

STRATEGIC NOTE

Türkiye

2022-2025





Photo: UN Women/İlkin Eskipehlivan

INTRODUCTION

TÜRKİYE'S GENDER EQUALITY LANDSCAPE

COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

Türkiye is an upper middle-income country with an average annual GDP growth rate of the 4.8 percent in the last two decades.^{1,2} Its resident population is almost 84.7 million.³ In addition, Türkiye hosts approximately 4 million persons under international and temporary protection, the largest number of any country in the world.

Türkiye has made significant progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030, in particular in terms of eliminating absolute poverty and hunger (SDGs 1 and 2) and access to basic services including health, education,

clean water and sanitation, and energy (SDGs 3, 4, 6, 7, and 15).⁴ Gaps remain in the achievement of other SDGs, including SDG 5 on Gender Equality, and in ensuring that progress is made for all groups of society in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

On 6 February 2023, Türkiye was struck by two significant earthquakes, causing widespread devastation in the south-east region. More than 50,000 people lost their lives and more than 100,000 were injured. The earthquake affected 11 provinces with a total population of around 15.6 million.⁵

1. World Bank (2021). Country overview ([online](#)).
2. United Nations Country Team in Türkiye (2021). United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2021-2025. ([available online](#))
3. Turkish Statistical Institution (2021). Address Based Population Registration System. ([online](#))
4. United Nations Country Team in Türkiye (2021). United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2021-2025
5. OCHA. ReliefWeb: Türkiye Humanitarian Needs and Response Overview - Interim Update (Published 11 April 2023). ([online](#))



Photo: UN Women/İlkin Eskişehlivan

GENDER EQUALITY SNAPSHOT

Over the past two decades, Türkiye has made progress in advancing gender equality through legal reforms. Türkiye is a signatory to all UN human rights treaties, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol. It was the first country to sign (2011) and ratify (2012) the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). On March 20, 2021, Türkiye announced its withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention.⁶

Türkiye's 11th National Development Plan 2019-2023 contains goals and measures to empower women, prevent discrimination against them, and to ensure that women have equal access to the rights, opportunities and services available to men. Other policy documents adopted include the National Strategy and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment (2018-2023), the National Action Plan on Combating Violence and Women (2016 -2020) and the National Action Plan on Women's Employment (2016-2018).

Despite current legislation and policies, gender inequalities persist. As measured by the World Economic Forum, Türkiye ranked 124th out of 146 countries in terms of gender gap in 2022, down from 105th place in 2006.⁷ Another report by the UN Development Programme places Türkiye at rank 48 on the Human Development Index, and 17 places lower (65 out of 191 countries) on the Gender Inequality Index.⁸

The challenges that remain include violence against women and girls; low levels of women's participation in decision making and in economic, public and political life; gaps in implementation of existing laws and policies; and discriminatory stereotypes and restrictive social norms. Existing risks, vulnerabilities and inequalities faced by women and girls have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁹ Further 2021 statistics are available from the latest [Gender Statistics report](#) by UN Women.

6. UN Women Türkiye Country Office (2021). *Statement by UN Women on Türkiye's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention.* ([available online](#)).

7. World Economic Forum (2006 and 2022). *Global Gender Gap Reports.* ([available online](#))

8. UNDP (2022). *Human Development 2022.* ([available online](#))

9. UN Women Türkiye Country Office (2022). *Gender Statistics 2021 Brochure.* ([available online](#))

TÜRKİYE'S GENDER EQUALITY SNAPSHOT

figure 1

Gender Inequality Index

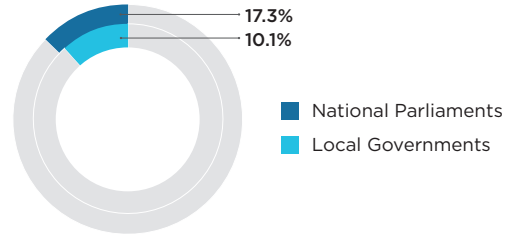


UNDP (2022). Human Development Report. (Note: Figure provided is for 2021)

