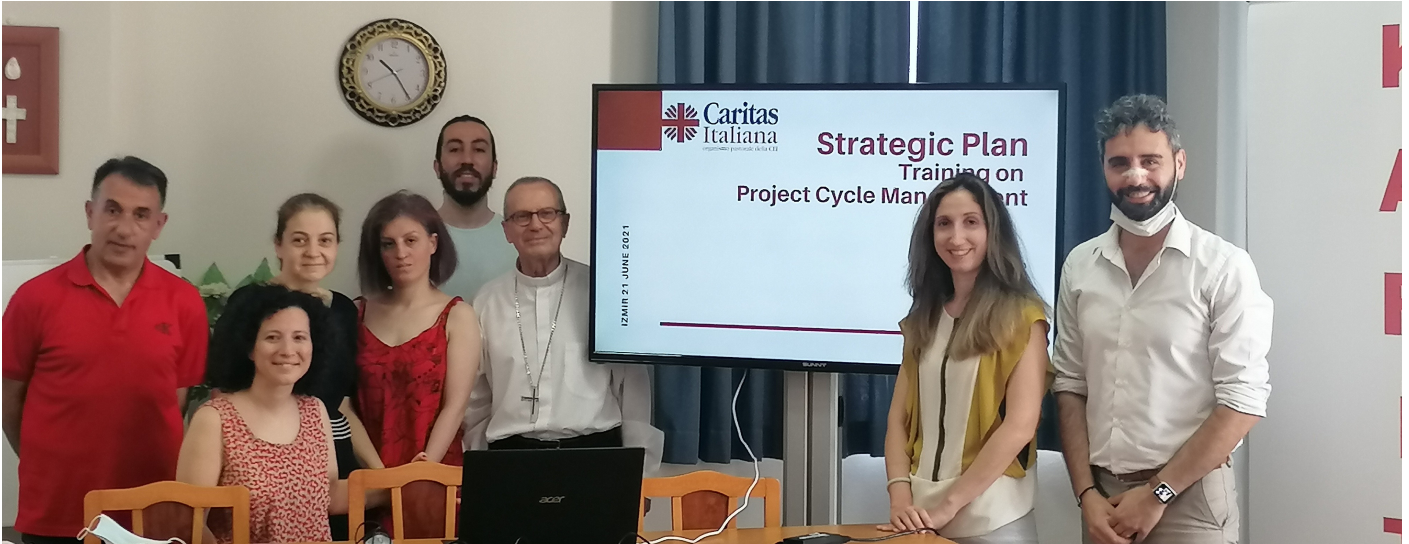


NEWSLETTER

The Official Bulletin of Caritas Turkey



NATIONAL OFFICE

Over the last 4 months, the National Office with Caritas Italiana has designed 3 Workshops in which all 4 offices were invited to participate, sharing their expertise and their vision for the future of Caritas Turkey. The general aim was to design the 2021-2025 Caritas Turkey Strategic Plan while acquiring specific technical competencies and enhancing the exchange and dialogue among offices.

The first workshop took place in Istanbul from the 26th to the 28th of April 2021. As the first official meeting of the 4 offices, the group worked together to define their **mission**, **vision**, and **values** as Caritas Turkey to lay the common ideological foundations. **A SWOT analysis** was done, highlighting the situation of Caritas Turkey in terms of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and lead to the definition of Caritas Turkey **sectors of intervention**, identifying the four areas in which Caritas Turkey would like to work in the following 4 years, namely:

- **Migration**
- **Local Community Support and Mobilization**
- **Organizational Development**
- **Emergency**





At the same time, the offices defined their **Communication and Coordination Matrix**, deciding how to improve the information flow among them and the modalities to coordinate.

The second workshop took place in two separate locations, from the 21st to the 23rd June 2021 in Izmir with Izmir Diocesan Office and Anatolia Diocesan Office; and from the 28th to 30th June 2021 in Istanbul with the Istanbul Diocesan Office and the National Office. The offices focused on the 4 areas of intervention, using the **PCM (project cycle management) approach** to better define them. **The problem analysis** included three phases: **stakeholder analysis, problem identification, and problem tree**. In Izmir the participants worked on Migration and Local Community Support and Mobilization, identifying the stakeholders involved, reflecting on the problems, and organizing them in a cause-effect relationship. The same was done in Istanbul with Organizational Development and Emergency. Subsequently, the problem trees were turned into objectives trees and each group started working on the definition of **overall objectives (impact) and specific objectives (outcomes)** and suggesting **possible activities**.

