

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CLOSING REPORT

“Global Migration and Psychosocial Health Security”

November 4-5, 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Migration is a growing problem in the 21st century that has impacted the entire globe. When migration becomes primarily an economic problem, the influx of refugees provoke both legal and political discourse. It has already been discussed that the historical process of state formation and breakdown create refugees. Refugee admission policies have real consequences for refugee adaptation. The conditions in the host society also influence the process of identify formation. Refugees across the world live in abject poverty and deprivation which erodes human dignity. Most of the countries have problems with admission of refugees, lacking administrative facilities and financial resources. Earlier it was a temporary problem. But nowadays it has been acknowledged as universal and a challenge that is continuing and recurring. The refugee is an involuntary migrant, a victim of politics, war or natural catastrophe. A refugee is a person taking refuge in a foreign land due to war, persecution or natural disaster. Repatriation is the option for refugees who remain in countries of first asylum. Returning home after residing home is the one and only choice for many of the world’s refugees. Therefore the problems of refugees need to be addressed.

A two-day International Conference was held as the 24th General Conference of the International Federation of Social Science Organizations (IFSSO), on the general topic of “Global Migration and Psycho-Social Health Security” located at Harran University, in Şanlıurfa, Turkey. The conference took place in Harran University Campus on the 4th and 5th of November 2019. It has been a forum for discussion where experts, young researchers and students, practitioners and policy makers working in the field of migration were encouraged to exchange their knowledge and experiences in a friendly and frank environment. In this conference there was a Pre-Conference on “Migration and Health Security” during the first day

of the conference. There were 40 Turkish scholars from Turkey and 10 scholars from international scholarships.

The one day pre-conference workshop specifically focused on Turkey's migration of displaced scientists and students. In this pre-conference, there were two themes based on mental health support for displaced science students:

- The scope and assessment of student mental health problems on campus.
- Collaboration and coordination among counselors, health providers, faculty and student affairs: Successful program and tools to support positive foreign student academic engagement and workforce development.

PRIMARY PROJECT GOALS AND OUTCOMES

The pre-conference served as the organizer and liaison with the IFFSO. A pre-conference working group was established for cultural integration to the Turkish scientific and academic community. 40 Turkish Faculty and Student International Program staff and 10 international scholars attended the pre-conference. These scholars were supported to attend the international 24th IFFSO General Conference immediately proceeding after the workshop. In this pre-conference, scholars developed recommendations/support guidance reports for the Ministry of Higher Education, Directorate of Migration Management of the Turkish Republic and University Board of Governors on the issue of security and positive integration of displaced students and scientists for future use.

The closing report is prepared by the conference coordinator as follows:

Within the past year, several important policy developments have shaped the landscape for refugees (from now on will be called as asylum seekers in Turkey context). First, the Turkish Government has taken a number of steps to bring its protection framework more closely in line with international standards (though differences remain), and has adopted new measures to provide Syrian Asylum Seekers (**Syrians under Temporary Protection**) access to the labor market and education. The government also has become more open to accepting international aid and reducing constraints on the operations of international humanitarian organizations and other NGOs—a shift from its original stance of trying to meet the massive asylum seeker needs on its own. But cooperation with the international community remains challenging in many

respects. Turkey's accord with the European Union, concluded six months ago, has proven notably difficult to implement.

In the conference, the major measures to accommodate the asylum seekers and to ensure the long term stability and success of both asylum seekers and their host communities in Turkey were discussed. Also on the agenda was the issue of how such measures can be used for the developmental activities of the country. The conference also discussed the current policy environment in Turkey and also what are the major provisions for livelihood opportunities and best practices of rehabilitating the asylum seekers.

