



## SİĞINMACILAR VE GÖÇMENLERLE DAYANIŞMA DERNEĞİ

Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants

### **SUPPORTING AFGHAN WOMEN AND GIRLS ON THE MOVE**

#### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Following the military withdrawal of the international troops and the Taliban's takeover of the rule in war-torn Afghanistan, the fear of the sudden drastic changes resulted in many Afghans leaving the country and seeking asylum from other states. Since then, there has been a considerable increase in the number of Afghans entering into Turkey. Given the situation of women and girls under the reign of the Taliban and the traumatic experiences during the journey to Turkey, this project strives for providing a comprehensive protection mechanism for the Afghan women and girls in order to meet their basic needs and support their well-being. Within this context, the project will have three major components:

- provision of female hygiene kit and basic emergency kit for the ones with any kind of ID or upon the request of law enforcement agencies
- Legal counselling and legal assistance in order to support them in registration and in any other protection needs
- Psychosocial support

With these interventions, it is aimed for the project to meet the urgent needs of the Afghan women and girls promptly and support their psychological well-being by reducing the effects of past experiences and traumas.

#### **WHAT IS THE PROBLEM**

Following the military withdrawal of the international troops from Afghanistan, the Taliban has started to take control of the country and in August, the advance accelerated dramatically. The increase of violent practices and the sudden change in the governance structures have deteriorated the human rights violations within the country. According to the numbers provided by UN OCHA, between 9 July 2021 to 9 August 2021, that is to say in one month, 125.480 Afghans have been internally displaced, and 59% of them are children.<sup>1</sup> While there are no precise numbers about the number of Afghans crossing the international borders, sources indicate that tens of thousands of Afghans left the country in the recent weeks.<sup>2</sup>

Given the volatile situation in Afghanistan, the influx to Turkey has been recorded by the news agencies and it is ongoing since the instability in the country continues. While the civilian casualties are on the

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<sup>1</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan: Conflict Induced Displacements, accessed 16 August 2021, [www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps).

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, UNHCR Position on Returns to Afghanistan, August 2021. Accessible via: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/611a4c5c4.pdf>



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rise, the proportion of women and children affected by violence has increased drastically.<sup>3</sup> In addition to being in need of international protection, the vulnerabilities of women and girls coming from Afghanistan increases the protection risks and therefore require specific attention. According to the figures provided by the UNHCR, 80% of the Afghans forced to flee their country are women and children.<sup>4</sup> The needs of those who had to flee are acute and urgent assistance to meet these needs are vital. Therefore, this project aims at providing assistance to Afghan women and girls entering Turkey in precarious situations.

### HOW WILL THIS PROJECT SOLVE THE PROBLEM

The project strives to meet the urgent needs of the Afghan women and girls entering Turkey and provide them with assistance in order to decrease the risks that they encounter. Within this context, the Afghan women and girls will be provided with comprehensive assistance with a needs and rights-based approach.

In order to do that, female hygiene kits and basic emergency kits will be provided to the newly arrived Afghan women and girls alongside the Eastern borders of Turkey where most of the arrivals are taking place. The kits are designed to be able to meet the most urgent needs of the Afghan women and girls. The female hygiene kits include basic personal protection equipment such as disinfectants, masks, wet wipes etc. together with materials for intimate hygiene and health. The contents of the basic emergency kits may differ depending on the season and the weather conditions, which may include blankets, electric heaters, pocket warmers, clothes, scarves, beanies, boots etc. in the winter.

Once the most vital needs are met, the Afghan women and girls will be supported with legal counselling and legal assistance in order to facilitate their registration in the country in addition to meeting their protection needs and decreasing their vulnerabilities. For this component of the project, the social workers and lawyers who are experienced in working with refugees and vulnerable groups will be responsible.

Given the past experiences and traumas of these women and girls, ASAM will provide psychosocial support in order to facilitate their relief and decrease the impacts of post-traumatic experiences. The psychosocial support will take place in ASAM premises, where the safety and security of the beneficiary is ensured and the confidentiality is guaranteed.

### POTENTIAL LONG TERM IMPACT

For the longer term resilience of Afghan women and girls, meeting the urgent needs is of utmost importance. Once the acute needs are met through the distribution of female hygiene kit and basic

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<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, Displaced Afghan family struggles to cope amid latest violence, 15 July 2021. Accessible via: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2021/7/60f008f54.html>

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR, UNHCR warns Afghanistan's conflict taking the heaviest toll on displaced women and children, 13 August 2021. Accessible via: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2021/8/611617c55.html>



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emergency kit, their long-term well-being will be sustained through legal counselling and legal assistance alongside with psychosocial support. Before the provision of legal counselling and legal assistance, needs assessment will be conducted and the case plan will be prepared accordingly. The case plan aims at decreasing the risk level of the beneficiaries and increasing their resilience through overcoming their vulnerabilities which includes support to their timely and orderly registration to the Directorate General of Migration Management. Therefore, through the legal counselling and assistance, the risk of violation of core human rights will be reduced and their access to basic rights will be promoted. This process will also help identifying the individuals with special needs and will enable ASAM to support them further in the long term and reduce their vulnerabilities. In addition, psychosocial support that will be provided in ASAM premises will increase resilience among Afghan women and girls and will support their long-term psychological well-being.