2021

Localization Advocacy Report

POLICY BRIEFS AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
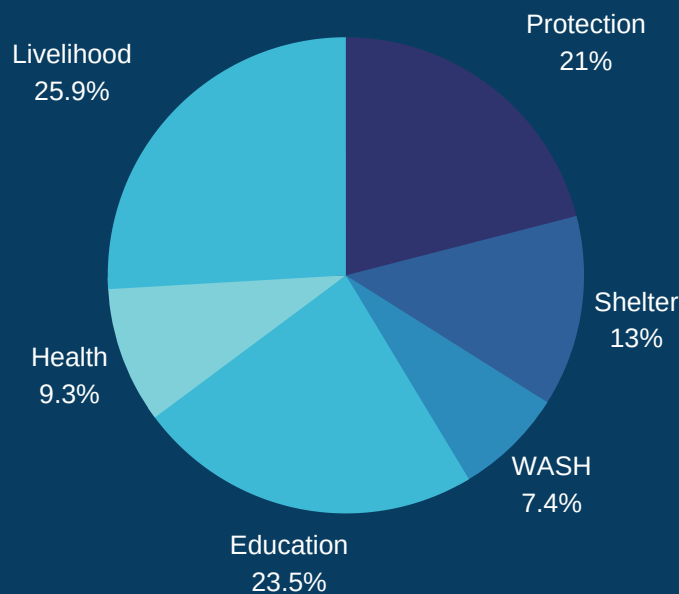*Danida*

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Reviving Communities

Overview

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According to 87% of the respondents, the conference and the workshop have contributed to strengthening the coordination and capacity of CSOs to undertake evidence-based advocacy around durable solutions.

A total of **147 different** organizations attended to the conference and workshop.

Sectors of organizations contributed to the workshop and national conference.

*Statistics were obtained from the questionnaire filled by the participants.

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO MIGRATION ISSUE IN TURKEY

Policy Brief on Social Cohesion, Economic Empowerment, Voluntary Return and Resettlement

Abstract

This policy brief paper is retrieved from the outcomes of the workshop that brought local organizations in Turkey together with an aim to look for policy recommendations for the refugees and migrants in Turkey

CONTENTS

OVERVIEW

Migration and refugee issues are among the most critical to be addressed in the efforts to alleviate the suffering of the vulnerable and thus, make their lives better. This response would also make it possible to reduce the tension in the country they are currently living in and help create harmony in its society. This policy brief provides possible solutions to fill these gaps for both the refugees under temporary protection and the irregular migrants. A holistic approach to these migration and refugee issues in Turkey was studied under four main topics in this policy brief:

- Social Cohesion
- Economic Empowerment
- Voluntary Return
- Resettlement

With an aim for the voices of these affected people to be heard, in addition to addressing the importance of localization, many local NGOs (led by host and refugee communities) came together and to input and advocate the necessary policies that would focus on the main issues of the refugees under temporary protection and irregular migrants.

1. Social Cohesion

Social Cohesion is defined as the willingness of members of a society to cooperate with each other to survive and prosper. It is a process aiming to eliminate discrimination and exclusion between individuals while aspiring to increase the commitment and solidarity between the groups in society. A socially cohesive society is one that works for the well-being of all its members, fights against exclusion and marginalization, creates a sense of belonging, and offers upward mobility for

all. The legal regulations, policies implemented, and services provided for asylum seekers should be sufficient and sustainable to ensure they may live in harmony with the local people. To achieve social harmony within a community, it is very important to meet the basic requirements such as language education. The fact that the policies to be created will have a structure involving groups within the society in an active interaction is a crucial and will strengthen social cohesion. Therefore, the policies that are implemented to form the right cohesion strategy considering a community-based approach should involve all community members and provide a long-term durable solution.

Policy Recommendations:

1.1. Hybrid Approaches Should be Supported for Solutions

Donors and humanitarian organizations have begun to support with the onset of the refugee crisis, and the focus in their aid strategies has been concentrated on displaced people. However, it is a fact that host communities are another element affected by these crises. Considering the possibility these two groups may have prejudices against each other, that their interaction is quite weak due to human nature, and that this prejudice and weakness will create problems in the social and political context in the medium to long term, should be acted upon. Considering the time required for these two groups to live together is uncertain, NGOs and donors should change their policies and develop projects that provide hybrid solutions to support host communities as well as displaced persons. The donors should also provide support for these types of projects.

1.2. Integration Studies Should Be Carried Out to Prevent Conflict Between Communities

Social adaptation is a dynamic and two-way process that requires respect and understanding. Therefore, while refugees are adapting to a new country, communication with the host communities should be improved. In addition, activities preventing negative and damaging perspectives towards them by the host communities should be encouraged. Such things like rising prices, low salaries and unemployment are among the tension points raised by host society that should be addressed. To avoid conflicts of interest between these two groups and to overcome sensitivity, it is necessary to intervene in the economic difficulties experienced by the host communities and the socioeconomic events they face daily. In addition, refugees often face negative attitudes from the host communities due to suspicion, hostility, and xenophobia. To achieve mutual understanding, integration and awareness raising activities should be carried out, so an understanding and a bond can be established by ensuring interaction between the two communities. It is critical that host communities overcome the prejudices about refugees having more access to rights and benefits than they do. In some cases, these activities should be focused on host communities rather than refugee communities. Therefore, the state should manage the processes more transparently to show that local communities have equal rights in the support it provides, and non-governmental organizations should avoid possible problems by focusing some of their activities on local communities.