In the pre-conference, scholars focused more on the rehabilitating practices as well as the psychological and social aspects of asylum seekers. In general this aspect was mostly considered as the biggest problem. As Turkey generously hosts 4 million asylum seekers, most of the management activities were humanitarian aid and shelter for the asylum seekers. There are also many works for the psychological issues of asylum seekers but it is very few. With this conference, awareness was created among the scholars and experts working in this area. Here are some matters addressed on psychosocial health security of migration:

- Turkey hosts 3.576.659 Syrian asylum seekers registered as Under Temporary Protection. (The Temporary Protection Regulation enshrines a range of rights, services and assistance for beneficiaries of temporary protection. This includes, among others, access to health, education, social assistance, psychological support and access to the labour market.)
- Approximately 110,000 Syrian people obtained Turkish Nationality. Also officials and experts think that there are about 100,000 Syrian people who are still unregistered.
- There are also some Syrian people as regular migrants. So, that is about 4 million Syrian people living in Turkey. In Sum: In Turkey there are 4 million+ asylum seekers mostly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.
- In Sanliurfa, the city where the pre-conference was held, there are 427,091 Syrian asylum seekers. That means around %20 of the city population consists of asylum seekers (Syrians under temporary protection). In several asylum seekers camps in Turkey there are 63,247 asylum seekers (Syrians in general) living.

- In 2019 in Turkey, 454,662 irregular migrants were detained by the police. This number includes 201,437 Afghan asylum seekers.
- %5 of young people among the asylum seekers are studying at university. The number of university students is approximately 25,000 (November 2019). These foreign displaced students of science who may have experienced trauma whilst migrating to Turkey. Special considerations of mental health are needed for these students to ensure integration with Turkish culture and academic society.
- Harran University has 2,857 Syrian students + 100 Afghan and Iraqi students. But there will be more Iraqis and Syrians in the 2020-2021 education period because more Syrian young people in high schools will graduate. The numbers will definitely increase.
- A research report showed that more than %50 of asylum seekers in Turkey should have some psychological support (depression and trauma) treatment from professionals. Unfortunately in Turkey, the capacity (especially for Arabic speaking psychologists) is insufficient.
- There is a need for university faculty members and the staff to be trained for communication with asylum seeker students.
- Asylum seeker students should have psychosocial support, there should be offices at the universities, they should have the awareness of their rights, and the staff should be trained.
- Asylum seeker students are always afraid that they cannot fight for their rights because they think that if they complain about any abuse, they will be out of school and they just don't want more trouble in their life. They already experience stigmatization.
- Students are being discriminated against, sometimes by staff, sometimes by their friends, by the neighbors etc.
- There should be some youth projects also to involve them with Turkish young people, like week-long camps etc. for their social inclusion.
- There aren't any orientation programs for asylum seeker students, and unfortunately there is not enough psycho-social support offices for the students. There are not enough projects focusing on asylum seekers from the psychological perspective.
- Psycho-social consultancy services at the universities will be very helpful for the orientation of the students.
- Migration and Health Security should be studied deeper in the academy and PhD, Master theses should be supported.

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

The project was implemented at Harran University, in Sanliurfa. The pre-conference was funded by Health Security Partners and academically supported by

- International Federation of Social Science Organizations
- Directorate of Migration Management of Turkish Republic
- Migration Policy Application and Research Center of Harran University
- Department of Sociology of Harran University
- International Students Affairs of Harran University

The detailed program of the pre-conference is as follows:

4 Kasım/November Pazartesi/Monday

10:30-12:00 Açılış (Opening) – Salon A

- Hoş Geldiniz Konuşması, *Hakan Gülerce, Harran Üniversitesi Göç Politikaları Uygulama ve Araştırma Merkezi*
- *Ekrem Bektaş, Harran Üniversitesi, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi Dekanı*
- *Mehmet Sabri Çelik, Harran Üniversitesi Rektörü*
- *Gökçe Ok, Göç İdaresi Genel Müdür Yardımcısı*
- *Rami Hatib, Horizon Derneği Yönetim Kurulu Başkanı*
- *Nestor Castro, International Federation of Social Sciences Başkanı*
- *Açılış Tebliği: Şevket Ökten, Harran Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Müdürü*

12:00-14:00 Öğle Yemeği Arası (Lunch Break)

14:00-15:30 Ön-Konferans “Küresel Göç ve Psiko-Sosyal Sağlık Güvenliği”

(Paralel Oturum, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Salon A, Türkçe)