figure 2

Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

Governance and Participation in Public Life

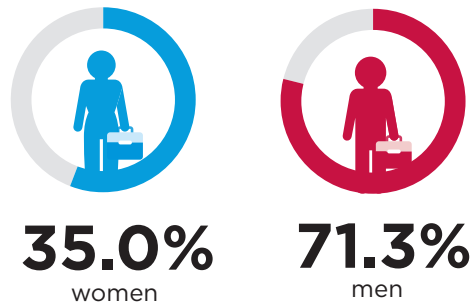


UNDESA (2022). SDG Indicator Global database. Extracted on Dec 2022. (Note (a): Lower Chamber or Unicameral; data valid as of 1 Jan of given year based on the number of seats filled in parliament at the time. Note (b): Based on administrative data on most recent election results (2019) at the level of metropolitan municipalities, municipalities, and provinces).

figure 3

Labor force participation by sex

Women's Economic Empowerment

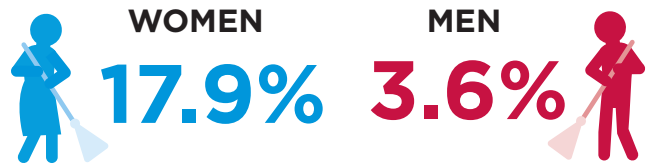


Turkish Statistical Institute (2022). Labour Force Statistics. (Note: Data are as of 30 Sep 2022 published on 10 Nov 2022).

figure 4

Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age, and location

Women's Economic Empowerment

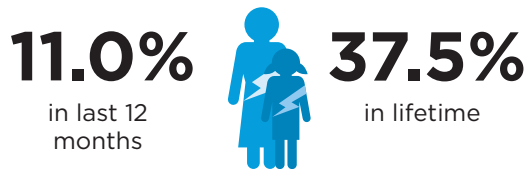


Turkish Statistical Institute (2015). Time Use Survey.

figure 5

Proportion of ever-married women and girls (15-59) subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner

Ending Violence against Women

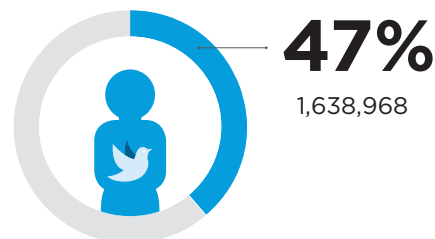


Hacettepe University and Ministry of Family and Social Policies (2014). Research on Domestic Violence Against Women.

figure 6

Number and percentage of Syrian women under temporary protection in Türkiye

Women, Peace and Security, Humanitarian Action, and Disaster Risk Reduction



Ministry of Interior of Türkiye, Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) (2023). Up-to-date Statistics Temporary Protection (Note: Data is as of January 2023)

UN WOMEN STRATEGIC NOTE: A roadmap to gender equality

The Strategic Note (SN) articulates the multi-year strategy, rationale, envisioned results, targets, and resource requirements for a UN Women Office. In essence, the SN provides a roadmap for improving the lives of women and girls in the context where UN Women operates. It is developed in consultation with key partners and in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), UN Women's Strategic Plan and key national, regional, and global gender equality priorities. SNs are funded by a combination of core (loosely earmarked) and non-core resources (earmarked).

UN Women's SN is similar to a Country Programme Document (CPD) used by other UN entities.

UN WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS

UN Women Türkiye has been at the forefront of support for Türkiye's continuous commitment to implement international norms and standards on women's rights, and the enhancement and implementation of relevant national legal and policy frameworks. UN Women has collaborated with central and local level government authorities; civil society organizations including women's organizations and platforms; academia; private-sector companies; and other UN agencies. Our commitment to the Leaving No One Behind principle manifests itself by targeted actions to remove the obstacles that vulnerable and marginalized groups of women face in accessing their rights and to promote them as agents of change.

