

TIME RECEIVED	REMOTE CSID	DURATION	PAGES	STATUS
October 2, 2018 4:19:46 PM GMT+02:00 +41227340859	MISSION TURKEY TO UNOG	253	10	Received



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE TURQUIE
AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES À GENÈVE

2018/62441669-BMCO DT/14375304

La Mission Permanente de la République de Turquie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et d'autres organisations internationales en Suisse présentent ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme et se référant à sa lettre du 16 août 2018, a l'honneur de lui transmettre ci-jointe, une note d'information rédigée par les autorités compétentes turques conformément à la résolution 37/20 du Conseil des Droits de l'Homme.

La Mission Permanente de la République de Turquie saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Haut-Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme les assurances de sa plus haute considération.

Genève, le 2 octobre 2018



Pièce jointe: comme indiqué.

Haut Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme
Palais des Nations
1211 Genève 10

FACT SHEET ON EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

General Directorate of Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly:

1- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that was adopted by UN in 2006 in order to ensure full enjoyment from human rights and freedoms from persons with disabilities in equal terms with other individuals was signed by Turkey in 2007. The ratification process was completed and Turkey became one of the parties to the convention in 2009. Optional Protocol of the Convention was also signed in 2009 and the ratification process was completed by 2015. Thus CRPD, which obliges member states to take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, became an integral part of national legislation in Turkey.

Through the amendments of 2014 made on the provisions of Turkish Disability Act No. 5378 (TDA) which is the framework law reflecting the basic perspective of disability policy of Turkey, this act was restructured in line with the obligations stipulated by the Convention. With the changes made in the law; the purpose and principles of the law and various definitions including the definition of disability have been changed in accordance with the Convention. In this context, with the purpose of protecting and improving the rights of all persons with disabilities, including children; disability discrimination and its types, reasonable accommodation and some basic concepts such as accessibility were defined in the Law and thus they were included in the national disability legislation. Besides, a special article on the prohibition of discrimination was introduced and it was provided that reasonable accommodation measures for persons with disabilities shall be taken in order to ensure equality. As per 2010 amendment of the Constitution, the measures to be taken to ensure this equality of persons with disabilities with other individuals shall not be considered as violation of the principle of equality. Furthermore, by means of additional articles in Basic Law of National Education, the ban on disability based discrimination was specifically defined in order to strengthen the right to education for persons with disabilities.

Recently in Turkey, some significant practices have been carried out in in order to mainstream disability in all fields of policy and programmes and to achieve

sustainable, effective and efficient policies and services. “Turkey Strategy Paper and Plan of Action on Child Rights 2013-2017” recognizes and reconfirms the fact that the child's best interest is above all priorities for all children including children with disabilities. This Strategy Paper targets to build a culture of children's rights which is based on the right to life, development, protection and participation to social life as well as the right of being free from discrimination. The 10th Development Plan for 2014-2018 includes significant targets on enhancing the quality of life for all persons with disabilities including children. Besides, the 11th Development Plan for 2019-2023 is being prepared with a more inclusive approach by the influence of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the purposes of mainstreaming disability with all its dimensions in all policies and government programmes together with the Development Plan and steering the implementation in this direction, the preparatory work for the National Strategy Paper and Plan of Action on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been initiated.

2016 – 2019 National Plan of Action on Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder that was prepared with the purpose of increasing the quality of life for persons with ASD and for their families has been implemented under the coordination of Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. In order to achieve the target of “Enhancement of Educational Assessment, Special Education, Supportive Education and Rehabilitation Services” defined by the Plan of Action, Ministry of National Education and Council of Higher Education carries out various activities especially focused on development and implementation of training programs on characteristics and needs of individuals with ASD; increasing the quality of the support services appropriate to the needs of students with ASD; applying reasonable accommodation measures and making physical arrangements for educational environments for students with ASD, including the ones attending to inclusive education, providing educational opportunities to individuals with ASD who are skilled in various arts and sports in formal education and higher education levels. Ministry of National Education and Council of Higher Education communicates the relevant information about these activities with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

