

COUNTRY GENDER PROFILE

TURKEY



Women and Youth Empowerment Division
Resilience and Social Development Department
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1. Socio-Economic Profile

1.1 The Republic of Turkey is at the geopolitical intersection between Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Middle East¹. Its estimated population of 82,663,339 in 2019² comprises 50.2% males and 49.8%³. Turkey's economic and social development since 2000 has been remarkable, leading to increased employment and incomes, making Turkey an upper-middle-income country⁴. The predicted economic outlook for 2018 reveals a downward trend. Growth is expected to fall from 7.4% in 2017 to 3.7% in 2018 and 2.3% in 2019⁵. Poverty is forecasted to decline at a slow pace, from 9.3% in 2017 to 9% in 2018 and 8.8% in 2019, measured based on the upper-middle-income country poverty line (US\$5.5 per day in 2011 purchasing power parity)⁶. Turkey is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the G20 and a candidate country for European Union (EU) accession.

1.2 Turkey maintained its 2016 rank of 64th among 189 countries on the United Nations Program's (UNDP) 2017 Human Development Index (HDI)⁷. The 2016 position moved up seven steps from its 2015 rank of 71st to 64th out of 188 countries, which puts the country in the high human development category⁸. Turkey's HDI level of 0.791 is above both the average of 0.757 for countries in the high human development category and the average of 0.771 for countries in Europe and Central Asia⁹. Turkey's HDI rank is higher than Azerbaijan (80th) and Serbia (67th) - two countries with close HDI and population to it¹⁰. Turkey maintained its 2016 position of 69th (among 159 countries in 2016) in 2017 (out of 160th countries) on the UNDP's gender inequality index¹¹. The country's place on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index of 130th out of 149 countries is a spot higher than its 2017 position of 131st out of 144 countries¹². Turkey was placed 7th out of 19 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries¹³. While Turkey closed the gender gap in labor force participation, professional and technical roles and the share of women in parliament, the wage equality for similar work worsened¹⁴.

Table 1. Gender at a Glance

Categories	Female (%)	Male (%)
Labor Force Participation (ILO, 2017)	33.5	72.4
Unemployment (ILO, 2017)	13.9	9.4
Bank Accounts (WEF, GGGR, 2018)	44.3	69.0
Literacy Rate (UNESCO, 2016)	93.56	98.78
Own Account Workers (WEF, GGGR, 2018)	8.8	20.1
Unpaid Family Worker (WEF, GGGR, 2018)	26.4	4.6
Entrepreneurship (FAO 2016)	15	85

1. GIZ (ND), Turkey, <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/290.html>

2. World Population Review (2018), Turkey Country Profile, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/turkey-population/>

3. Hurriyet Daily News (2019), <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-population-reaches-82-million-140932>

4. World Bank (2018), Turkey Overview, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/turkey/overview#1>

5. Ibid

6. Ibid

7. UNDP (2018) Turkey Country Notes, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/TUR.pdf

8. UNDP (2018), Turkey Country Note, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/TUR.pdf, P. 3

9. UNDP 2018, op.cit:3

10. Ibid:3

11. Ibid:5.6

12. WEF-GGGR (2018), Global Gender Gap Report 2018, <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2018/data-explorer/#economy=TUR>

13. Ibid:16

14. Ibid:24



2. Gender in National Development: Institutional and Policy Frameworks

2.1. The Turkey's Fifth 5-Year Development Plan 1985-1990 was the first to take women's issues as a sector and develop policy and priorities toward gender equality¹⁵. It has been observed that while the Tenth 5-Year Development Plan 2014-2018 used concepts such as "gender equality", "gender-sensitive budgeting", it addressed gender in a chapter on "family and women"¹⁶. Turkey ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1986 and lifted the reservations on Articles 15 and 16 in 1999¹⁷. The Beijing Declaration and Optional Protocol to CEDAW were signed in 1995 and 2002, respectively¹⁸. Turkey has submitted seven periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee starting with the initial submission in 1987 and the most recent in 2014¹⁹. The country is also committed to the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The overall institutional, national framework for the SDGs is the Ministry of Development²⁰. Turkey's National Sustainable Development Commission has been strengthened, and its remit widened for it to act as the focal institution for the SDGs. It is responsible for the follow-up and review in the implementation process of the SDGs²¹.