1.3. Non-governmental organizations Should Have More Say

NGOs have the most useful information thanks to their detailed research and field work about the problems faced by the refugees and the host communities, their expectations related to these problems, and how much of these expectations can be realized. Non-governmental organizations are one of the fundamental elements of democratic politics, but they can have a say in policy and decision-making processes only regarding the support given by local governments. Just as the activities of local authorities without the information and tools that the NGOs have will not bring the most satisfactory results, the activities of NGOs without the support and cooperation of local authorities will not achieve the most satisfactory results either. Thanks to the cooperation of non-governmental organizations and local authorities, the society will be able to achieve a more pluralistic, participatory, and democratic structure. For this reason, local authorities should develop policies to benefit from their expertise by giving more say to non-governmental organizations.

2. Economic Empowerment

Simply relocating the refugees to a safer community is not enough, as it is also crucial to build a supporting environment that allows them to become a contributing member of the host community. One important aspect of this approach is to create a welcoming environment for refugees in a workplace which will help build a strong economic foundation. In addition, supporting the economic independence of refugee families through labor market integration and attainment of full financial capacity through economic empowerment programs are

considered as the most important factors in humanitarian response.

Early employment services are also an important part of economic empowerment programs that help refugees prepare for employment and explore new opportunities. Economic empowerment not only offers refugees a chance to earn money and make their own decisions, but also restores a sense of normalcy and predictability in their own lives. Moreover, it paves the way for contributions to society and harmonization also. Resources in economic empowerment programs need to focus on practical and proven ways to help refugees and employers access the job market. to develop economic solutions for refugees in Turkey and ensure the socioeconomic empowerment of individuals in need, the main considerations should be the expectations of the labor market, cultural dynamics, and professional competencies of the target audience.

Policy Recommendations:

2.1. Medium and Long-Term Approaches Should be Supported

Since problems such as budget deficit, unemployment, and underdeveloped infrastructure are already present, the difficulties faced by host communities have been aggravated by the refugee crisis. A common perspective about the root causes of the aforementioned problems and the effective solutions to eliminate these causes can only be addressed with medium and long-term strategies and support. For this purpose, donors should ensure that the developed projects are designed considering such problems. Rather than being problems to solve in the short term, the problems experienced in Turkey have become ones that require attention and welfare-enhancing support in the

medium to long term. It should also be considered that short-term projects will be incomplete in providing permanent solutions, and thus funding may be ineffective. For this reason, donors should support long-term strategies and funding periods that will ensure the implementation of these strategies by making a policy change on projects of non-governmental organizations and public organizations that are put forward in the context of social cohesion.

2.2. Public and Civil Society Should Support Economic Growth in Cooperation with the Private Sector

Policymakers, civil society, and the private sector need to come together and cooperate on the markets that need to be developed. Having the necessary resources, capacity, and potential for ensuring economic growth and development by creating new job opportunities, to provide this growth will help the economy to be more durable against external factors and these economic growth strategies will help develop the public welfare, and social cohesion will improve correspondingly. For the state to provide new investments and development activities in conjunction with the private sector, the donors should support projects that will increase the level of education and job training that will allow skills development for both host communities and displaced persons. As a result, the state should encourage new economic investments and increase employment through new economic policies that are developed.

2.3. Refugees Should Become Self-Sufficient

Refugees do not get the opportunity to contribute to the society they are in in a sustainable way while living on the social benefits they receive through donors and the state. When refugees are included in the education and employment

market, they will then become self-sufficient. Through personal and professional training and especially entrepreneurship training, it is possible for refugees to contribute to the production phases and create jobs and thus increase the welfare level of the society they are in. When refugee communities have the resources to develop themselves and also the opportunities and rights to help them become self-sufficient, they will nurture a sense of belonging to the society they are involved in and contribute to it economically and socially. For this reason, more support should be provided by institutions such as KOSGEB and IŞKUR and angel investors to projects that will contribute to refugees making their own economic investments.

2.4. Support Should Be Inclusive of All Refugee Groups

Considering the fact that there are women, elderly, children and disabled people in refugee groups, it is necessary to develop solutions for the specific needs of these groups. With the help of in-depth analyses, especially removing the barriers against the women wanting to take an active part in the world of work and further achieving gender equality in the vocational training processes will bring highly effective consequences in terms of both economic development and adaptation into the host society, and programs and strategies to enable these necessities will be valuable investments for the future of the society. To achieve this, the local NGOs, who are working more closely with j the refugees than any other organization should provide certain information on the needs of the disadvantaged groups by using the mapping technique and requiring there to be positive discrimination for these groups especially in state subsidies.

