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Fostering Resilient Socio-Economic Opportunities for Refugees and Host Community Members in Türkiye

The Challenge

Since the onset of the Syrian war, over 5.5 million Syrians have sought refuge abroad, with Türkiye hosting one of the largest shares worldwide. As of February 2025, 2.8 million Syrians have been granted temporary protection status. However, the socio-economic pressures are acute in southeastern Türkiye, a region already hosting most of this refugee population and grappling with the aftermath of the February 2023 earthquakes.

These overlapping challenges have severely strained local infrastructure, services, and labour market. A disconnect between workforce skills and employer needs, compounded by the devastation of key infrastructure and business ecosystems, places the livelihoods of more than 15 million people—including 1.7 million refugees—at risk. This situation has exacerbated poverty, unemployment, and informal employment which contribute to economic stagnation and strain on social protection systems while disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Resilient Employment and Socio-Economic Development in Earthquake-affected Regions of Türkiye (RE-SEED)



Project Name	Resilient Employment and Socio-Economic Development in Earthquake-affected Regions of Türkiye (RE-SEED)
Commissioned by	The European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Volume	65 Mio. EUR (50 Mio. EUR EU, 15 Mio. EUR BMZ)
Duration	December 2024 to November 2028
Project Regions	Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya
Main Partner	Union of Municipalities of Türkiye (UMT)



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Our Approach

The project “Resilient Employment and Socio-Economic Development in Earthquake-affected Regions of Türkiye (RE-SEED)” is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as a complementary action to the BMZ project “Promotion of Economic Prospects for Refugees and the Host Community in Türkiye (PEP)”. It is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye. RE-SEED aims to improve sustainable livelihood and formal employment for refugees and host community members in Türkiye.

Target groups and beneficiaries include refugees, host community members with special focus on vulnerable groups including women, persons with disabilities, and earthquake survivors, as well as Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), private sector actors, municipalities, governmental and civil society organisations.

The project adopts an integrated approach to strengthen local labour market dynamics, and enhance socio-economic resilience by:

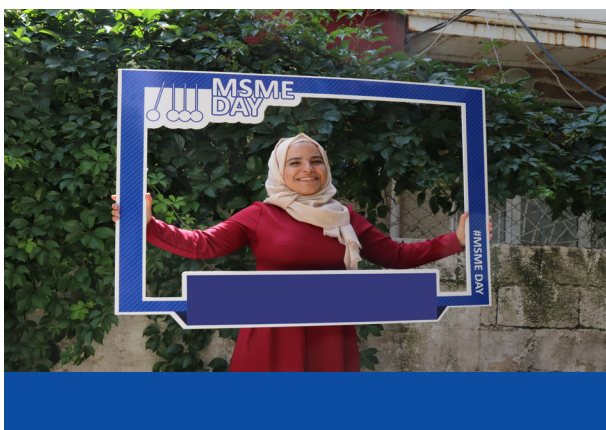


1. Matching supply and demand in labour market through targeted employment initiatives.

2. Developing local capacity across individual and organisational levels including **private sector development**.

3. Focusing on sustainability, conflict sensitivity, and gender equality.

This integrated approach incorporates strategic guidance from Turkish authorities, the EU, BMZ, and local stakeholders, ensuring interventions are inclusive, adaptable, and impactful.





2. Main Activities

1. Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

Support: The project provides financial support, business development and advisory services to MSMEs while promoting the registration of businesses for sustainable economic growth.

2. Employment Support and Skills Development:

RE-SEED enhances employability by providing market-oriented vocational training, language courses, and skills development programmes, while supporting formalisation and sustainable job creation for refugees and host community members.

3. Municipal Capacity Development:

RE-SEED strengthens municipalities by implementing employment-focused projects, and delivering inclusive services such as childcare facilities to enhance local service delivery and address post-earthquake challenges.



3. Benefits

The project bolsters the socio-economic resilience of refugees and host community members in Türkiye by matching their skills with market needs, equipping them with the needed skillset for improved employability. It also fortifies MSMEs and enhances partner competencies in providing customised business support services, thereby stimulating job demand and strengthening the overall private sector dynamics. The integration of refugees into Türkiye's economy advances their self-reliance, reduces aid dependency, and provides stable incomes, especially post-earthquake. This approach promotes social inclusion and cooperation, enhancing community fabric and shared prosperity.





4. Expected Key Results



7,200
individuals will benefit from formal employment opportunities.



800
business owners will receive MSME support.



5,000
participants will take part in vocational skills development courses and soft skills training.



500
MSMEs will receive financial support.



1,000
participants will participate in Turkish language courses.



400
entrepreneurs will receive entrepreneurship training.



9,000
participants will benefit from legal and employment counseling.



200
MSMEs will implement social cohesion programmes.



1,000
MSMEs will receive Business Development Services.



40
municipal projects will be initiated.



900
businesses will be registered.



10
childcare spaces will be established or improved.

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