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# COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Inclusive Social Development



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## CONCEPT NOTE

### ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES THROUGH ASSISTANCE: THE TURKISH MODEL

**Time:** Wednesday 13 February 2019, 3:00-4:15pm

**Location:** UNH, CR-12

**Co-organized by:** Permanent Mission of Turkey to the UN, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD), Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), OCHA (tbc)

Equality is undoubtedly the new frontier of national and international development. Millennium Development Goals focused widely on reducing extreme poverty, whereas Sustainable Development Goals have a wider perspective that focuses on addressing inequalities as well. To ensure sustainable development of a country or a region that empowers each member of society, non-humanitarian aid components should be at the forefront, in addition to humanitarian assistance. This may include, *inter alia*, empowerment of civil society, establishment of sufficient infrastructure as well as a stable comprehensive education system.

Turkey has been the country with the highest humanitarian assistance to Syrians under temporary protection according to statistics provided by UNHCR and World Bank in recent years. Turkey hosts more than 4 million Syrian citizens and has spent more than USD 33 billion from her own resources as of 2017. While these figures are remarkable and appraised repeatedly by international organizations, Turkey's social support and non-humanitarian aid are not as well-known.

Turkey's rapid, systematic and remarkable response to the Syrian refugee crisis is a good example of her holistic perspective focusing on social inclusion and youth empowerment. According to the report of World Bank, *'Turkey's Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis and the*

*Road Ahead'* published in 2015, two characteristics were identified for Turkey's response: **non-camp approach** and **government financed handling**. Non-camp approach helps Syrians under temporary protection develop social skills which will lead them to re-construct Syria once the conflict ends. These people are encouraged and supported to live a normal life as much as possible so that they will be integrated into their societies more easily when they go back to their homeland. This is also relevant with social development of the Syrian population in Turkey in terms of being self-sufficient to the most possible extent rather than being dependent, through Turkey's comprehensive support in providing education scholarships, healthcare training for young professionals, youth training programs and support to civil society.

Also, Turkey's social support has been widening in recent years particularly in the least developed countries through different channels, mainly focusing on younger generations. Empowering young people and their role in societies to fight poverty and address inequalities is the core of Turkey's agenda when providing assistance.

With this side event, we are aiming to present a summary of the components of Turkey's social support mechanisms to address social inequalities with regard to refugees, conflict regions and post-conflict zones. Tentative program and speakers are listed below.

### **Speakers and Program**

**Mr. Abdullah Eren (President of YTB)** - Turkey Scholarships Program for Social Development of Africa (15.00- 15.15)

**Mr. Richard Towle (UNHCR Deputy Director)**- UNHCR's Role in Turkey's Response to Syrian Conflict (15.15- 15.30)

**Mr. Mehmet Güllüoğlu (Head of AFAD)** - Hosting 4+ Millions of Refugees in Turkey with Social Support, A Good Practice Case (15.30- 15.45)

**OCHA Representative (TBC) (15.45- 16.00)**

**Questions and Discussion (16.00- 16.15)**

**For further information:** *Ms. Derya Serbetci, derya.serbetci@mfa.gov.tr*