3. Voluntary Return

Voluntary repatriation is the free and voluntary return of a person to his/her own country in a safe and dignified manner. It is seen as the preferred solution for the many irregular migrants and other refugees. In addition to its being the choice of most countries, the dream of returning to their home countries is one of the most expressed reasons for irregular migrants. It is important both to unite irregular migrants who are already having a hard time back with their families and loved ones, and to move forward in the fight against irregular migration in the destination countries.

Although voluntary return is one of the most preferred methods, its figures may not always be at the expected levels. The problems must be solved, especially for the irregular migrants who have entered a country illegally due to problems related to economy, security, and politics etc. in their home countries, wanting to make a voluntary return. Hence, communicating with the countries of origin, trying to solve the problems that triggered the migration crisis at its origin, and providing economic support bring important results. Currently, a mechanism for supporting voluntary return has been established in Turkey and pilot studies have begun.

However, searching for a solution with monetary resources without analyzing the main crises both at the destination and origin countries can make repatriation difficult to execute. The main problems triggering migration should be examined one by one and a solution should be sought in the country of origin, while providing economical support and increased coordination and cooperation within countries related to this issue. Otherwise, the number of migrants making voluntary repatriations will decrease and the influx to destination countries will increase exponentially.

It should be taken into consideration that the voluntary return process cannot be applied to countries that Turkey does not have a political relationship, hence this process can only be applicable with countries that have bilateral diplomatic relations.

3.1. Livelihood Studies Should be Carried Out in the countries of Origin

In accordance with the policy to be determined; in countries where there are huge numbers of irregular migrants, studies should be conducted to improve the livelihood of migrants who voluntarily return with the support and coordination of government agencies. Besides these countries, in the reconstruction of Syria including investments for improving the fundamental social services such as health, education, jobs and employment creation, the leadership of Syrian organizations inside the country, refugee-led organizations and the diaspora should be encouraged and supported.

3.2. Nationally Supported Voluntary Return should be introduced

Advertising activities supporting voluntary return should be carried out by local institutions and organizations in Turkey, and policies should be determined regarding this issue to put forward the mechanism. Many irregular migrants living in Turkey are not aware of the system due to the lack of necessary information provision, and even if they want to return, they cannot because there is no financial support.

3.3. The Voluntary Return Mechanism Should Be Inspected

The situation of migrants who voluntarily return to their countries with national support should be monitored and interventions made in situations where an individual may be in danger. These monitoring and interventions processes should be conducted by either international organizations and/or the country that facilitated the assisted voluntary return process. Within the scope of the policy to be determined, situations that may endanger the lives of migrants, who have applied to irregular migration for security or economic reasons, on their return should be prevented by the states of origin based on a agreement made between the country of origin and international bodies, and the mechanism should be able to control this process.

3.4. Political Discourse Should be Softened

For the voluntary return mechanism to progress more healthily and for voluntary return to be encouraged, it is important to adopt a policy to soften or stop political rhetoric about refugee returns during election periods. One of the most frequently referenced issues during the election periods is the number of refugees in Turkey, and the politicians wanting to take advantage of this crisis are also utilizing harsh rhetoric. Rather than encouraging the voluntary return of migrants, this discourse alienates them and causes them to resort to other ways. This harsh discourse, which causes tension between the local community and migrants, also decimates the voluntary return mechanism.

4. Resettlement

Resettlement to a third country is a solution that allows vulnerable asylum seekers to go to another country where they can get protection and assistance from the country where they are currently sheltering. This durable solution, carried out in cooperation with the Directorate General of Migration Management and UNCHR, allows the most vulnerable asylum seekers to be resettled in a country where they can get the help required to

meet their special needs. A limited number of quotas are set every year for "resettlement to a third country", which is not only an application-based process or a right, and very few asylum seekers can meet the criteria that are set for this resettlement to take place.

Each year, admission countries share information with UNHCR related to the number of asylum seekers and types of files they will accept, and under what criteria they will accept them. With the detection of the most sensitive cases, the relevant persons are contacted by UNHCR, and after all the processes are completed, the final decision is made by the receiving countries. There has been a large decrease in the number of resettlements due to the low quota set for it, the fact that a limited number of countries are included in the program, and the global epidemic in recent years. The inclusion of more countries in the program and an increase in the quotas will both provide a safe space for more vulnerable asylum seekers and alleviate the burden of countries receiving intensive migration. To achieve this objective, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders need to be actively involved in this process by their advocacy efforts towards their own countries.

Policy Recommendations:

4.1. Dialogue with International Actors Should be Developed

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are the key institutions for resettlement to a third country, as well as being institutions that can serve as bridges internationally. It is necessary to identify policies and responsible ministries that will increase cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and Resettlement. Within the scope of the

policy to be determined, with the support of international organizations, both the capacity of local institutions in this regard can be improved and the burden of migrants applying to go to a third country will be shared jointly with the support of international organizations.

4.2. Embassies Should Serve as Bridges

One of the biggest problems seen in resettlement is that the quotas of countries such as the countries in the European Union and the United States of America are very low. Since the quotas set by the countries are low, the rate turns out to be very low when resettling to a third country. Considering the scope of the policy determined by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, advocacy activities should be carried out through embassies located in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries for them to be placed in the designated countries. Embassies can play a key role for placement in MENA countries, which are sufficient in terms of economy and security.

