**Strengthening Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services for Syrian and Other Refugees thru Women and Girl Safe Spaces (WGSS)/Women Health Counselling Units**

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According to latest data of The UN Refugee Agency, close to 3 million Syrians are in Turkey in the status of temporary protection. In this context, approximately 65 thousand Syrian migrant population are living in Ankara. Most of this population consists of women and children.

“*Strengthening Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services for Syrian and Other Refugees thru Women and Girl Safe Spaces (WGSS)/Women Health Counselling Units Project*” is conducted in accordance with the protocol between HUWRIC and Ankara Public Health Directorate, in partnership with UNFPA, and with the financial support of European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). This Project aims to provide safe spaces for migrant women and girls and also health counselling services.

The Project has started with a single center in March, 2015 and still continues with three centers since February, 2016.

Within the scope of the Project, there are total of three Women’s Health Counselling Units. One of them is in Ulubey neighborhood of Altındağ district, the other one is in Gülveren neighborhood of Mamak district and the latest one is in Yenimahalle neighborhood of Yenimahalle district. Indeed, these three Centers are all inside the Migrant Health Units’ buildings belonging to Ankara Provincial Health Directorate

The main activity areas of this Project are sexual and reproductive health and family planning services, gender based violence prevention, supporting of women who experience violence and empowerment of migrant women.

In each of Women’s Health Counselling Units established in Ulubey, Gülveren and Yenimahalle; there are one woman social worker who speaks fluent Arabic and an Iraqi woman doctor who served as doctor’s assistant. In addition to this, within the scope of the Project, a woman psychologist who also speaks fluent Arabic, is working alternately in three Centers. Also, in order to serve as a bridge with their own community and Women’s Health Counselling Units, 35 Syrian women trained and employed as health mediators of the Project. Moreover, in each of the centers, one security staff, one translator and one cleaning personnel are employed. Apart from these, there is one nurse in Gülveren and Ulubey Centers. A woman project coordinator also employed for coordinating the all project activities.

The services provided in Women’s Health Counselling Units are; sexual health, reproductive health and family planning, individual counselling and group trainings, awareness raising activities about gender based violence, psychosocial support for the woman subject to violence, empowerment activities (ex. City trip, bazaar trip, picnic, etc. ). In this context, Turkish Language Courses for women and systematical trainings for health mediators, activities for migrant children and distribution of kits that provided by the UNFPA are among main Project activities.

Within the Project, number of the migrant women and girls that benefitted from the services until January 2017 is **7368**. Up to the present, the number of women received sexual and reproductive health services is **4210** and half of them benefited from the family planning services as well. Furthermore, the total number of women received gender based violence prevention and improvement services is **3158** and most of these women also benefited from the psychosocial services.