The third workshop took place from 7th to 9th July 2021 in Istanbul with the participation of all 4 offices. Each sector of intervention was presented by one office at a time and then discussed in a plenary session to collect the feedback and suggestions of the other offices. Once **the Strategic Plan matrix** was finalized the workshop focused on the project drafting, acquiring specific competencies, tools, and techniques useful to analyze calls for proposals, and design tailored projects starting from the Strategic Plan.

The facilitators of these training were the colleagues of Caritas Italiana, Alessandro Cadorin, and Silvia Pastorutti. The outcomes of these workshops, and in particular the Strategic Plan, will be presented during the Partners Meeting that will take place on the **30th and 31st August 2021**. **SAVE THE DATE!**

One section of the **Strategic Plan** will be dedicated to organizational development. Caritas Turkey would like on this occasion to also involve other Caritas sisters in this process of institutional strengthening through fraternal cooperation.

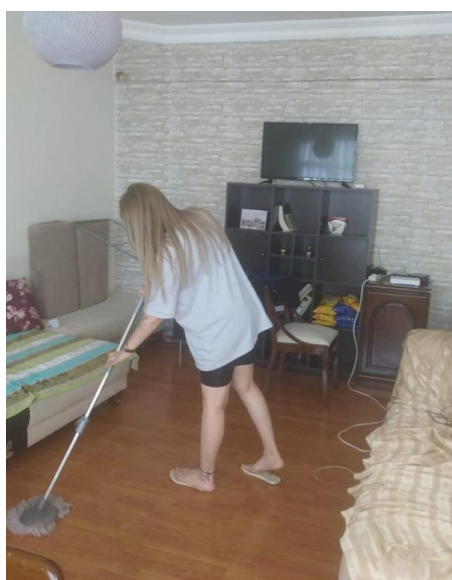




ISTANBUL DIOCESAN OFFICE

Istanbul Diocesan Office of Caritas Turkey is trying to be an open door for vulnerable people including refugees, migrants, abused women and children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and minorities. We give high importance to working in collaboration with churches and their bodies, but also with CSOs because we believe that we are stronger when we are together. Therefore, over the years we started cooperating with several organizations, including the Salesian community, St. Antoine and Santa Maria Churches, Ankara Parishes, Little Sisters of the Poor, Artigiana Rest House, Chaldean Community, Refugee Rights, and Şevkat Der. We organize regular meetings with our already existing partners meanwhile trying to build new synergies with other associations and communities.

This month we would like to focus on our partnership with Şevkat Der, an association founded in 1995 that promotes the respect of human rights while fighting against poverty. Its mission is to help the homeless people struggling for life on the street, the victims of violence, sexually abused women, children, youth, refugees and asylum seekers, the poor, and those who have suffered human rights violations, regardless of religion, language, race, and gender. Even though we have known each other and had been in contact with the association for many years, our partnership has begun in 2018. Caritas Istanbul supported Şevkat Der in the creation of a women's shelter aimed at providing a safe space and a warm meal for women living in difficult situations and victims of abuses



Ayşe, no more homeless!

Ayşe is one of the guests of the women's shelter managed by Şevkat Der and supported by Caritas Turkey. She was married to an abusive husband who forced their two children to work. When her husband was sentenced to prison, she divorced him but the Government took her children in custody.

For years she tried her best to get her children back and create a new life with them. With some help from her friends, she succeeded and reunited the family. But the difficulties were not over and many times Ayşe slept on the sidewalks with her children because of extreme poverty. Five years ago, a person who saw her on the street referred Ayşe to the women's shelter of Şevkat Der. Her daughter stood with her, and her son was welcomed to one of the men's shelters of the Şevkat Der.

Now her daughter is married and lives in Izmir while her son is living and working in Istanbul. Ayşe lived with him for a while but now again she came back to the shelter to receive help.

"Thanks to God we have this place with your help and with Şevkat Der's help," said Ayşe when interviewed "There are so many women here who found a roof above their head in their most difficult times. They had the chance to create a new life and then leave the shelter to start their new life when ready".

Her words testify how the women's shelter has been a home for the neediest women for years. In these difficult times, Caritas wishes to renew its commitment to working in close collaboration with Şevkat Der. We wish to improve the services and the support provided to the women in need that seek shelter including also a psychological support service to better help them.

Here are some photos from the shelter and from the food distribution to homeless people which Caritas Turkey also supports.