4.3. An Admission Policy Should be Developed

In addition to the value of international protection in resettlement to a third country, an acceptance policy is also important. As a result of successful admission policies, there won't be any problems related to integration, and the lives of migrants in need of protection can become even easier. In particular, the development of acceptance policies that will make it easier for the local community to live in harmony with accepted individuals may prevent resettlement from becoming a political issue and increase international support. The fact that the policy to be determined will be in cooperation with the local community will also facilitate the acceptance policy.

4.4. Border Management Based on Protection

As border management is perceived as an important and legitimate part of migration and security policies, border management policies sensitive to protection should be developed and these policies should be adopted by the relevant authorities. Asylum procedures for persons seeking international protection and guaranteeing their fundamental rights should also be adopted by the relevant border authorities to facilitate resettlement. In addition, within the scope of the policy to be determined, it is important that employees working at the borders receive adequate information and training related to the rights of refugees. In this way, individuals who have applied for resettlement will be prevented from experiencing weaknesses in the migration path and border lines.

POLICY BRIEF ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

INCLUSIVE DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR DISPLACED POPULATIONS IN TURKEY

Abstract

This policy brief presents policy recommendations on how local organizations in Turkey can contribute to Social Cohesion, Economic Empowerment, Voluntary Return and Resettlement.

CONTENTS

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCALIZATION IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The international humanitarian system is driven by external stakeholders consisting of donors, implementing organizations, and individual humanitarian actors. Within this system, the international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) face the challenge of establishing meaningful partnerships with local actors and affected populations in a beneficial manner with the goal of best serving them.[1]

There are four main models providing aid, including 1) international organizations' self-implementation, 2) direct funding to government institutions; 3) direct funding from a donor government to local NGOs; and 4) funding through international organizations that execute through local partners.[2]

Concentrating the efforts of humanitarian aid more to a "local" response has been a clear ambition for the humanitarian sector. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 1991, the 1994 Red Cross Code of Conduct and the 2003 Good Humanitarian Donorships' 24 principles formed the basis for the first World Humanitarian Summit held in 2016, Istanbul, where localization arose as a possible solution to problems faced by the humanitarian sector. The UN Secretary General's call at the World Humanitarian Summit '16 that humanitarian response should be 'as local as possible, and as international as necessary', supported by the humanitarian actors' commitment regarding funding local organizations for at least 25% of their annual expenditure and investment in the capacities of local and national actors to make the humanitarian response more efficient, effective, and inclusive have given localization a significant importance.

The localization agenda raised hopes for a less hierarchical relationship between the donors and affected populations, as it requires humanitarian aid to be delivered by the organizations in affected areas themselves since it is assumed the actions they take would be on point and they would anticipate the needs in the field better with their expertise and close relationships to affected populations. On the other hand, the INGOs, who mainly have headquarters away from the affected areas should limit themselves to funding, capacity development, and coordination activities. Thus, localization could lead to more solidarity by strengthening the capacities of local organizations and funding them while cooperating towards common objectives.

There are various definitions of localization. Geoffroy and Grunewald (2017) describe localization as follows:

"*Aid localisation is a collective process by the different stakeholders of the humanitarian system (donors, United Nations agencies, NGOs) which aims to return local actors (local authorities or civil society) to the centre of the humanitarian system with a greater, more central role.*"[3]

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[1] Jayawickrama, J. (2018). "if you want to go fast, go alone. if you want to go far, go together.": Outsiders learning from insiders in a humanitarian context. Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies, 5(2), 5. https://doi.org/10.24926/ijps.v5i2.1309

[2] Dijkzeul, D. (2021). Making localization work: The everyday practice of three NGOs in South Sudan and Northern Uganda.

Frontiers in Political Science, 3. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2021.716287

[3] de Geoffroy, V., & Grunewal, F. (2017). More than the money: Localisation in practice. Research Report, Paris: Trócaire and Groupe URD.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2017), localization is:

"a process of recognising, respecting and strengthening the leadership by local authorities and the capacity of local civil society in humanitarian action, in order to better address the needs of affected populations and to prepare national actors for future humanitarian responses."[4]

Localization is also described as being about decentralizing power, money, and resources in humanitarian and development aid. It's about local actors influencing actions and making decisions throughout – with international actors (including INGOs) stepping in only if and when necessary" (Humanitarian Academy for Development 2020).[5]

Therefore, the main commitments related to localization are mostly about areas such as financing, partnership, capacity development, coordination, recruitment, and communication. According to Roepstorff (2019), apart from re-channeling funds, local and national partners are also to be more systematically involved in the development and implementation of the projects. Moreover, the efforts of local partners are to be acknowledged through better public visibility.[6]

Localization, however, has been facing some difficulties over the years. Despite the growing focus on localization, according to the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, the share of direct humanitarian funding to local and national actors has been reduced from an already extremely low rate of 3.5% in 2018 to 2.1% in 2019.[7]