In order to achieve the target of promoting and disseminating best practices of accessibility, Accessibility Support Projects (ERDEP) have been financed by the national budget and implemented with the technical support of General Directorate of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly since 2012. Within the scope of 2014 ERDEP, aimed at making all schools affiliated with Ministry of National Education accessible in conformity with the scientific criteria and TSE (Turkish Standards Institution) standards, accessibility arrangements were made in 81 pilot scheme schools affiliated to the Ministry of National Education in 79 provinces. Furthermore, a guidebook titled "Accessibility for Children in Built Environment" was prepared and published in 2017 with the purpose of making accessibility standards more inclusive for children.

Due to the fact that developmental period in childhood differs from the one in adulthood, childhood reporting and evaluation system (ÇÖZGER) aims at documenting the needs of children and young people with special needs with a different approach utilized for adults in order to provide access to health, education, rehabilitation, social and economic rights and services. The preparatory work for the enactment of relevant legislative arrangements is carried out by our Ministry in cooperation with Ministry of Health.

2- The Campaign «There is Another You» was carried out within the scope of the Project titled "Reducing the Social Distance" by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services in cooperation with UNICEF between 2015 and 2017. The activities of the campaign targeted achieving the goal of "ensuring that children can enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community" as defined in the Convention for the Rights of the Child.

With the purpose of supporting the monitoring and implementation processes of the Convention in Turkey, a project has been carried out by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) between 2013 and 2016. As part of the Project, various awareness raising activities on the obligations of all state institutions and organizations were carried out.

Besides, three different animation films were prepared in order to raise disability awareness of the society.

Between 2014 and 2016, CSO Capacity Building Seminars were held by AÇSHB at regional level with the purposes of enhancing public sector and civil society dialogue and improving the capacities of civil society organizations, particularly the ones advocating disability rights including children with disabilities. In total 24 seminars were held at regional level within this period.

3- Turkey's National Disaster Response Plan (TAMP) is enacted in 2014 to ensure an effective disaster response with coordinated action among all responsible institutions. Within the scope of TAMP, there are a total of 28 service groups created according to the nature of the services provided during the response. The service groups pay attention to PwDs as regards to the nature of the service in question. "Disability awareness training programmes" that was started in 2016 in all provinces aims providing trainings to all relevant personnel, especially the search and rescue teams, about disability awareness with the purpose of increasing the quality of the services for PwDs.

4- Ensuring the participation of PwDs into decision making processes gained its legal base by Turkish Disability Act that was put into effect in 2005. By this Act, ensuring that the opinions of PwDs, their families and voluntary agencies taken into account during decision making processes or service provision was included in the general principles. Furthermore, it is indispensable for our country to increase the capacity of civil society organizations including the ones for children working in the field of disability in order to provide active participation of persons with disabilities to decision making processes.

5- Established in Turkey in 2012, the Human Rights Institution and The Ombudsman Institution of Turkey are deemed as important steps in fighting against discrimination. The fundamental duties of these structures established for independent monitoring include "disability rights". National Human Rights and Equality Institution was restructured and strengthened in 2016 with the purposes of ensuring protection and development of human rights on the basis of human dignity including the rights of

persons with disabilities, securing the right of equal treatment of persons, preventing discrimination against all persons in benefiting from legally recognized rights and freedoms, carrying out relevant activities in accordance with these principles, effectively combating torture and ill-treatment and fulfilling the mandate as the national preventive mechanism.

6-a) In parallel with the global trends, the criteria on disability related data collection in Turkey does also undergo a transformation. Turkey Population and Housing Survey carried out by Turkish Statistical Institution in 2011 across the country included a disability module in accordance with Washington Group criteria. The rate of persons with disabilities in general population was identified through 7 questions on 6 disability types. The survey also revealed data on the education levels of persons with disabilities by utilization of variables on education status.