In the previous Strategic Note (SN) period, UN Women Türkiye has focused on initiatives in the following areas (please click on each to find out more):

- [Leadership and political participation](#)
- [Ending violence against women and girls](#)
- [Refugee response](#)
- [Gender-responsive planning and budgeting](#)
- [Private sector partnerships and male engagement](#)
- [Strengthening civil society capacities and multi-stakeholder partnerships](#)
- [UN system coordination](#)

UN Women Türkiye's key achievements (2021)

The Presidency of Strategy and Budget of the Government of Türkiye introduced **new requirements in the national Budget Preparation Guideline** for consideration of needs and priorities of women and men and disaggregated indicators in provisions of public services.

7,447 REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS in Gaziantep and Izmir had access to psychosocial support and referral services (legal, health, education and employment-related) in 2021.

MORE THAN 22,000 WOMEN SURVIVORS of child, early and forced marriages saw response by service providers with increased capacities in 2021.

20 MILLION PEOPLE were reached and delivered messages via social media on combating violence against women with the Raise Your Voice campaign in 2021.

18 women's organizations and women-led civil society organizations gained access to funding for strengthening their institutional capacities in 2021.

400 BUSINESSES have signed up to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) as of the end of 2021. Türkiye has the second-highest number of WEP signatories of any country.

To learn more about the work and results of UN Women Türkiye visit our [Transparency Portal](#).

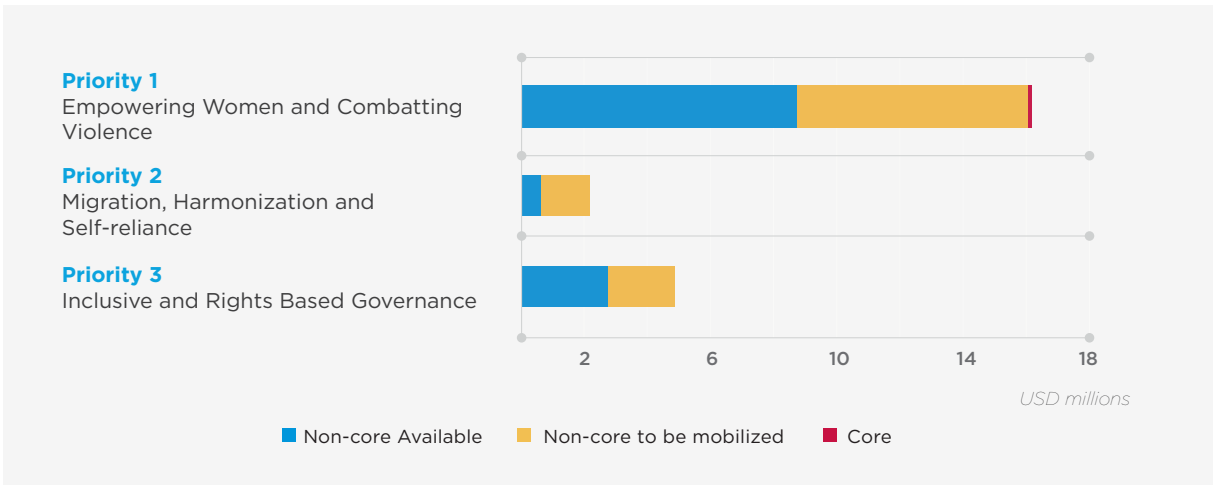
TÜRKİYE'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The UN Country Team (UNCT) and the Government of Türkiye have agreed on a set of strategic development priorities, in line with the country's national development plan. These are set forth in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework ([UNSDCF 2021-2025](#)). **UN Women Türkiye Strategic Note contributes to the achievement of three UNSDCF priorities.**

These are based on UN Women's expertise and comparative advantage in the country and are aligned with [UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#). Through the implementation of its SN, UN Women contributes to the realization of SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

figure 7

TÜRKİYE RESOURCES 2022-2025



Data displayed are indicative estimates based on expected resource requirements and available funds as of December 2022. For more up-to-date resources data please visit our [Transparency Portal](#).