2.2 Institutional and Policy Frameworks

2.2.1 Article 10 of the Turkish Constitution which had 'equality before the law' was amended on May 7th, 2004 by the Turkish Grand National Assembly to "men and women have equal rights, and the State is responsible for the measures to implement those rights"²². Furthermore, in October 2001, the Turkish Grand National Assembly amended Articles 41 and 66 to guarantee gender equality within the family and before the law²³. Additionally, the amendment of Article 90 of the Constitution in 2004, gave CEDAW precedent over national laws in conflictual situations, thereby making CEDAW superior to national laws²⁴.

2.2.2 The first institutional framework for gender equality in Turkey was the 'Advisory Board for Policies with regards to Women' established in 1987 within the State Planning Organization to raise gender awareness in public policies²⁵. A Directorate for Women's Rights and Gender Equality was established in 1990 to achieve the objectives of CEDAW: the General Directorate of Women's Status, (Kadinin Statusu Genel Mudurlugu, KSGM). The KSGM was first under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security but later transferred to the Office of the Prime Minister²⁶. The KSGM coordinates the Women's Status Units across the provinces, and its mission is to promote gender equality in Turkey by developing programs and policies to reduce all forms of gender-based discrimination²⁷. It also collates all reports on gender policy, including periodic reports on CEDAW, the national action plans for gender equality, and conducts training programs for public institutions²⁸. Furthermore, KSGM works jointly with ministries on gender-related issues such as violence against women (VAW)²⁹. The Advisory Board on the Status of Women headed by the Minister of Women and Family Affairs, later the Family and Social Policies, established

15. GoTR (2002), The Background to Gender Equality Policies in Turkey <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/documents/Beijing+15/Turkey.pdf>

16. FAO (2016), National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods in Turkey, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6192e.pdf>, P.10

17. European Parliament (2012), Gender Equality in Turkey, [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2012/462428/IP-OL-FEMM_NT\(2012\)462428_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2012/462428/IP-OL-FEMM_NT(2012)462428_EN.pdf), P.4

18. Ibid:5

19. Ref World (2014), Turkey Seventh Periodic Report, [https://www.refworld.org/publisher,CEDAW,STATEPARTIESREPTUR,,,0.html](https://www.refworld.org/publisher/CEDAW,STATEPARTIESREPTUR,,,0.html)

20. GoTR (2016), Report on Turkey's Initial Steps Towards the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/107102030%20Agenda%20Turkey%20Report.pdf>, P:3

21. Ibid:3

22. Ibid:5

23. Ibid:5

24. Ibid:5

25. European Parliament, 2012 op.cit:6

26. Ibid:6

27. Ibid:6

28. Ibid:6

29. Ibid:6



with participation from a cross-section of the society, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) activists, academics and civil servants³⁰.

2.2.4 The KSGM prepared the National Action Plan for Societal Gender Equality for 2009-2013, which focuses on the elimination of gender-based inequality in education, health, poverty, and access to the decision-making process³¹. The Action Plan which was developed to impact the country's gender policy was prepared in line with the EU's Twinning Project in 2008, "Promoting Gender Equality, Strengthening Institutional Capacity, and is implemented by the KSGM³². Law No. 5840 on the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) was adopted in February 2009, and in March 2009, an Equal Opportunities Commission composed of parliamentarians from different political parties was established in the Turkish Grand National Assembly³³. Law No. 6248 was adopted in 2012 to protect the Family and Prevent Violence against Women. The new law supersedes the 1998 Law for the Protection of the Family Law (Law 4320). Additionally, two national action plans (2007-2010, and 2012-2015) to combat violence are also part of the country's VAW architecture. Turkey was the first country to ratify the "Istanbul Convention", the Council of Europe's Convention preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO), opened for signature in Istanbul in May 2011. The legally binding convention effectively outlines policy and legal framework for combating domestic violence and violence against women. Importantly it characterizes violence against as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination³⁴.

