

# FSA SECTOR BULLETIN



Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Turkey



**3RP**



# SUCCESS STORIES

# Women's Cooperative in Izmir



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

*"Cooperative  
named for  
the crane  
a symbol of  
peace and hope"*



In Izmir, the project supported ten Syrian and ten Turkish women in the establishment of a cooperative for producing midye dolma (stuffed mussels), a popular food nationwide. Izmir has a special reputation for the production of midye dolma. The all-women cooperative ensured that the stuffed mussels they produced fully met quality and safety standards. Through the project, cooperative members were trained in food safety, the production of midye dolma, and cooperative finance and management. The cooperative found buyers from local restaurants and retailers and started to sell their product in November 2019. Over time, the buyers increased the volumes of their orders as they realized the quality of the product. After the completion of the project in March 2020, the cooperative has continued to sell on average 500 kg of stuffed mussels each week.

The cooperative was named "Turna," meaning "Crane" – an international symbol of peace and hope originating from an ancient Japanese legend. Cooperative members gained self-confidence through interactions with buyers, producers, authorities and many other stakeholders. Syrian members who learned the Turkish language through the project said that they felt they had gained self-reliance and the ability to be more adaptable in Turkey.

*"We are building self-confidence."*

**Derya Davaz, the leader of the Turna Cooperative**

"We buy mussels from certified local farms, produce stuffed midye dolma hygienically and supply them to the market. Our goal is to attain a position in the local market in this way. I am very happy to be part of this cooperative. We are not only enjoying new friendships with Syrian women but also exploring new opportunities – in business and in building self-confidence. There were cooperative colleagues who could never be part of any community without being accompanied by family members because they were not confident enough. Now they have changed a lot! Some learned financial skills, some started to make decisions in their families on different domestic issues, and me – I am paying off my studies in the university without any relative support."

*"The project removed many barriers faced by women."*

**Nigar Şavluk Gürel, Izmir Provincial  
Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry**

"Many women are economically dependent on their husbands while they have many responsibilities at home, such as housework and taking care of children and often elderly people. Women who want to gain their economic freedom cannot find financial and social support. They face many challenges to start their own business due to poor access to collateral and due to gender stereotypes. When they apply to banks for financial support, the banks are hesitant to give them loans because they have no guarantee. Our project helped women break down many of these barriers. Women who took part in the project are now running their own businesses. They took responsibility; they are delivering products. They don't just produce. This project supported them not only economically but also socially."

# Tina Sita

## Facing the Pandemic with Social Entrepreneurship Solutions

Ravan Hodayfa is a Syrian female entrepreneur studying nutrition and dietetics in the university of Yildirim Beyazit in Ankara, upon her arrival to Turkey, she started volunteering for community and youth programs which expanded her network, she received trainings and knowledge in team and event management. She decided to start cultural catering events in middle-eastern food while engaging the poor Syrian refugee women in order to generate income for their families.

"We noticed that cooking from home kitchen was not good and sustainable for these women. During that time I was introduced to June, a company that works in social entrepreneurship introducing skilled workers to the Turkish market; to solve a community problem and reach sustainability as a business model. The company's owner Duygu, was a Turkish woman, we decided to team up together and start a safe working place for women who were catering, this is when the idea of Tina Zita was born." Ravan emphasized her relationship with Duygu as a milestone for her personal and professional growth in her journey after coming to Turkey "Duygu introduced me to non-profit social incubators and development agencies where I got trained and learned a lot, she is my friend and mentor and I could not have been where I am today if it wasn't for her, Duygu was my personal incubator in this country."

Ravan talks about the pivots her business made during the pandemic and receiving the registration of her limited company in August 2020: "With the outbreak of COVID-19 and the quarantine measures the country took, our catering activities for events stopped completely. Besides the obvious downsides of the pandemic, we continued trying to take any kind of meal orders and spend time researching and meeting similar minded businesses both nationally and internationally, we planned on getting online courses that is when I got to register for the LIFE Project and became a member. I was able to work with qualified trainers and received a practical curriculum tailor made for the food sector in Turkey and full of relevance to what I was going through, this supported my managerial skills and professional growth. In one of the Career Resource Hub trainings of the LIFE Project about menu construction and budgeting, I understood that we were making significant mistakes when it comes to the latter subject which helped me a lot to reconsider what I was doing, I want to avoid making any mistake as I am responsible for many refugee women workers who are facing financial difficulties during the pandemic due to the loss of income and work of their husbands."

"I finally learned that my company was officially registered after taking so long because of the pandemic delays" Ravan decided to change her business model and found a kitchen where another company is using and they started sharing the rent.

# LIFE



Livelihoods Innovation through Food Entrepreneurship  
Gıda Girişimciliği ile Yenilikçi Geçim Kaynakları  
ابتكار واكتساب ورفقك... ريادة الأعمال في قطاع الغذاء



# GoodMoms

## a Promising Entrepreneurship Story from Istanbul

**LIFE**

Livelihoods Innovation through Food Entrepreneurship  
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ابتكار والتجديد، وإثبات... وريادة الأعمال في قطاع الغذاء

Rajaa Belkasem is a Syrian female entrepreneur, she was a housewife in Damascus never having to step into the business world nor getting any professional experience as she had married young. After moving to Turkey, Rajaa started working with a group of divorced and widowed women making Makdous, this business idea progressed from a kitchen to a very small workshop and then expanded to catering and packaged frozen food and marmalade products, seeing how Rajaa was succeeding, her family stepped in and supported the expansion of the business starting a factory with the space of around 500 square meters under the management of Rajaa in the Anatolian side of Istanbul. The once humble business then was doing wholesale deals with restaurants and shops and had a great reputation.