AS A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS,
UN WOMEN CONVENES AND INFLUENCES A RANGE OF
PARTNERS FOR A GREATER AND LONG-LASTING IMPACT

IMPACT

Women and girls fully exercise their rights, enjoy a life free from violence, and lead in and benefit from socio-economic development in Türkiye

COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTION
(priority results)

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND COMBATting VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

MIGRATION, HARMONIZATION AND SELF-RELIANCE

INCLUSIVE AND RIGHT-BASED GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

Enhance national capacity and tools for **gender-responsive laws, policies, and institutions** in line with global normative frameworks

Increase the capacity and opportunities for women, girls, and gender equality advocates to exercise their **voice, leadership, and agency**

Promote **favourable social norms, attitudes, and behaviours** towards gender equality to prevent violence against women and discrimination

Increase women migrants' and refugees' **knowledge, skills, and opportunities** to effectively participate in social, economic and public life

Increase the capacity of national and local authorities to promote and implement **gender-responsive budgeting and planning**

UN WOMEN SOLUTIONS*

Collect, analyse, disseminate and promote the use of **gender statistics, sex-disaggregated data** and knowledge

Promote **positive business practices** and reduce systemic constraints for women's economic empowerment

Improve institutional capacity, such as data management and coordination mechanisms for **services** on prevention of and protection **against violence against women**

Promote effective **UN system coordination** for joint meaningful results for women and girls

Provide **multisectoral services** to women and girls impacted by the earthquake to **support their needs and recovery**

CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Patriarchal social norms and harmful gender stereotypes

Limited funding opportunities and institutional capacities of civil society

Gaps in gender knowledge, including gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data

Difficulties in reaching out to women and girls in the most vulnerable situations

Limited capacities of government institutions in gender-responsive planning and budgeting

UN Women solutions are aligned to UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022-2025

UN WOMEN'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

UN Women Türkiye has established strong partnerships and is working to deliver results under key strategic priorities, exercising its triple mandate, across the development-humanitarian nexus. UN Women's capacities regarding technical, operational, and policy development support, combined with its ability to serve as a convener among numerous partners, constitute its comparative advantage in Türkiye. UN Women is able to deliver cutting-edge knowledge to national partners, enhance innovative solutions, and provide evidence-based policy advice and technical expertise to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, with gender equality and women's empowerment as its cornerstone. This includes the capacity to design and implement interventions ranging from policy and advocacy-oriented initiatives to replicable and scalable pilot initiatives. UN Women's work is based on the international norms on women's rights, guided by CEDAW

and its General Recommendations. UN Women has a proven ability to bring together diverse stakeholders from the government, civil society and the women's movement, private sector, and others in order to enable constructive dialogue and move women's rights forwards in key areas.

Since 2016, UN Women in Türkiye effectively leads, coordinates, and promotes accountability for the implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment commitments across the UN system in the country. It serves as the chair of the Result Group on Women's Empowerment, which brings together 10 UN agencies for coordinated and collaborative work in this area.

Photo: UN Women/ilkin Eskipehlivan



UN WOMEN TÜRKİYE'S STRATEGY

PRIORITY RESULT 1:

Empowering Women And Combatting Violence Against Women And Girls

Under this priority, UN Women's programme covers a wide range of interventions on women's empowerment, including: increasing women's participation in decision-making in political, public and business life; combating different forms of violence against women and girls and eliminating harmful practices; mobilizing the private sector to advance gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community;¹⁰ and promoting favourable social norms, attitudes and behaviours at individual, community and institutional level.

UN Women will support national partners to develop and implement effective legislation and policies that advance the realization of the targets within SDG 5, in line with international norms and standards, and with national and international good practices. UN Women will support women, girls and women's organizations to have increased capacities and opportunities to lead, participate and influence decision-making processes at national and local level. Services on violence against women prevention and protection are aimed to be improved through strengthened capacities of institutions, improved data management, and better coordination. As it is a cross-cutting area, UN Women will work in partnership with public institutions, civil society, private sector and media for production and use of gender statistics, sex disaggregated data and knowledge.

