

The Power of Community-based Programmes

Side-Event at the International Migration Review Forum 20 May, 10 am EDT, Visual

1. Background

The Turkish Red Crescent Migration Directorate provides services to vulnerable host communities and migrants through its Child Programmes and Community-based Migration Programmes (Community Centers).

Child Programmes work within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed in May 2013 between Türk Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent) and UNICEF (The United Nations Children's Fund) with the aim of creating protective, preventive activities and awareness for children aged 4-18; psychosocial support, child protection, social cohesion, youth empowerment and education support activities are carried out. The programme aims to minimize the adaptation issues of disadvantaged/ vulnerable children who are exposed to harsh living conditions (migration, economic exploitation, have no access to socio-economic opportunities, unable to get parental support etc.) as well as victims of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect to support them to overcome and recover from their traumas, to increase the capacity to live together with different cultures to support their personal development and access to education.

The key objective of Community-based Migration Programmes is to make sustainable contributions to the community resilience by empowering the physical, psychological, social and economic well-being of communities and individuals. To realize this main purpose, the activities are carried out under three main programmes. These programmes are “Socio-economic Empowerment, Protection and Social Cohesion and Health& Psycho-social Support”.

The Community- based Migration Programmes (CBMP) has a structure, which regularly follows the changing needs in the field, establishes long-term partnerships with relevant stakeholders, strengthens existing ones, and benefits from its interdisciplinary expertise.

Since it is possible to support sustainable community-based studies in social resilience, application strategies are developed in this context. In TRCS Programmes, one of the tools of the community-based participatory approach is “Advisory Boards”. It aims to establish and develop the advisory boards and be included in the decision-making processes of the community on issues concerning it. Effective and efficient community participation is only possible by the localization of both the decision-making and implementation process. Community participation enables the formation of decision-making processes democratically and is a significant basis for good and transparent governance. The fact that the decisions are to be taken together with the community and the people's knowledge of the functioning of the decision-making processes prevents the individual off alienation from the system. Therefore, the quality and reliability of the studies increase and a feeling of belonging is created in the society. The communities, which are part of the participation, are strengthened and support other communities with the risk of damage to the recovery progress.

Along with the Advisory Board where target groups participate in decision-making, there are various community-based programmes implemented to involve



target groups in the activity implementation of interventions and M&E processes. Two major community-based programmes held in TRC are as follows;

Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) Red Cross and Red Crescent's flagship community health programme. The CBHFA helps to build a sense of community and identify existing problems that can affect people's health. Therefore, The Turkish Red Crescent Public Health Directorate, Migration Services Directorate and Red Crescent Branches are committed to expand and promote the Community-Based Health and First Aid approach throughout entire community in order to achieve the goals as follows:

- to support combatting bad habits that are harmful to human health,
- to develop a healthy living culture in the community and promote health literacy
- to support services provided for people in need of care,

Since 2017, approximately 250 volunteers have been trained and now they have been working for their community's health. In 2021 with the support of Norcross and IFRC, the master training has been provided to 25 TRC staff. The ongoing trainings have been done to train new volunteers who are willing to take an action for the wellbeing of their communities.

MHPSS Project: This project aims to prevent psychological problems, to treat psychological disorders, to increase mental health awareness and to enable access to mental health services available in the community. In order to achieve the aims TRC Community Centers provide psychiatric treatment and pharmacotherapy for adults and children, psychotherapy, child development counselling, psychoeducation, support group sessions and outreach activities to reach most vulnerable people without access to those services. In 12 community centers, dedicated staff and volunteers provide the services. The volunteers are our biggest supporters in applying measurement tools that will provide data for impact analysis of the MHPSS activities, identifying psychosocial needs and referral.

Leadership and Volunteerism Programmes were developed as a part of psychological support activities, which enable adolescents to be active agents of their societies. Leadership Program aims to contribute to adolescents' ability to communicate effectively, be open to cooperation, and develop problem-solving skills, and leadership skills. The Volunteering Program was prepared with the aim of enabling adolescents to acquire the knowledge and competencies they may need in order to carry out voluntary work.

Academic Support Program is aimed to contribute to the school lessons of disadvantaged children with limited access to opportunities and to support their academic success. Within the scope of the program, homework support is given to disadvantaged children with the voluntary support of university students (preferably studying at the faculty of education) or graduates.