Rajaa talks about her experience of joining the LIFE Project when she lost her business due to the new regulations: "I was introduced to the LIFE Project and I benefited a great deal from it.. I met with a group of like minded working women who were much like myself working in the food sector. I got inspired and motivated once again and started reopening my own business. I decided to start an online catering service named Good Moms where we could take online order and women could cook from their home kitchens and deliver the orders. I gathered women from the project who had the skills but lacked the experience and worked with them, ",

Many small businesses were affected during the pandemic, after things were improved in Turkey, Rajaa rented a restaurant and named it "Good Moms". Still following my business model where I contract women so they can come to my kitchen and become part of my staff, the place I rented has enough space to do events as well, I just started commercial courses for children and the kitchen caters for such events" Rajaa said proudly.

"This is the fourth year for me working in the food sector. My advice to other women entrepreneurs would be: Set a goal for yourself and be patient, if you fail once or twice do not give up, as long as you do not give up you will succeed you just have to be patient and you will reap the fruit of your hard work, if I had stopped at the first obstacle I would not have achieved what I have today, my daughter is following my footsteps studying nutrition as I am her role model and I cannot ask for more as a mother. Do not worry about not having a university degree and take advantage of the courses and training that are available to you."





# FSA SECTOR NEWS

# FAO E-Workshop on Child Labour and Agricultural Livelihoods

**On 18 June 2020 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Turkey Organized an online workshop on “Child Labour and Agricultural Livelihoods” for Food Security and Agriculture Sector (FSA) Partners.**

FAO recognizes that COVID-19 pandemic presents strong challenges for rural livelihoods and conditions are likely to persist, which may push further children into child labour. Immediate coordinated action is required to address acute livelihoods losses that complement long-term strategies on addressing child labour in agriculture. Hence this workshop objective was to discuss the child labour issue in Turkey by bringing together all actors and relevant Ministries on board. As FSA sector coordinator FAO supports the integration of child labour considerations into national policies and strategies for rural development. As part of its wider approach to eliminate child labour in agriculture, it also promotes efforts to boost the incomes of rural families so that they have the means to send their children to school rather than work.

The workshop gathered around more than 60 participants from UN agencies and National and International Organizations as well as from Ministry of Family Labour and Social Services (Mo-FLSS) and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) FAO also promotes to enhance cooperation between national ministries of labour and agriculture to address the complex nature of child labour in agriculture. It also promotes multi-sectoral collaboration in addressing child labour issue. By the end of the workshop participants agreed that more collaborative and multi-sectoral approaches, enforcement of relevant legislations at local levels, increased livelihood opportunities and mainstreaming CL in programming is essential to end the child labour in agriculture.

# Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Efforts

FSA sector recognizes the importance of mainstreaming GBV and therefore it invited GBV actors in Turkey to FSA sector (20 August 2020) meeting to discuss the GBV mechanisms around the country while informing the FSA sector partners about the GBV coordination efforts and referral pathways to improve the inter-sectoral coordination and to mainstream GBV in all sector activities.

**GBV General Trends:** Various assessments on issues of women, men, girls and boys reflect that a considerable number of GBV incidents are experienced by all age/gender groups. The most prevalent forms of GBV in Turkey are reported as domestic violence, sexual, emotional and physical violence (including intimate partner violence) and child, early and forced marriages.

**Coordination Mechanisms on GBV in Turkey:** In order to mitigate the risks related to GBV, multi-sector approach and multi-sector coordination is needed to address GBV.

**SGBV Sub-Sector** is addressing the needs of most vulnerable refugees and host communities through community based increased access to safe, confidential and quality multi-sectoral GBV services and support programmes. Capacity of government and non-government actors and services in all sectors are strengthened to effectively respond to GBV and PSEA.

**UNFPA's Programming on Improving access of Rural Refugees to Health and Protection Services in Turkey:** UNFPA through its programming is ensuring the physical, mental and social well-being of the people living in the rural areas (refugee and host community). In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, UNFPA aims to increase availability, accessibility and demand for primary healthcare and protection services in the rural areas of 5 provinces (Mobile Service Units): Sanliurfa, Adana, Mersin, Izmir, Bursa.





# USEFUL LINKS

# ActivityInfo

([www.activityinfo.org](http://www.activityinfo.org))

Activityinfo is a data collection and reporting platform on 3RP.

Partners report their organizations achievements against relevant indicators by the 10th of each month.

IM focal points to pull the data from the system, share with the coordinators.

If there is any, IM focal point requests a clarification/correction from the organization.

Organizations correct the data and the reporting period closes.



# Services Advisor

([turkey.servicesadvisor.org](http://turkey.servicesadvisor.org))

Inter-agency Coordination team has introduced an online tool on listing service providers and available services in Turkey for the benefit of the refugees.

All actors (UN/NGO) providing services inside Turkey are free to upload their services in this tool.

Services Advisor is a simple, intuitive web app for Refugees, Humanitarian Organizations and Coordinating bodies, which provides up-to-date information about availability of humanitarian services.

# USEFUL LINKS

Some useful links for your information:

[Inter-Agency Coordination Structure](#)

[Sectoral Indicator Guidance](#)

[Protection Sector Dashboard](#)

[Food Security and Agriculture Sector Dashboard](#)

[Education Sector Dashboard](#)

[Basic Needs Sector Dashboard](#)

[Health Sector Dashboard](#)

[Livelihoods Sector Dashboard](#)