



Training on Trainers on Protection in Practice – Gaziantep Syria

The Syria Protection Cluster in Turkey, led by UNHCR, organized two successful [Trainings of Trainers \(ToT\) on Protection in Practice](#), held in the southeast city of Gaziantep. These trainings brought together 60 Syrian humanitarian aid workers who risk their lives on a daily basis to help thousands of people in need in Syria.

In April 2016, the Protection Cluster invited all members to apply for this ToT programme and extended the invitation to all Syrian NGOs that are part of the OCHA Turkey Platform. The programme aimed to provide Syrian aid workers guidance on legal frameworks for protection, humanitarian principles, and humanitarian coordination.

The workshops, held in Arabic, took place from 11-15 and 25-29 July 2016 and focused on how to organize and conduct protection learning activities that address the social, material and psychosocial needs of the affected communities in northern Syria and Turkey.

Many participants stated that it was the first time they attended such training. They commented that the training helped them to understand protection issues related to the Syrian emergency response and how to best assist people fleeing war and violence.

The participants appreciated the choice of Arabic for conducting the training and with the kind leadership of UNHCR workshop facilitator George Fahmy, an Egyptian national who stated: “I was delighted to organize this workshop in Arabic to ensure a successful exchange among the participants.”

Below are the brief profiles of some of the committed participants.

Reem, is 25 years old, from Hama. She works in south Turkey as a nutritionist. She stated that the workshop was very successful because it introduced her to some new issues, including concepts and terms related to mine action: clearance, risk education, victim assistance, advocacy and stockpile destruction.

Jawad, 23 years old, works for a protection program inside Aleppo. He is enthusiastic about his job, even though it is very difficult at times. He was motivated to continue emergency relief assistance thanks to the training and his fellow participants. He especially appreciated two short movies in Arabic that dealt with international human rights and humanitarian law.

Anwar, 27 years old, from Idlib countryside, works for a Syrian NGO in Idlib. He stated that the level of violence and devastation in northern Syria goes beyond human understanding and that the most difficult thing is seeing children experience war and fear. The workshop helped him gather better insight on how to assist the most vulnerable.

Muhanned, 40 years old, from Idlib, works as GBV specialist in an IDP camp hosting thousands of internally displaced Syrian families. He strongly believes that the inclusion of women in a society and the protection of their rights will be crucial in the post-conflict phase in Syria.

Amar, 25 years old, from Hama, works for a Syrian NGO in Idlib as psycho-social support officer. She enjoyed the training and was happy she could exchange views and insights on how to best assist victims of trauma. In addition to her humanitarian work, she is also a tireless mother.

Omar, 30, from Homs, works in Idlib as a technical manager and psychosocial support officer. He found the group exercise very useful. During the exercise, each group did a role-play with one humanitarian principle (humanity, neutrality, impartiality, or independence) and discussed the challenges of applying them concretely during the provision of life-saving and life-sustaining assistance in northern Syria.

A Community of Practice online portal has been established for the training participants to remain connected to each other and keep exchanging experience as well as share new practices and publications on protection activities relevant to Syria.

Gaziantep, Turkey