3. Voice and Participation

3.1. Women's Civil Society Organizations

3.1.1. Turkish women have a long history of participation in demanding that their rights be respected and promoted. Subsequently, they formed different coalitions to put forward their demands. For instance, 126 women organizations participated in the Civil Code Women Platform (Medeni Kanun Kadın Platformu) as well as in the Women's Penal Code Platform³⁵. In 2004, the Penal Code was revised, and it presented a radically different notion on the position of women. Implementation is slow due to lack of budget, political will, and prioritization.

3.1.2 During the 2011 election campaign, various women's rights organizations came together on the Rightful Women's Platform urging parties to support the equal representation of women in politics. Also, a women coalition composed of 220 women's organizations, Siddete Son Platformu lead the mobilization of women in the movement to end all kinds of gender-based violence.³⁶ Since 2011, a new coalition, Women's Platform for the Constitution, was formed to lobby for gender-sensitive provisions to be included in the Constitution. The Women's platform actively presents its views by sending its proposals to the leading policymakers³⁷. Women's NGOs also submit shadow reports to the UN on the conventions Turkey has ratified.

30. Ibid:7

31. Ibid:6

32. Ibid:7

33. Ibid:6

34. Turkije Instiuit-Netherlands, op.cit:2

35. European Parliament, op.cit:7

36. European Parliament, op. cit:7

37. European Parliament, op.cit:



4. Strategic Sectors for Gender Equality

Table 2: Employment and Economic Activities

Categories	Female (%)	Male (%)
Unemployed	13.9	9.4
Informal	-	-
Part time	25.7	12.6
High Skilled workers	9.0	13.5
Contributing family workers	26.4	4.6
Own account workers-	8.8	20.1
Mean Monthly Earnings	-	-
Labor force participation rate	33.5	72.4

Source: Compiled from the 2018 Global Gender Gap Report & and ILO, 2019

4.1 It has been observed that the female labor force participation rate in Turkey has been on the decline in the last three decades. While the female labor force participation rate in the EU and OECD has increased, Turkey's participation declined from 34.3% in 1998 to 23.3% in 2004 and rose to 32.5% in 2016 and 33.5%³⁸ in 2017. Their participation in the workforce compared to male workers is very low across all the work categories, despite the Government of Turkey's (GoTR) incentivizing of employers who hire women. Since 2008, employers are exempted from social security contributions for a limited period for hiring female workers³⁹. Their number is still low because according to the GoTR, less educated women in the urban areas do not participate in the workforce⁴⁰.

4.2. Agriculture

4.2.1. The Turkish agriculture sector was one of the most significant contributors to the economy in terms of employment and GDP⁴¹. In recent times, however, industry and services have become more critical economic drivers. For instance, agriculture accounted for a third of the country's GDP in 1968, compared with 8% in 2016⁴². However, agriculture continues to provide about a quarter of all employment and most forms of rural work. For rural women, agriculture is the only form of job they can get⁴³.

4.2.2. Even though women's participation in the agriculture sector has declined over time, from 77.03% in 1991 to 60.15% in 2000, to 28.79% in 2017⁴⁴, they account for 70% of the workforce nationally and in the 92.7% rural sector⁴⁵. Women's activities are varied in the sector, which include planting, hoeing, harvesting, weeding, picking, drying of tobacco, and feeding animals⁴⁶. A 2008 national survey on landownership revealed that it was unusual for women to own land because they do not claim any inheritance rights⁴⁷. Given this fact, it was unsurprising that only 9% of surveyed women owned land either jointly, or as a sole, some of vacant form land; 4.1% held land in their names; 5.1% owned land together with others, and 90.8% owned no land⁴⁸.

