

# MAIN CITY OF HOPE AND PEACE

## KİLİS



**NAME OF THE PROJECT: AN EXEMPLARY STRUCTURING IN ENSURING  
SOCIAL COHESION: MANSIONS AND THE COMPASSION TEAM**

**NAME OF THE INSTITUTION: KİLİS MUNICIPALITY**

# 1. Background



- Since 2011, Kilis have been hosting Syrian refugees which own population in number. Arrival of 130,000 Syrian refugees in addition to the local population of 97,000, has changed the demographic structure completely.
- Mixture of two communities, which are completely different in terms of language, manners and customs, in a narrow region, has led to essential problems which are required to be solved in many fields such as road, water, infrastructure, green space, traffic and housing requirement that are especially within the responsibility of the municipality.
- Language problem and Social integration problem were the most important ones among them. There were limited number of facilities to solve this problem in the city. Number of the centers to which only the women would attend was one or two. Kilis Municipality, preferred to open **VOCATIONAL CENTERS FOR WOMEN** for the purpose of eliminating the language problem and ensuring cohesion of Turkish and Syrian population, the women, children and disabled person, which are the primary disadvantageous groups, being in the first place.

## 2. Organizational Environment

- Since the Syrian men are outside throughout the day, they have had a quicker cohesion process and the language problem has been eliminated in this way. However, since the Arabic women and children mostly stay at home due to their confined structure, neither the language problem has been solved nor the process of cohesion with Turkish people has been completed fully.
- Especially the women and children of two societies did not know each other.
- Legally, it was possible for our Municipality to open Turkish Speaking and Writing Course for Foreigners and many vocational courses by making protocols with the Public Education Directorates which operate under the Ministry of National Education.
- For providing the relevant space, our Municipality initially purchased the Mansions which are known as historical Kilis Houses and purchased relevant interior use materials and restored these mansions by getting support from various EU funds. In addition, some of these funds have also paid the wages of the workers by becoming partner of the projects.
- GIZ, UNICEF, Sequa, DRC, International Blue Crescent, RET, CARE, Maltazar are the primary organizations among the ones making cooperation.

# 3. Method

Since 2016, 12 ea. Vocational Centers for Women have been opened for Turkish and Syrian Women. These centers are locally known as “**MANSIONS OF MUNICIPALITY**” since they are generally operated in Traditional Kilis Houses.

- At these centers; certification courses such as Hairdressing and Skin Care, Turkish Reading and Writing, Cooking and Pastry, Handicrafts (Antep Style Stitchery, Tailoring, Embroidery, Lacing, Wood Painting, etc.), Computer, Leading, Plant and Seedling Growing and Carpet Weaving have been opened.
- Kindergartens have been established at the same centers for the children of the trainees.
- Psychological Consultation Rooms have been established for the adults and children.
- It has also served as a center of gathering where both the Turkish and Syrian population spend their free time, communicate with each other and socialize.
- These mansions, which are located at 12 different points, divided the city comprising of 75 neighborhoods into 12 different points. Each mansion finds the needy, disabled, elderly and sick individuals of both communities in the neighborhoods for which the mansion is responsible and provides them with support in terms of food, clothing, fuel, stationary, meal and patient care.

## 4. Deliverables



NUMBER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS WORKING AT THE COURSE CENTER AS OF THE OPENING	323
NUMBER OF İŞKUR PERSONNEL WORKING AT THE COURSE CENTER AS OF THE OPENING	907
NUMBER OF PROJECT PERSONNEL WORKING AT THE COURSE CENTER AS OF THE OPENING	167
NUMBER OF TRAINEES BENEFITTING FROM THE COURSE CENTER AS OF THE OPENING	20,306
NUMBER OF COURSES OPENED AT THE COURSE CENTER AS OF THE OPENING	458
NAMES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH COMMON PROJECTS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED AT THE COURSE CENTER AS OF THE OPENING	SEQUA-GIZ-UNICEF-CARE-UGDD-RET-DRC-BLUE CRESCENT-SODES
NUMBER OF NEIGHBORHOODS UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COURSE CENTER	75
NUMBER OF HOME VISITS MADE BY THE COURSE CENTER AS OF THE OPENING	43,616
NUMBER OF MEALS PREPARED FOR THE ELDERLY BY THE COURSE CENTER AS OF THE OPENING	10,587
NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE COURSE CENTER AS OF THE OPENING	6,873
NUMBER OF PEOPLE SENT BY THE COURSE CENTER TO URFA AS OF THE OPENING	12,007
NUMBER OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE FOR WHOM THE COURSE CENTER PROVIDES HOUSE CLEANING AND PERSONAL CARE SERVICES	8,124

# 5. Lessons



- Kilis Province with 75 ea. neighborhoods has been shared by 12 centers for accessing to the disadvantageous groups more quickly.
- The Compassion Team which is organized with 13 people at each center, is composed of 156 people in total.
- At the neighborhoods under its responsibility, the Compassion Team; goes from door to door without making exception between Turkish and Syrian people and determines their states.
- Primarily the Widows, Fatherless and Motherless families, Disabled and Elderly People and the Orphan and Sick People are identified and registered.
- In the databank created after registration, the risk priority is determined and responded.
- The Compassion Team, which works in coordination with the Neighborhood Mukhtars and Kilis Municipality Food Bank, provides the following aids to the needy individuals as far as possible.
- Clothing Support
- Food Aid
- House Cleaning and Personal Cleaning
- Hot meal aid especially for the elderly people who cannot cook at home
- Vehicle support for the disabled
- Household Goods Support
- Toys for the children
- Health Care for the Sick and Elderly People at Home (Professional Support with the teams of the Provincial Directorate of Health)



## 6. Transfer

- Course centers which should be distributed to various locations in the city
- Openness of each Center to the Turkish and Syrian Women and children participants free of charge,
- Identification of the area of responsibility of the centers,
- Structuring in terms of education, support services and site personnel at the centers,

City of Kilis, Turkey

KİLİS BELEDİYESİ  
ABİDİN AĞA KONAĞI  
BAYANLAR MESLEK EDİNDİRME MERKEZİ