Oturum Başkanı: Şevket Ökten, Harran Üniversitesi

- ***Sağlık Güvenliği Açısından Göç ve Travma***
Deniz İşiker Bedir, Mardin Artuklu Üniversitesi
- ***Sosyal İlişkilerin Suriyeli Sığınmacıların Beden-Ruh Sağlığı ve Toplumsal Entegrasyonları Üzerindeki Etkisi***
Hüseyin Çakal, Keele Üniversitesi, İngiltere

- **Bir Travma ve İyileşme Hikayesi Olarak Mültecilik**

Taha Burak Toprak, İbn Haldun Üniversitesi

- **Sığınmacılara Yönelik Hizmetler İçin Dönüştürücü Bir Model: Travmaya Duyarlı Uygulama ve Sağlık Güvenliği**

Aslıhan Nişancı, 29 Mayıs Üniversitesi

14:00-15:30 Ön-Konferans “Küresel Göç ve Psiko-Sosyal Sağlık Güvenliği”

(Paralel Oturum, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Salon B, Türkçe)

Oturum Başkanı: Günnur Ertong Attar, Mersin Üniversitesi

- **Göçmen ve Sığınmacılarda Sık Görülen Ruhsal Hastalıklar, Gereksinimler ve Türkiye'de Buna Yönelik Çalışmalar**

Ersin Uygun, İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi

- **Göçmenlerde Travma ve Uygun Tedavi Yaklaşımları**

Mehmet Asoğlu, Harran Üniversitesi

- **Göçmenlerin Psikolojik Dayanıklılıklarını Artırmada Kullanılan Narrative Terapi Uygulamaları**

Mehmet Dinç, Türkiye Yeşilay Cemiyeti Genel Başkan Vekili

15:30-16:00 Çay-Kahve Arası (Tea-Coffee Break)

16:00-17:30 Ön-Konferans “Küresel Göç ve Psiko-Sosyal Sağlık Güvenliği”

(Paralel Oturum, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Salon A, Türkçe)

Oturum Başkanı: Ayşe Cebeci, Harran Üniversitesi

- **Göçmenlerin Sağlık Güvenliği: Sorunlar ve Çözüm Yolları**

Can Ozan Tuncer, İçişleri Bakanlığı İç güvenlik Stratejileri Dairesi

- **Uluslararası Göçler ve Göçün Sağlık Güvenliği Açısından Yerinden Yönetimi**

Ahmet Koyuncu, Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi

- **Çevre ve Toplum Sağlığı Açısından Göçler, Olası Senaryolar ve Risk Analizleri**

Şahin Toprak, Harran Üniversitesi

- **Türkiye Sınır Bölgeleri Özelinde; Göç, Çevre ve Sağlık**

İbrahim Yenigün, Harran Üniversitesi

16:00-17:30 Ön-Konferans “Küresel Göç ve Psiko-Sosyal Sağlık Güvenliği”

(Paralel Oturum, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Salon B, Türkçe)

Oturum Başkanı: Yusuf Adıgüzel, İstanbul Üniversitesi

Göçmenlere Yönelik Tutumları Etkileyen Değerler ve Demografik Faktörler

Veysel Bozkurt, İstanbul Üniversitesi

- **Nitelikli Göçmenlerin Gündelik Yaşam Deneyimlerinin Psikolojik İyi Oluş ve Kimlik İnşa Süreçlerine Etkisi: Almanya Örneği**

F. Güzin Ağca-Varoğlu, Harran Üniversitesi

- **Yükseköğretimde Suriyeli Öğrenciler: Bazı Yansımalar**

Günnur Ertong Attar, Mersin Üniversitesi

- **Suriyeli Çocukların Eğitimi ve Yaşadıkları Travma Transferi**

Emel Topcu, Tuba Büyükbeşe, Hasan Kalyoncu Üniversitesi

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The IFSSO conference and pre-conference were very timely organized at the center of migration (Şanlıurfa, Harran University) in Turkey. Many projects were ongoing focusing on social inclusion of asylum seekers as well as the economical and humanitarian aspect of the migrants. With the pre-conference on “Global Migration and Health Security” academics focused more on the psychosocial aspect of the issue. All the scholars agreed to have these conferences regularly and to have selected articles in these workshops/conference published in scientific journals.