38. Karaaip-Orhan, H.S. (2017), What are the Trends in Women's Labour Force Participation Rate in Turkey, <https://ecsdev.org/ojs/index.php/ejsd/article/viewFile/521/518>

39. GoTR 2016, op.cit: 11

40. Ibid:11

41. FAO 2016, op.cit:1

42. Ibid:1

43. Ibid:1

44. World Bank (2017), Female Employment in Agriculture : Turkey <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.FE.ZS?locations=TR>

45. GoTR (2012), Turkey's National Climate Change and Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, <http://www.dsi.gov.tr/docs/iklim-degisikligi/turkeys-national-climate-change-adaptation-strategy-and-action-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=2>, P.73

46. Ozekici, B (2004), Women in Agriculture and Irrigation -Turkish Case https://www.researchgate.net/publication/242236421_WOMEN_IN_AGRICULTURE_AND_IRRIGATION_-_TURKISH_CASE

47. FAO, op.cit:31

48. Ibid:31

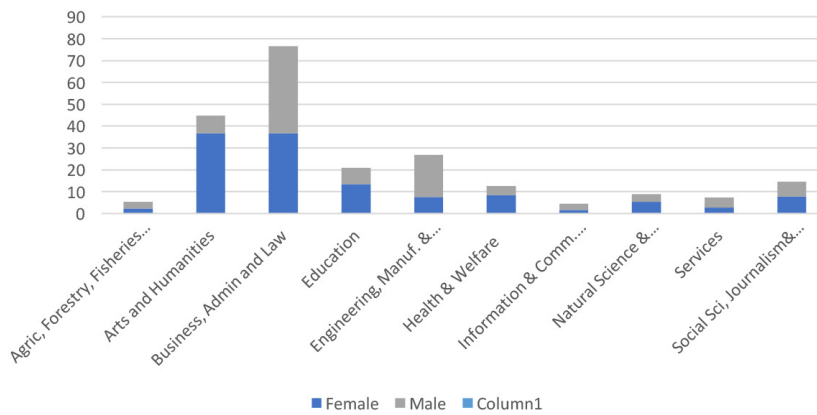


4.3. Education

4.3.1 As per the GoTR, its focus in the education sector is on increasing access to quality education through equality of opportunity⁴⁹. The net enrollment for the three levels of compulsory education primary, lower secondary and secondary in the 2016-2017 academic session was 91.18%, 95.68%, and 82.54, respectively⁵⁰. In the same period, 482,188 children did not enroll in primary school, of this, 249, 698 were boys, and 232, 490 were girls⁵¹. In middle school, 250,784 did not enroll, of which 130,058 were boys and 20,726 were girls⁵². Out of the 1,240,902 students who did not register in high school, 658,286 and 582,616 were boys and girls respectively⁵³.

4.3.2. Female registration at the tertiary level at 10.6% is 3.1% lower than their male counterparts at 3.7%⁵⁴. There was also a lower rate of female Ph.D. graduates at 0.3% to 0.4 male graduates in 2018. In terms of the degrees they obtained during their course of study, more female students graduated in Arts and Humanities (13.8%), Education (13.5%), Health and Welfare (8.9%), Natural Science, Mathematics and Statistics (5.2%), and Social Science, Journalism and Information (7.8%). On the other hand, there were more male graduates in Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Science (2/9%), Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction (19.4%), Business, Administration, and Law (40.0), Information and Communication Technologies (2.9), and Services (4.7%)⁵⁵.

Figure 1: Graduates by Course of Study, 2017



Source: WEF-GGGR, 2018

4.3.3 Turkey sets itself ambitious goals as part of its centennial celebration in 2023 including world's 10th largest economy with a \$ 2 trillion economy, a per capita income of \$25,000 and exports amounting to \$ 500 billion⁵⁶. The government invested over € 9 billion between 2003-2012 and in 2013, the Ministry of National Education allocated 37% of its investment budget directly into the TVET sector⁵⁷. Regrettably, there are no sex-disaggregated data on female participation in TVET and their course of study.