Also, the very nature of humanitarian funding is hampering localization since funding continues for 1-2 years at most, which is a very short time to develop capacities and partnerships.[8] Since the affected populations do not pay for any of the assistance from the donors, they miss the feedback stage, and this puts them in a very weak position when demanding improvements in the aid they receive.[9]

Finally, there are differences between the structures and the way international organizations and local organizations operate. Local organizations are mainly smaller and more flexible, which want to retain their independence, whereas international organizations are more supply driven. The policies and guidelines shape their actions, and they are under pressure to follow donor policies and funding requirements. Thus, donor policies set the tone for the organizations in the aid chain. An oligopoly of the main donor governments, UN organizations, and

[4] Fabre, C. *Localising the Response*. Paris: OECD, 2017.
[5] Humanitarian Leadership Academic (2021). Humanitarian Leadership Academy. Available at: https://www.humanitarianleadershipacademy.org/about/ (Accessed March 1, 2021).
[6] *Roepstorff, K. (2019). A call for critical reflection on the localisation agenda in humanitarian action. Third World Quarterly, 41(2), 284–301. https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2019.1644160*
[7] Development Initiatives (2021). Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020. Available at: https://devinit.org/resources/global-humanitarian-assistancereport- 2020/#downloads (Accessed April 05, 2021).

[8] Dijkzeul, D. (2005). Models for Service Delivery in Conflict-Affected Environments: Drawing Lessons from the Experience of the Ushirika/GBV Partnership Programmes in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. London: International Rescue Committee UK.

[9] *Dijkzeul, D. (2021). Making localization work: The everyday practice of three NGOs in South Sudan and Northern Uganda. Frontiers in Political Science, 3. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2021.716287*

the large international humanitarian NGOs determine the principles and standards of humanitarian action.[10] All of these reasons drive the humanitarian system to be more responsive towards donors than to local delivery partners.

Considering this information, even though there may be some hesitation when it comes to localization, it would be safe to say that better inclusion of local actors promises better sustainability, cost-effectiveness, cultural sensitivity, and ultimately a 'swifter exit for international actors.'[11]

2. OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

In situations where localization is successfully adopted by the humanitarian systems of crisis-affected countries, durable solutions developed by its local civil societies are believed to be more welcomed by its affected populations and more likely to succeed. Hence, the solutions given under four areas below hopefully to answer the needs of these vulnerable people and could be presumed their voices.

In terms of all four areas of durable solutions for displaced affected populations in Turkey, local organizations mainly see their role as creating an environment for peaceful co-existence and in the supporting of refugee integration into the Turkish economy. They see social cohesion and economic integration as durable solutions with the highest potential in Turkey.

Resettlement and voluntary repatriation are areas hard to tackle for local organizations as they need strong political will on the part of governments as the main drivers. Nevertheless, local organizations have identified some inclusive ways for engaging in resettlement and voluntary repatriation. They have added the need for more in-depth discussions in Turkey around these two options for durable solutions.

3. SOCIAL COHESION

● Social cohesion requires long-term investment in partnerships among diverse local stakeholders.

● Municipalities are key players in social cohesion. Municipalities must open their city councils for refugees and organizations working with refugees to give them acknowledgement and a direct voice in terms of services provided.

● Municipalities can collaborate with local organizations to support communication campaigns on peaceful existence through their social media, billboards, and public events specific to social cohesion.

● Social cohesion begins at the household and neighborhood level so Mukhtars have a key role in disseminating correct information and bringing together diverse groups to ease the tension at the community level.

● Schools are another key enabler of social cohesion among children. Local organizations need to support school administrators for

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[10] Vaux, T. (2017). "Traditional and Non-traditional Humanitarian Actors in Disaster Response in India,," in The New Humanitarians in International Practice: Emerging Actors and Contested Principles. Editors Z. Sezgin and D. Dijkzeul (London: Routledge)), 318–337.

[11] Roepstorff, K. (2020). A Call for Critical Reflection on the Localisation Agenda in Humanitarian Action. Third World Q. 41, 284–301. doi:10.1080/01436597.2019.1644160

policy and practice on zero tolerance to bullying and discrimination in schools.

- In collaboration with local organizations, high school and university students can initiate communication campaigns on social cohesion where they raise awareness and mobilize student volunteers around peaceful co-existence.

- Language is still a key barrier to social cohesion. Local organizations delivering services must put more emphasis and resources on language development.

- Given their ethnic, religious, and social composition, particular regions in Turkey need localized and specialized attention on social cohesion. These must speak to each other in a country-wide coordination on social cohesion.

- Targeting refugees alone in humanitarian programs is one of the main disruptors of social cohesion. It is of utmost importance to include vulnerable host community members in these programs and to mainstream social cohesion in all project activities and approaches.

4. ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

- Local organizations in all provinces can conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise including market needs, employment gaps, and partnership opportunities.

- In collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, local organizations can design and implement province-specific projects in a way that matches vocational training to market needs followed by internship programs.

- To ease the absorption of refugees into the labor market, employers need to invest in social cohesion in the workplace, from the top management level to the blue-collar worker. Through private sector partnerships, local organizations can lead awareness sessions around refugee rights, non-discrimination, and decent working conditions, to help facilitate their integration into the workplace.