UN Women's response to the devastating earthquakes on 6 February has been based on the identified needs and priorities of women and girls and implemented closely with the government, civil society, private sector, and other UN agencies. UN Women aims to address both women's immediate needs as well as their medium- and longer-term needs for restoration of their livelihoods. UN Women

invests in coordination and data to ensure the provision of protection services that are in line with women's rights, needs and priorities. UN Women's efforts consider women as agents of change, rather than beneficiaries of assistance.

PARTNERS

Under this priority, UN Women works closely with: the Presidency of Strategy and Budget; line ministries, in particular the Ministry of Family and Social Services, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Agriculture; the Turkish Grand National Assembly; selected municipalities, civil society organizations, platforms and activists; sports organizations; private sector companies and umbrella organizations; the Turkish Statistical Institute; and other UN agencies.

UN WOMEN
DRIVES RESULTS
ADVANCING
NORMATIVE
STANDARDS,
COORDINATING
ACTION ACROSS THE
UNITED NATIONS,
AND **OPERATING**
ON THE GROUND

10. Under the overall framework of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPS) - <https://www.weps.org/>

PRIORITY RESULT 2: Migration, harmonization and self-reliance

UN Women's contribution under this priority is focused on continued support to the functioning of women-only centres offering comprehensive services to vulnerable refugee and host-community women in selected provinces, based on the best-practice model of the Sada Women's Empowerment and Solidarity Centre in the city of Gaziantep.

Based on the needs identified in the previous SN, UN Women will place more emphasis on increasing refugee women's voices and participation in local decision-making and advocacy mechanisms, such as women's committees, city councils or civil society organizations dealing with refugee issues. UN Women will establish new partnerships with local institutions and the private sector on top of the existing ones, to support refugee women's economic empowerment in a more sustained manner, addressing lessons learned from the work of Sada Women's Cooperative.

The protracted nature of the Syria crisis and rising social tensions due to economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, necessitate the continued focus on social cohesion, in line with Türkiye's national framework on harmonization. Community-level social programmes and events and platforms for dialogue will be organized in partnership with civil society organizations targeting women and girls from both refugee and host communities to foster social interaction and solidarity.

PARTNERS

Under this priority, UN Women will work alongside the Presidency of Migration Management under the Ministry of Interior, provincial and local authorities in the target provinces hosting large number of refugees, as well as civil society organizations, and other UN agencies.

PRIORITY RESULT 3: Inclusive and rights-based governance systems

UN Women's contribution under this priority is based on its comparative advantage to advance gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). The agency has a recognized unique technical expertise in this area, which capitalizes on long-standing programming both at the country and at the regional level.

In the first two years of the SN period, UN Women will focus on strengthening the capacity of national and local government partners to use GRB tools to implement national and international commitments to equality between women and men and women's empowerment in the overall policy-making cycle. UN Women will increase awareness and understanding of GRB among high-level officials and technical staff, enhance sharing of experience and best practices between institutions, establish GRB monitoring groups at local level, and develop an overarching policy document and guideline on GRB implementation, aligned with the new programme-budgeting classification recently introduced in Türkiye. In the second half of the SN period, the country office will seek to ensure

institutionalization of GRB at central and local level, to increase the use of gender analysis across line ministries and establish new partnerships with auditing and oversight bodies to ensure commitments made are properly implemented, as well as with public and private-sector actors to increase financing to women-owned businesses through procurement processes.

PARTNERS

To achieve this priority, UN Women will work with the Presidency of Strategy and Budget; the Ministry of Family and Social Services; other line ministries; the Turkish Grand National Assembly; target municipalities; civil society organizations; audit and oversight bodies and the private sector; as well as other UN agencies.

Becoming a funding partner

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 calls for transformative, collaborative action. Strategic, innovative, and efficient funding partnerships are essential to realize UN Women's vision of a gender-equal world, articulated in the Strategic Note.

How can funding partners engage with UN Women's SN?

Partners may provide **SN direct funding**, which is softly earmarked by geography (regional or country SN). These funds are flexible and catalytic; they enable UN Women to choose the highest-impact use of the funds in the country in which it operates. SN funding is also predictable, as commitments are often made for the full SN time span, better enabling transformative results for women and girls.