49. GoTR 2016, op.cit:10

50. Hurriyet Daily News (2017), Nearly 2 Million Students Not Registered for School for 2016-2017 School Year, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/nearly-2-million-students-not-registered-for-2016-2017-school-year-turkish-ministry-says-117953>

51. Ibid

52. Ibid

53. Ibid.

54. WEF-GGGR op.cit

55. Ibid

56. Turkey 2023 (2016), Turkey's Path to Prosperity in 2023, https://medium.com/@Turkey__2023/turkeys-path-to-prosperity-in-2023-9bd-067d1e718

57. UK-NARIC (2015), Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Turkey, Part 1 <https://uknaric.org/2015/12/18/technical-and-vocational-education-and-training-in-turkey-part-1/>



4.4 Health

4.4.1. Turkey's estimated life expectancy rate between 2015-2020 is put at 70 years for men compared to 74 years for women⁵⁸. Its maternal mortality rate (MMR) per 100,000 live births, declined from 123 in 1993, to 64 in 2002, and 15.2 in 2014⁵⁹. The adolescent birth rate for women aged 15 to 19 years between 2006-2017, was 44 deaths per 1,000 live births⁶⁰. The total fertility rate, per woman, between 2015-2020 is projected at 2.5 children, and the average age for childbirth among Turkish is 27.9 years⁶¹. The contraceptive prevalence rate among women aged 15-49 years in 2018 is 63%⁶².

4.4.2. The number of women who received antenatal care at least once from trained medical providers between 2006 and 2017 was 97%⁶³. The number of births attended by skilled personnel between 2006-2017 was 79%⁶⁴, Although HIV/AIDS prevalence is decreasing globally, Turkey is among the few exceptions⁶⁵. Turkey's number of HIV positive patients increased by 465% in the last years, reaching 14, 695⁶⁶. About 22% of diagnosed HIV positive in Turkey are women⁶⁷.

4.5. Entrepreneurship

4.5.1. Even though female entrepreneurship has been on the rise annually, and at a higher rate than male entrepreneurship, they are only 15% of all entrepreneurs (compared with the European average of 31%) and 8% of all employers⁶⁸. Women-owned business tends to be small, among 882,000 female entrepreneurs in 2012, around 10% employed other staff, but the majority were individual entrepreneurs⁶⁹. Furthermore, women's enterprises are less diverse in their range of sectors than men. Only 14% of all female entrepreneurs are engaged in the agriculture sector (the EU average for agribusiness owners of 30%)⁷⁰. Women are found in the service, administration and education sectors⁷¹. The main factors hindering female entrepreneurship in Turkey include lower levels of education, a lack of business skills and experience, traditional concepts of entrepreneurship, political, economic and personal conflicts of interests, lack of role models, insufficient regulation and auditing (monitoring and evaluation) and women's limited society⁷².

4.5.2 In 2014, a multi-stakeholder consortium led by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) launched a "Finance and Advise to Women in Business" program which is designed to increase and strengthen the role of female entrepreneurs in the Turkish economy⁷³. The EBRD's € 300 million program consists of a comprehensive financial and technical support for women entrepreneurs to facilitate access to finance and improve competitiveness⁷⁴. Furthermore, the framework includes dedicated credit lines to commercial banks for on-lending to women-owned companies. It also comprises a risk-mechanism and advice support system to help these banks address the financial needs and growth of their clients⁷⁵.

58. UNFPA (2013), Adolescent Pregnancy: A Review of the Evidence, <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard>

59. GoTR (2016), Report on Turkey's Initial Steps Towards the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/107102030%20Agenda%20Turkey%20Report.pdf>, P.11

60. UNFPA (2013), Adolescent Pregnancy: A Review of the Evidence <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard>

61. Ibid

62. Ibid

63. UNFPA (2017), Turkey Country Data, <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard>

64. Ibid

65. Hurriyet Daily News (2017), Number of HIV Patients in Turkey Up Fourfold Last 10 Years, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/number-of-hiv-patients-in-turkey-up-by-over-four-times-over-last-10-years-121432>