- Establishing worker support groups among refugees will help build understanding and capacity regarding employment culture and workers' rights in Turkey.

- Through these local worker support groups, local organizations can monitor any violations of rights in the workplace and carry out evidence-based advocacy to influence policy and practice on refugee employment.

- For refugee women to engage in the labor market, they need the means to facilitate their chores inside the home, especially childcare. Project funding can be used to develop community-based solutions for this.

- Women-focused group discussions and mobilizing refugee women at the local level will help identify women entrepreneurs as well as other potential areas for income generation.

5. VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

- Ending conflict and providing an environment for safe and dignified return is the role of governments. Local

organizations can only play a key role once the conditions for repatriation are ripe.

- Until those conditions are met, local organizations can set up observatory teams within DGMMs at provincial level to monitor that those returns are indeed voluntary and not coerced.

- Refugee-led organizations can set up communication mechanisms to observe the safety of those having returned as well as to monitor the stability of the situation in the country of origin as a condition for repatriation en masse.

6. RESETTLEMENT

- A coalition of refugee-led organizations can be established to provide consultation to third party governments on resettlement application criteria as well as to propose inclusive and transparent ways of redesigning and managing the application process.

- Refugee-run information centers across the country can be established to clearly and widely disseminate resettlement related information to the entire refugee population.

- This coalition of refugee-led organizations can review and feedback to third party governments on the effectiveness of their resettlement practices.

- In collaboration with a coalition of refugee-led organizations, DGMM can develop a national position on resettlement and lobby third party governments, including Gulf countries, to increase their resettlement targets.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Durable solution proposals on local integration, voluntary return, resettlement and the role of local organizations in Turkey

Abstract

This report has been compiled from the results of the workshop where local organizations in Turkey came together and developed durable solutions proposals for the problems faced by refugees.

Contents

Overview

This document has been compiled from the results of a workshop organized by the Watan Association, Support to Life and the International Blue Crescent, funded by DANIDA, as part of the "Support to Local Civil Society to Strengthen Inclusive Durable Solutions for Displacement Affected Populations in Turkey" project.

The workshop focused on how to better organize and support the local humanitarian system in Turkey, and to improve the processes in the most effective way to help refugees living in Turkey reach durable solutions via localization. In the workshop, where both the host community and the refugee-led organizations came together, durable solutions were revealed directly from the field and from the refugees' own thoughts.

This document highlights the key contributions and recommendations of the various Local Civil Society Organizations that participated in the workshop in 5 different areas;

1. Local Integration (Social Cohesion & Economic Empowerment)
2. Voluntary Return
3. Resettlement
4. The Role of Local Organizations

What is "Durable Solutions"?

Any means that will enable refugees and people affected by crises to lead a normal life by solving their problems in a satisfactory and permanent way can be defined as a durable solution.[1] The needs and human rights concerns of such victims do not go away when a conflict or natural disaster that displaces them ends, even if they are protected at the beginning from an ongoing natural disaster or conflict. They often face different problems that they cannot solve by themselves, for which they need support until they find a durable solution to them. It can be said that a durable solution has been achieved in a situation where refugees or people affected by crises no longer need help and protection from external sources and can enjoy their   human rights without discrimination wherever they go.

Whatever the reasons for refugees and displaced persons leaving their homes, they will continue to be concerned about their basic needs and human rights. For example, refugees physically returning to their place of origin may not be able to rebuild their destroyed homes or lives because the displaced factor has made the area unsafe to live in or because their former home has been occupied by others. People who prefer local integration in another part of the country may not be able to find work or housing due to the discrimination by the resident population or the authorities, and when they do, they may encounter different approaches from their local communities. Those who resettle in another country may need humanitarian, developmental and financial assistance until they can access a basic livelihood, education, and health services in their new country of residence. In addition, durable solutions should not be understood as merely the return of the affected person to his

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[1] UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Master Glossary of Terms, June 2006, Rev.1, available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/42ce7d444.html [accessed 4 November 2021]

old home and the re-establishment of the old status quo. If a person's needs are met and they can enjoy their basic rights without discrimination, he or she can find a durable solution in their place of residence.[2]

Why Durable Solutions?

Forced relocation, whether short-term or long-term, at home or abroad, can be quite devastating for those affected. Consequences of displacement include loss of home, land, and possessions; disruption of livelihoods or education, separation from the community and family members; high exposure to security risks, including loss of personal documents and associated disenfranchisement, and the psychological effects of loss and trauma.

While the vulnerabilities created by displacement often intensify over time, the ability and effort of communities to rebuild their lives, even if they are displaced, can weaken after a while if they are not nurtured by external resources. In addition, displacement can have serious economic, political, and security implications outside of displaced communities. The presence of large numbers of refugees in host communities can strain the public infrastructure, order, and social services, potentially jeopardizing development gains. However, displaced communities can have very positive effects where local populations are not currently struggling to find jobs and there is sufficient economic and infrastructural capacity to integrate them.

Overall, durable solutions to displacement are needed to optimize the results of displacement and reintegration efforts on behalf of the affected persons and parties. All the affected people, including refugees, IDPs, and host communities, have the right to a solution to their potential problems. Durable solutions to the refugees' problems and all affected communities are indispensable for national, regional, and international peace and security, and for the creation of stable and secure conditions necessary for achieving sustainable development goals for all.