Youth & Adult Advisory Committee has developed in order to enable adolescents to identify social problems and discuss their solution offers to these problems. It is carried out in the form of periodic meetings; it is aimed to evaluate the needs and agendas of the target group, to develop solutions by creating opportunities for community participation.

Mentorship Programme, is carried out in order to encourage children to university degree and raise awareness on importance of education. The program aims to role-model university student mentors for adolescents who are in high school age and attend school or who do not have the opportunity to

attend school because of different reasons. In 2022, nearly four years after the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), governments, stakeholders and the United Nations system will meet to discuss the successes and challenges of implementing this landmark cooperative framework.

2. The Main Goal of the Side Event

The panel to be held will present examples that run parallel to the Sustainable development goal of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Participation is a multidimensional reality of paramount importance for sustainable development. Effective and productive community participation is possible only if the target groups are involved in both the decision-making and implementation processes. Community participation not only ensures that decision-making processes are established in a democratic way but also plays an important basis for good and transparent governance. Since the decisions are to be taken together with the society, the fact that the public has as much information as possible about the operation of the decision processes prevents the individual from alienating from the system. TRCS takes relevant responsibility for beneficiaries to participate in the decision-making mechanism and implementation phase of the activities. Volunteer work in civil society services increases social resilience. Community-based programmes are also an important tool for individual empowerment where the beneficiaries take active responsibility to develop their own community resilience.

3. The Summary of the Event

The side event aims to solidify the importance and necessity of community-based work through the presentation of best practice models of the Turkish Red Crescent. The contribution of voluntary work to the services provided as well as the empowering effects of voluntary participation will be discussed in detail. This panel discussion will be undertaken through the involvement of community volunteers working on community-based programmes such as; CBHFA (Community- Based Health and First Aid), Child Leadership, Volunteer Programme and the Advisory Boards.

The positive impact of the voluntary work of the advisory board and community- based programmes mentioned above on community resilience and the cohesion of all segments of the society in the decision-making mechanisms and implementations will be discussed. Volunteers will be asked about the added value of these programs in line with their daily life and empowerment. Concurrently, Volunteers will have opportunities to contribute regarding their faced difficulties and any added value. The panel is planned to last approximately 1 hour.

4. Speakers

- Volunteer at Community- based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) Programme: Hüda Kebabhi was born in 1979, Syria. She is volunteer for four years. She met TRC when she needed to learn Turkish language. After she learned Turkish, started volunteering at TRC. She is currently volunteering at Health and Psycho- Social Programme.
- Advisory Board Member: Mohammed Dallal was born in 01.01.1996, Syria. He is volunteering since 2019 at TRC. He participated in various trainings with the Community Center on the project-writing workshop. He then became a member of the Advisory Board and contributed to the emergence of the "School and Cohesion" project. With the guidance of the socioeconomic strengthening program for the last week, he started to work as a CEO administrative assistant in a private company.
- Aliye Akın was born in Hatay, in 2001. She has been a student at Mustafa Kemal University and she started to support the Academic Support Program in 2021. She supported the

Mentorship Programme and still actively volunteer in the Mentorship Programme and Academic Support Program.



- Esmé Hayrullah was born in Hatay in 2006. She continues middle school. In 2018, she attended child-friendly space activities. In 2021 she completed voluntary education and started to support Child Programme activities. Her support is continue and she is a member of the Advisory Committee.

5. Format

Interpretation will be provided in ZOOM. Simultaneous Turkish, English & Arabic Translation will be available.

Zoom Participation Registration link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_N73JoY29SSWqiPw0QwCcCg

Suggested agenda

May 20th 2022 Time: 10.00 am (New York) 4.00 pm(Geneva) Venue: Zoom	
5 minutes	Opening Remarks
5 minutes	Video about implemented community-based programmes
5 minutes	Introduction of Volunteers of TRC
35 minutes	Panel discussion Panel on volunteering experiences in Community-based Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1: Huda Kebabhi • Speaker 2 : Mohammed Dallal • Speaker 3 : Aliye Akın • Speaker 4 : Esmé Hayrullah
10 minutes	Q&A/ Closing Remarks