66. Ibid

67. Ibid

68. FAO 2016 op.cit: 32

69. Ibid:32

70. Ibid:33

71. Ibid:33

72. Ibid:33

73. EBRD (2014), Finance and Advice for Women in Business Program Launched with Six Banks in Turkey, <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2014/finance-and-advice-for-women-in-business-programme-launched-with-six-turkish-banks.html>

74. Ibid

75. Ibid



4.5.3 The EU and the Turkish government joined the program with a € 38million in grant funding⁷⁶. By 2017, loans averaging €15,000 were provided to 14,400 women-led companies in 79 out of 81 Turkish provinces⁷⁷. The EU and Turkish funds have assisted 340 women-led firms in 42 Turkish provinces to access local consultants and coaches and international advisers who have helped them create 800 new jobs, with many companies reporting a substantial increase in turnover⁷⁸. Almost 1,000 businesses have received training in vital entrepreneurial skills and taken part in networking and mentoring opportunities⁷⁹.

4.6 Water, Supply and Sanitation (WSS)

4.6.1. The accession process of Turkey to the EU influenced the development in the country's water, supply and sanitation (WSS) sector, as it has to align with EU regulations⁸⁰. Overall, 91% of the population has access to the municipal water supply networks, 84% live in a house or work at a place connected to the sewerage network, and 64% provided with wastewater treatment service⁸¹. However, over 40% of rural households rely on outside taps, standpipes, wells or springs for their water⁸². About 86.6% of rural households have improved sanitation facilities such as flush toilet connected to a sewage or a pit latrine⁸³. Under a third, have toilet facilities that are located outside of their homes⁸⁴. Around 2% of all rural households share facilities between two or more households⁸⁵.

4.6.2. Over a quarter of total agriculture land in Turkey is irrigated. Although women farmers are extensively involved in agricultural production, they are marginalized in the decision-making process of irrigation because they are regarded as lacking the physical strength to function in the sub-sector⁸⁶. It is further argued that women are not employed in irrigation because some of the activities are carried out at night, a time they should be home with their families⁸⁷. As irrigation is mostly managed at the local level by water user associations, cooperatives and other village-based organizations, it can thus be argued that women are not included due to socio-cultural beliefs on women's role in society.

4.7. Energy

4.7.1. Fossils fuels dominate Turkey's current energy mix. Of the 78, 497.4 MW of electricity generated, coal, natural gas, and hydropower account for 33.9%, 32.1%, and 24% respectively⁸⁸. However, Turkey's renewable energy market has been expanding since the enactment of the Renewable Energy Law in 2005⁸⁹. Following on the interests in the sub-sector, the government introduced a regulation on renewable energy zones in October 2016⁹⁰. This allowed structured investments in green power sources, supported by an incentive scheme for licensed renewable generation. The government plans to increase wind generation to 10, 000 MW and solar to generation to 3,000 MW by 2019⁹¹. If these targets are met, wind capacity will be doubled, and solar quadrupled compared to their

76. EBRD (2017), EBRD, EU and Turkish Government Support for Female Entrepreneurs Tops € 300 million <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2017/ebrd-eu-and-turkish-government-support-for-female-entrepreneurs-tops-300-million.html>

77. Ibid

78. Ibid

79. Ibid

80. World Bank (2016), Turkey Sustainable Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Report, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/turkey/publication/turkey-sustainable-urban-water-supply-and-sanitation-report>

81. World Bank (2017), Water Supply and Sanitation Figures, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2017/01/23/water-supply-and-sanitation-figures>

82. FAO, op.cit:24

83. Ibid:25

84. Ibid:25

85. Ibid:25

86. Ibid:38

87. Ibid:38

88. Atlantic Council (2017), Turkey Takes Important Steps Toward its Renewable Energy Future, <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/turkey-takes-important-steps-toward-its-renewable-energy-future>

89. World Finance (2017), Renewable Energy Tops Turkish Agenda, <https://www.worldfinance.com/strategy/renewable-energy-tops-turkish-agenda>

90. Ibid

91. Ibid



2016 figures⁹². Additionally, the sub-sector was boosted with over two billion dollars in 2017 for the development of renewables⁹³.