What Does the Durable Solution Aim for?

The durable solution process, which has been successful in the long term, aims to minimize the living requirements of refugees and affected communities and for them to access their human rights. This process, which requires the coordinated action and participation of many actors, covers all humanitarian aid areas and solutions.

How to Realize that a Durable Solution Has Been Achieved?

To understand that a durable solution has been reached, it is necessary to examine the past problems in the lives of refugees or people affected by crises and then compare them with the present. The criteria which can indicate to what extent a durable solution has been met might include safety, protection, access to education and public services, and economic

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[2] Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs, April 2010, available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/4c5149312.html [accessed 4 November 2021]

welfare Observing how effective the above are today can give an indication   as to whether success has been achieved or not.

The headings of social cohesion, safety, protection, harmony, access to justice, equality, and social life; the economic headings, of employment, livelihoods, and welfare levels, etc. can be examined by conducting detailed needs assessments and field observations, and it can be easily observed how durable solutions are successfully achieved via the data gathered.

Durable Solution Recommendations

The durable solutions created by local organizations working for the refugee crisis in Turkey through a workshop are listed below. Suggestions by local organizations seeking durable solutions under the headings of local integration, voluntary repatriation, and resettlement are listed in the articles below.

Local Integration (Social Cohesion and Economic Empowerment)

a. Social Cohesion

- Meaningful interaction methods should be developed to ensure continuity in the interaction of the refugees with local people. Within these methods, the focus should be on the common denominators (culture, cuisine, and religion, etc.) that will bring communities together.

- Continuity of language courses should be ensured for effective language development.

- In addition to the social cohesion policies to be established on a general scale, studies should be carried out on the social cohesion of the host community and refugee communities at a local level.

- Efforts should be made to prevent discriminatory language and information pollution in the mainstream media and social media, and good examples such as **"True Known Mistakes"** should be multiplied.

- Non-governmental organizations should be included in policy making and decision-making processes by carrying out advocacy activities among themselves.

- The concept of Social Cohesion should be mainstreamed and considered in policy making processes.

- Non-governmental organizations should raise awareness on the positive aspects of hosting refugees with people such as artists, local leaders, and influencers, and through tools such as public service announcements, short films, and advertisements.

- Long-term strategic planning should be done for non-governmental organizations and public institutions to offer durable solutions within the context of social cohesion.

- Non-governmental organizations should develop their strategies in a coordinated manner and develop projects that complement each other.

b. Economic Empowerment

- Since male participation will be much higher in employment-oriented projects based on unskilled labor or physical strength, the cultural dynamics and living conditions of the target group should be analyzed, thus incentives that include income-generating activities for women should be given.

- In cultural structures that impose responsibilities on women at home (obligations of individuals in need of care, and housework, etc.), women should be supported in the work they can do from home (household production) or they should be included in production/sale-oriented structures that do not include mandatory working hours (women's cooperatives).

- Prevention should be taken for women who are not able to work in jobs that they usually do due to family pressure, and awareness training on gender equality should be organized for family members and the family's awareness should be raised.

- Role model studies should be carried out for women to gain self-confidence, and the benefits that can be provided to both households and society should be conveyed, and leaders should be included in these processes.

- Household members should be educated to ensure that women are not pressured in any way in terms of working hours and the nature of the job (perhaps in collision with the cultural norms) in the employment process, and thus training should be included in employment projects.

- During the pandemic process, business lines with increasing supply such as couriers, deliveries, logistics, and digital trade should be researched, and projects related to these business areas should be developed.

- To create complementary projects by different institutions and avoid duplication, a structure should be established that can carry out the task of coordination, including all fund calls. To be binding on this issue, the support of public authorities should be sought, and an umbrella structure should be established.

- Vocational training should be given within companies that can create employment or in equipped vocational training workshops accepted by the companies, rather than Public Education Centers.

- Awareness seminars should be held to show that economic assistance is not a regular income generation method.

- Public inspections should be increased to prevent unregistered employment and refugees should be encouraged into registered employment.

- The advantages of formal employment should be communicated to both workers and employers in detail, and they should be informed about the sanctions they may face otherwise.

- Programs that provide incentives for registered employment should be given and awareness studies should be conducted on this issue. In this context, support should be provided for work permit application processes and the payment of fees. In addition, incentives should be provided to companies that employ registered workers.

- Social skills development training must be included in projects aiming at socioeconomic empowerment.

- In vocational training projects carried out to ensure that immigrants work in decent jobs, attendance to the course should be made compulsory, and daily subsistence support should be provided in a way that will eliminate the need for the project beneficiary to work in another job during the course.

- In vocational education projects, when determining the vocational education modules, preliminary research should be done, and the module should be determined according to the local job opportunities, and even, if possible, a preliminary agreement should be made with the employment provider companies. In the vocational training to be carried out in this way, the companies providing employment should be included in the vocational training processes (trainee selection period, and the determination of the vocational training module and content).

