

02.04.2018  
Istanbul

**XIII. GLOBAL LABOUR UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE**  
**on The Future of Work : Democracy, Development and the Role of Labour**

**Section 1. Structural Changes and Impacts on Labour:**

**Building Livelihoods Opportunities for Syrian Refugees in Turkey**

by  
**Bilge Çoban\***

**Address: Küçükpiyale Mah, 344040, 20/15, Beyoğlu/İstanbul/Turkey**  
**E-Mail: cobanbilgemail.com**

**\*Livelihoods Manager of YUVA Association, received master's' degrees on Social Economy and Labor from UNICAMP University (Brazil, 2015) and Labor Economics and Industrial Relations from Kocaeli University (2013, Turkey).**

**Abstract**

Today's world witnesses the mass migration and the biggest refugee crisis of the century. Since the outbreak of the war until the end of the 2015, 11.7 million people were forced to abandon their homes. This is almost the half of the Syrian population before the war and includes 4.9 million refugees, 6.6 million of people internally displaced and 250 000 asylum seekers. Turkey is hosting the largest refugee population among other countries. As for March 2018, 3.4 million Syrians and almost 300 000 people coming from other countries were trying to build a new life in Turkey as refugees and asylum seekers. Syrians living outside the refugee camps for more than a year and trying to adjust to the living condition in Turkey, struggle with many problems, such as accommodation, security, health, nutrition, employment, education and social exclusion. Removing the problems, obstacles encountered by Syrian refugees when settling down in Turkey, supporting and facilitating them to benefit from their rights, is not only the responsibility of the state but of all individuals and civil society organizations. This paper is an effort to reveal the projects and implementations which aim to empower the vulnerable members of the Syrian refugees by improving their access to livelihoods opportunities. The objective of this paper is to analyze the current livelihoods projects that carrying out by the government, local authorities, and NGOs in Turkey. In this context, firstly, the main dynamics of Turkish labor market will be referred, while analyzing employment structure and youth unemployment are given in detail place. Then, the current situation of Syrians refugees in Turkish labor market will be examined within the scope of legal regulation and the problems they are facing in work life. Lastly, the approaches of Turkish people and employers on the issue will be investigated with the context of related current implementations and livelihood projects in the field.

**Key Words:** Syrian refugees, labor market, livelihoods, employment