4.7.2. Traditional fuel usage is dominant in Turkey's rural areas, where few households have central heating⁹⁴. Almost 93% of rural households rely primarily on wood, coal and dung briquettes for their heat⁹⁵. In relation to cooking, biomass fuels including coal, wood, charcoal and agricultural crop residue such as straw are the main sources of fuel in traditional cookstoves⁹⁶. Since domestic exposure to biomass fuels combustion is associated with respiratory illness with women and children, it would be helpful to assess the level of indoor air pollution in rural Turkey. Since there is a lack of data on the division of labor on collection and management of energy sources in rural Turkey, it can be assumed that they are primarily women's tasks given the dominance of traditional patriarchal values in the society. This means that women undertake the strenuous activities of drying animal dung and firewood and crop collection for fuel.

4.7.3 It is regrettable to note that that the government's ambitious energy renewable program is missing a vital link, the introduction of improved cookstoves. This is an integral part of the renewable energy program because of women's centrality in the domestic arena in rural Turkey. Improved cookstoves contribute to fuel saving, reduction in household air pollution, drudgery through reduced fuel collection and a range of social and health benefits for women.

4.8. Rural Development

4.8.1. In general, Turkey's rural development policies and strategies aim to upgrade the economic and social infrastructure in rural areas to raise the rural population's standard of living and reduce the rate of migration to cities⁹⁷. The National Action Plan on the Empowerment of Rural Women (2012-2016) aims to improve the position of women through nine axes of development across four strategic areas. First, rural area and women (poverty, education and health); second, the role of women in agricultural production and marketing (agricultural production, entrepreneurship and marketing); third, women and natural resources (use and management of natural resources, protection of natural resources); and fourth, employment and organization of rural women (agricultural employment and organization, social security)⁹⁸. However, the National Rural Development Strategy (2014-2020) does not refer to gender, nor does it include gender equality among its stated objectives. Instead, it targets households rather than individuals as women and men⁹⁹.

4.8.2. The development of a gender-neutral rural strategy by the Turkish state in a sector where there is a considerably large number of productive women is problematic. The omission of women in such a crucial piece of the policy framework in the sector disempowers them, shrinks their access to opportunities and negates all policies promoting and protecting their basic rights to a decent life.

4.9 Urbanization and Urban Planning

4.9.1 Turkey's rapid urbanization has transformed the country demographically and economically. The country's urban population grew from 25% in the 1950s to 75% in 2013¹⁰⁰. Its urban population grew three times faster than the country's overall population, and the average compounded rate of urbanization over three decades between the

92. Ibid

93. Atlantic Council, op.cit

94. FAO(2016), Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6192e.pdf>, P.23

95. Ibid:23

96. Ibid:23

97. OECD (2017), Agriculture and Rural Development in Turkey, https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/agriculture-and-rural-development-in-turkey_5k-g559wlvbvh.pdf?itemId=%2Fcontent%2Fcomponent%2F9789264113220-5-en&imeType=pdf

98. FAO, op.cit:10

99. Ibid:10

100 World Bank (2015), The Rise of the Anatolian Tigers-Turkey Urbanization Review Tigers<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/22388/87180.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y>, P.10



1980s and 2013 was over 4%¹⁰¹. Among Turkey's comparator countries, it is only the Republic of Korea that has a faster growth rate¹⁰². It is, therefore, no surprise that Turkey is among the most urbanized countries in Europe¹⁰³.

4.9.2. The government's response to the rapid growth was not confined to only infrastructure development but included social programs to integrate women, the disabled, youth, children and the elderly to cushion them from the adverse effects of urbanization. For women, the government plans to ensure that their participation in decision-making mechanisms is supported, their employment increased, and their education and skill level enhanced¹⁰⁴. Other initiatives include the establishment of family life centers, with vocational programs to increase women's participation in urban life and improve their educational skills. The Income Tax Law was amended in 2007 to grant tax exemption to government-owned economic centers to reduce the fee charged to women who use them to sell their wares, thereby increasing profit margin whenever they use them¹⁰⁵.