- Necessary implementation support should be provided by providing cooperation (if possible, at the level of the General Directorate) for the inclusion of refugees in the incentive programs carried out by İŞKUR. In this regard, actions such as translation support, making announcements in different languages, identifying companies that can benefit from incentives, and mediating between the applicant company/İŞKUR should be put forward.

- Efforts should be made to ensure that every step taken is a step to reduce unemployment for the immigrant community as well.

- Entrepreneurship and cooperatives should be brought to the agenda more frequently.

Voluntary Return

- The causes of irregular migration for non-Syrians should be addressed in the countries of origin and solutions should be sought there to decrease the numbers.

- Livelihood activities such as supporting self-employment opportunities for returnees, job placement, cash support, and basic needs support should be carried out to encourage voluntary repatriation to countries of origin.

- Coordination and cooperation should be increased by establishing closer communication with the Immigration units and Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs of the countries of origin, excluding Syrian refugees.

- Promote and support the leadership of Syrian organizations within the country, refugee-led organizations, and the diaspora in Syria's reconstruction, including investments in improving basic social services such as health, education, jobs, and job creation.

- Irregular migrants who accept a voluntary return should be provided with basic needs support during their return process.

- Forms signed for voluntary return must be translated in the migrant's native language with translation support.

- Voluntary legal support should be provided during the voluntary return process.

- Refugee law training given in bar associations should be provided with more comprehensive content, and more legal representatives should be able to access these training programs.

- Political discourse on refugee returns during election periods should be softened and/or stopped via advocacy efforts of the INGOs and LNGOs, thus raising awareness.

- The voluntary return mechanism should be made available and operative in case irregular migrants who want to return but lack economical resources. If there are no economical causes, then the mechanism should not be promoted to abide by humanitarian standards.

- The voluntary return mechanism should be supervised and inspected and be kept in constant contact with those whose return process have been completed, and they should be informed about their security situation.

Resettlement

- Cooperation and advocacy meetings should be held between the government and UNHCR/IOM on Resettlement.

- After this study, a board/committee (jury) should be established, negotiations should be held with public institutions on Resettlement, an element of political pressure should be created, and a position should be taken nationally.

- A board/committee should be established by the Localization Advocacy Group and discussions should be held with the relevant authorities on Resettlement.

- For countries to set higher quotas and soften the criteria, a board should be established that will take an active part in this issue, and the implementation of this strategy should be developed by creating an advocacy strategy.

- Cooperation should be made with local non-governmental organizations to transmit application documents to a third country more rapidly to speed up the process.

- A common ground should be established on the prioritization of third-country files; the Migration Administration, UNHCR and IOM should be consulted on this issue. In addition, there should be more cooperation with non-governmental organizations related to cases.

- Middle East and North Africa (MENA) should also support advocacy efforts on resettlement, and support should be sought in this regard through embassies.

- Work should also be carried out on resettlement in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

- The consultants should give more information to migrants before they are resettled to a third country about what they will face in the countries they are going to.

Role of Local Organizations

- Social cohesion and economic integration require long-term investments in various local stakeholder partnerships.

- Municipalities, mukhtars, and schools and universities are the key actors in social cohesion. Communication campaigns and various activities related to social cohesion can be carried out in cooperation with local organizations; volunteers can be mobilized.

- Language is still a serious obstacle for social cohesion. Service-providing institutions and local organizations should devote more resources to education and language development.

- A platform can be set up so that the localized social adaptation studies specific to different provinces and regions of Turkey can learn from each other and act in coordination

- It is appropriate that refugees should not be targeted alone in humanitarian aid programs and that social cohesion should be mainstreamed in all refugee work.

- Local organizations in all provinces can conduct a stakeholder mapping study that includes market needs, employment gaps, and partnership opportunities.

- In cooperation with professional chambers, local organizations can carry out provincial-specific projects and link vocational education to recruitment to match market needs.

- It would be an important step for employers to invest in social cohesion in the workplace, from the senior management level to the blue-collar worker, in cooperation with local organizations.

- Local organizations can form worker support groups with refugees and create a capacity on employment culture and employee rights in Turkey.

- Through these worker support groups; local organizations can monitor workplace rights violations and influence employment-related policies and practices.

- For refugee women to enter the labor market, local organizations can develop community-based solutions that support childcare.

- Through women-oriented group interviews, local organizations can mobilize refugee women at the local level and identify women entrepreneurs and potential income-generating areas.

- Consultation can be given to the relevant governments on resettlement by a coalition formed by refugee organizations. In this way, it can be ensured that the criteria and processes for applying to a third country are improved, made inclusive and transparent, and that a feedback procedure on the effectiveness of the applications is provided.

- Information centers operated by refugees can be established that will share information about resettlement to the entire refugee population openly and widely throughout Turkey.

- Refugee organizations can lobby third-country governments for resettlement in cooperation with the Directorate General of Migration Management.

- Local organizations at the provincial level can set up observation teams until safe and dignified return conditions are met, and to monitor the returns are voluntary.

- Refugee organizations can establish monitoring and communication mechanisms to monitor the safety of the returnees, monitor the situation in the country of origin, and confirm the conditions for their return have been met.

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