellite cities, namely Eskişehir, Bilecik and Kütahya.

Date of Implementation _____

2007-ongoing

Funding Organization _____

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