5. Thematic Areas

5.1 Climate Change

5.1.1 Turkey is susceptible to climate change due to its location in the southern belt of Mediterranean Europe. It is already facing increased temperature and decreased precipitation¹⁰⁶. However, Turkey is the world's 20th largest emitter of greenhouses gases and has not done much to end emission¹⁰⁷. The issue is compounded by the country's growing energy needs which are met by fossil fuels despite its renewable energy potentials¹⁰⁸. Turkey's carbon emission is expected to rise by 134% by 2030 due to the government's plan to double its coal power capacity in four years¹⁰⁹. It is estimated that the temperature in Istanbul, Turkey's most populous city might increase to 45 degrees Celsius and a rise in sea level in the city is likely after 2050¹¹⁰. Additionally, the effects of global warming in Turkey will lead to reducing snowfall and increase in floods and droughts, which will affect agriculture, water availability and human health.

5.1.2. The government noted that women are most affected by climate change than men and that they are impacted both directly and indirectly. Women are mostly exposed to the indirect impacts of climate change on human health such as nutrition, respiratory and other diseases caused by contaminated water¹¹¹. Furthermore, the effects of climate change on agriculture have negative results economically on female farmers who dominate the sector.

5.1.3. The National Climate Change Action Plan for 2011-2023 recognizes gender differences, noting that "climate change has direct and negative impacts on natural resources", which in turn has more significance on women, who are the first-hand users of natural resources (water, food, etc.)¹¹². Climate Change has direct links with agriculture and the plan notes that attention should be given to ensuring that training and extension services related to increasing agricultural productivity to adapt to the effects of climate change reach female farmers¹¹³. The Plan also calls for the inclusion of women in training and awareness-raising programs on the protection of forests and public participation in natural resources management¹¹⁴.

101. Ibid:10

102. Ibid:10

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104. GoTR (2016b), Habitat 111: Turkey National Report, <https://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Turkey-national-report.pdf>, 7

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111. GoTR 2012, op.cit:73,

112. FAO 2016, op.cit: 10

113. Ibid:10

114. Ibid:10



5.2 Islamic Finance

5.2.1. "Participation banking" as Islamic banking is known in Turkey. It gained legitimacy in the country with the introduction of 'Special Finance Houses' in 1983¹¹⁵. There are currently five Islamic banks operating in Turkey and a couple of insurance companies have Takaful window operations¹¹⁶. The banks are Keveyt Turk Turkey, Turkiye Finans, Bank Asya Turkey, Bizim Menkul Degerler, Turkey, and Halk Yatirim, Turkey¹¹⁷. The sub-sector has recorded good growth in the first half of 2017, as net profit rose by 36% to TRL 769 million (\$223 million) from the first half of 2016¹¹⁸. Total assets were up 8% to \$42 billion, but the total banking assets are 5%, which is projected to increase to 15% by 2025¹¹⁹. In May 2017, the IsDB and the Turkish Islamic Banks' Association (TKBB) signed a cooperation deal for financing infrastructure¹²⁰.

6. Development Partner

- UN Family
- European Union
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

7. Recommendations

1. The Bank should provide technical assistance to the GoTR to mainstream gender equality in the design, development, and implementation of all sectoral policies and budgets;
2. The IsDB should work with other development partners to institute a gender quota of at least 30% in all funded projects;
3. There is a need to ensure that improved cookstoves and female entrepreneurship are included in Turkey's renewable energy mix;
4. It is recommended that the Bank should advocate for the establishment of Gender Desks equipped with the relevant technical expertise across the public sector;
5. Turkey Statistics need to be supported to ensure that sex disaggregation should be part of data collection and reporting systems; and
6. Given women's dominance in the agriculture sector, an enabling environment should be created to ensure they benefit accruing from the sector.

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