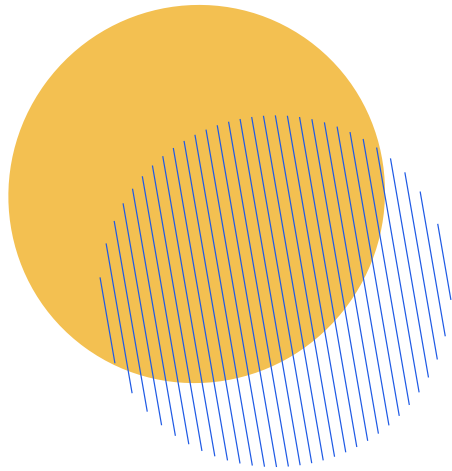
Importantly, SN direct funds strengthen UN Women's ability to respond to emerging needs in response to unforeseen contextual changes, including humanitarian needs (e.g., to prioritize the safety of women and girls in a crisis or in response to the adverse effects of natural disasters).

Furthermore, these funds can be reallocated when emerging evidence suggests a new approach is needed to produce the desired result more efficiently or effectively. They can be used for diverse types of costs and can therefore draw funds to areas that are often unfunded—yet crucial—such as advocacy for behavioural change, UN Coordination, etc., supporting the organization's effectiveness.

Funding partners may also provide **project funding**, which is tightly earmarked for a specific project or initiative in the SN. These funds are not flexible. Reporting on the use of such funds is done against the specific project but not against the full SN.

SN funding represents an ambitious, targeted, and smart investment in gender equality and women's empowerment.

To learn more about UN Women Türkiye's funding partners landscape visit our [Transparency Portal](#).



UN SYSTEM COORDINATION

UN Women Türkiye has a leading role in ensuring a coordinated and effective implementation of the UNSDCF 2021-2025 commitments to equality between women and men and women's empowerment. With the support of UN Women, the UNSDCF has a dedicated priority to improve women's and girls' equal access to resources, opportunities, and rights, and promote a life without violence and discrimination, as well as relevant gender-equality targets under other results. As chair of the Result Group on Women's Empowerment, UN Women is leading, coordinating or actively contributing to common advocacy priorities and joint programming initiatives in key areas, such as implementing the normative framework on eliminating violence against women and girls and investing and recognizing the care economy.

UN Women will coordinate UNCT's efforts to implement the findings of a comprehensive UNCT-System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) Gender Equality Scorecard aimed at

ensuring accountability of senior managers and improving UNCT performance on gender mainstreaming. The scorecard was conducted at the beginning of 2022.

UN Women contributes to the Türkiye Earthquake Response Coordination Structure in collaboration with UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. To ensure that the humanitarian response addresses the specific needs of women and girls, UN Women has deployed a gender advisor to guide the Humanitarian Coordinator. It also provides technical support and is the Secretariat to the Women's Empowerment in Humanitarian Action Working Group (WEHA), an inter-sectoral coordination mechanism providing technical and advisory support to the Humanitarian Country Team. Through WEHA, UN Women supports women's civil society organizations' influence in the humanitarian response, enabling them to connect with different groups within the coordination structure.

Joint Programming

The **joint programme on the prevention of child, early and forced marriages (CEFM)** by UN Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) aims at: changing social norms and attitudes towards gender equality; improving institutional capacity to prevent and respond to CEFM; working closely with civil society and other allies to preserve and advance the legislative and policy framework in line with international commitments; providing specialized services to survivors; and supporting financial stability and economic empowerment of families and children most at risk of CEFM.

Building on the experience and lessons learned from the first phase (2018-2021), the second phase of the joint programme is being implemented in the period 2021-2025 with funding by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

With a budget of more than 5 million USD in total at each phase, 12 percent of expenditure was covered by UN Women.

UN Women is also engaged in joint programming initiatives and joint advocacy in the areas of care economy, empowerment and social cohesion of refugee women and girls and on the interlinkages between climate change and women's empowerment.

**UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY
AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A
GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND
GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO
ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING
THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.**

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



UN WOMEN TÜRKİYE

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