With the purpose of supporting the monitoring and implementation processes of the Convention in Turkey, a project has been carried out by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) between 2013 and 2016. As part of the Project activities, indicator sets have been developed with the coordination of relevant public institutions, civil society organizations and academicians on eight priority areas for persons with disabilities (right to employment, education, cultural and touristic or sports activities, right to be free from violence and abuse, right to participate in social and political life) that will facilitate the monitoring of implementation process. During the preparation of question sets, great importance was attached to the age variable in each priority area so that relevant data and statistics could be obtained for the establishment of a monitoring system which has the potential to put forward the level of enjoyment from the priority areas in question.

6-b) Institutional care services of Turkey have recently been transformed in parallel with the approach of community based care. Within this scope, the work on establishing principles and standards of care services for persons with disabilities who need personal care has gained acceleration since 2006 in order that the services are rendered without prejudice to human dignity. The primary goal of care services for children with disabilities is the provision of care at family environments. However, the

main target set for persons with disabilities who cannot receive care services at home is provision of quality care services at care institutions with full respect to human dignity. Within this scope, Barrier Free Life Centres and Hope Houses, the new service models reflecting the transformation in institutional care, have been put into service. Within the scope of efforts on enhancing and extending community based care services, persons with disabilities have been provided with the opportunity of active participation and integration to social life in detached houses or flats (known as Hope Houses) since 2008. The houses that are known as domestic type social service units provide service to four to six people with disabilities in company with one home care personnel and under supervision of a care professional. By September 2018, 787 persons with disabilities including children live in a total of 141 hope houses. By August 2018, the numbers of children benefiting from different types of institutions across the country are as follows; 546 children in 36 Barrier Free Life Centres; 870 children in care and rehabilitation centres and 348 children in 218 private care centres.

General Directorate of Child Services:

2-b) In order to ensure that the principles and provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are learned and implemented by all segments of the society and that children are involved in all matters related to children, Provincial Committees on Child Rights have been established in 81 cities of our country under the coordination of the Directorate General of Child Services.

Members of the Provincial Committees on Child Rights are students, preferably school pupils elected from all schools, the child rights club students of schools, child laborers, children pushed into crime, children under protection and care in the institutions affiliated to our General Directorate, children with disabilities and children attending youth centers.

Provincial Committees on Child Rights, which have been working since 2000, are one of the rare examples of participation of children in the world. The committees are composed of 10 noble and 10 substitute members with equal number of girls and boys and the Committee is structured in 81 cities in the form of an Executive Committee.

Child Coordinators of Turkey are selected by girls and boys representatives elected in Provincial Committees on Child Rights by an election made in the children's forum held every two years. Between the years 2015-2017, sight-disabled child had worked as Coordinator of Turkey. The coordinators are members of the Child Rights Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, which is the highest body on child rights in national level, and has the right to vote. Provincial Committees on Child Rights are an organization that provides child participation throughout the country. Participation in committees is entirely voluntary and each child can become a member.

Various activities are carried out within the committees in national and international level. Activities such as; trainings on various subjects (child rights and social cohesion education for Syrian children), seminars, forum (Child Rights Day National Children's Forum), meetings (Children's Advisory Board Meetings), cultural, social and sporting events (chess tournament, excursion programs festivities, camp, cinema), celebrations of important days (International Day of Girl Child, Children's Day), award-winning competitions (poetry, painting, story, photography), presentation stands, workshops, visits (province, district, village, bureaucracy and NGO) s), exhibitions and theater are among these activities.

Provincial Committees on Child Rights create opportunities for children to participate in family, community and public life. It also provides opportunities to raise conscious and awareness of child rights and opportunities for children to participate in decision making processes in all level.

6-b) The number of children with disabilities under care in the institutions affiliated to our General Directorate is 798 of which 496 are male and 302 are female.

