

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: TURKISH AID STRATEGIES, GLOBAL SOLIDARITY, AND PEACE PROMOTION¹

SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİR KALKINMAYA YÖNELİK: TÜRK YARDIM STRATEJİLERİ, KÜRESEL DAYANIŞMA VE BARIŞ TEŞVİKİ

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Soğuk Savaş sonrası dönemde, Türkiye, Hindistan, Kore ve Çin gibi ülkeler, kalkınma işbirliğinde önemli birer aktör olarak ortaya çıkmışlardır. 11 Eylül 2001 sonrasında, özellikle ABD ve Japonya'nın yardım stratejilerinde güvenlik ve çatışma çözümüne odaklanma eğilimleri gözlemlenmiştir. OECD'nin Kalkınma Yardımları Komitesi yardım etkinliğine, koordinasyona ve koşulsuz yardıma öncelik vermektedir. Türkiye, hem yardım veren hem alıcı ülke olarak, son on yılda yardım çabalarını stratejik olarak genişletmiş ve küresel katılım hedefleriyle uyumlu hale getirmiştir. Türkiye, mesleki eğitim, tarım ve sağlık gibi alanlara odaklanarak göreceli üstün olduğu sektörlerde, Afrika, Orta Doğu, Uzak Doğu ve Latin Amerika bölgelerine yardım sağlamıştır. Bununla birlikte, tek taraflılık ve insani krizler, yardım davranışlarını olumsuz etkilemiştir. Bu nedenle, dayanışma için ortaklıkların teşvik edilmesi ve bağışçı ülkelerin sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedeflerine uygun barışçıl bir ortamın desteklenmesi giderek daha fazla önem arz etmektedir. Bu çalışma, kalkınmanın evrimini özetlemekte, Türkiye'nin kalkınma yardımına ilişkin bakış açısını ele almaktadır ve kalkınma işbirliğinin barış ve güvenliği teşvik etmedeki kilit rolünü vurgulamaktadır. Ayrıca bu çalışma, kalkınma evrimine odaklanan bir analizle başlamakta, ardından Türk yardım algısını detaylı olarak ele almakta ve son olarak kalkınma işbirliği örnekleri üzerinden barış ve güvenliğin teşvik edilmesinin önemine odaklanmaktadır.

ABSTRACT

In the post-Cold War era, Türkiye, alongside India, Korea and China, has emerged as a significant player in development cooperation. Following 9/11, shifts in aid focus towards security and conflict resolution have been observed, particularly in the aid strategies of the US and Japan. The OECD's Development Assistance Committee prioritizes aid effectiveness, coordination and untied aid. Türkiye, as both a donor and recipient country, has strategically expanded its aid efforts over the past decade, aligning with its foreign policy objectives of global engagement. Focusing on sectors like vocational training, agriculture, and health, where it holds comparative advantages, Türkiye has extended aid to regions across Africa, the Middle East, Far East, and Latin America. However, unilateralism and humanitarian crises have influenced aid behaviors negatively. Thus, there's a growing importance placed on fostering partnerships for solidarity and encouraging donor nations to promote a peaceful environment conducive to sustainable development goals. This paper outlines the evolution of development, Turkish perspectives on development aid, and emphasizes the pivotal role of development cooperation in promoting peace and security. It starts with an introduction focusing on the evolution of development, then elaborates on Turkish perception of aid delivery, finally focuses on the importance of promoting peace and security through case studies of development cooperation.

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Introduction

The beginning of using foreign aid as a national policy tool can be traced back to late 19th century, when European powers began their aid deliverance to poor countries, and by the 1920s and '30s, countries like Germany, France and Britain were giving regular aid to their colonies in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Their aid money was used to build infrastructure, such as ports, roads, railways. It is worth mentioning that rich American industrialists were also engaged in providing development aid through the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations (Phillips, 2013).

After the Second World War, a number of communist governments emerged in the late 1940s in Europe and Asia. This political upheaval prompted the dismayed US government to launch the Truman Doctrine so as to help steer Greece and Türkiye away from communist threat (Fricas, 1980; Satterthwaite, 1972), and take all essential measures, both economically and militarily, to curb the expansion of communism worldwide. The Truman Doctrine was followed by the Marshall Plan, which was an enormous economic aid package worth US\$13 billion aimed at Europe's reconstruction as well as its economic stabilization. Within the framework of this plan, various European countries have been provided with military and economic aid (US State Department).

However, due to the confrontational nature of the Cold War (Avey, 2012:151-188), the scope of foreign aid was further expanded in 1950s, and contoured in accordance with the "security" concerns and other objectives of donor countries (Taffet, 2018; Khadka, 2000:77-95). The former Soviet Union, on the other hand, has distributed their kind of aid, again based on strategic projects, to enforce the Eastern Bloc against the Western Block.

While there is no doubt that the US has always been in the lead of providing foreign aid, Western Bloc countries such as France, Canada, Western Germany and Britain, and Eastern Bloc countries led by the Soviets Union such as the Eastern European countries as well as China have given significant amounts of foreign aid (State Council, 2011). This aid, which was initially given by the countries individually, has later been enriched with the added multilateral foreign aid programs.

However, despite the fact that huge amounts of funds have been allocated for foreign assistance, the development gap between the developed and the developing countries have continued to grow. Foreign aid provided by the developed countries to the developing countries under the Cold War conditions was mainly out of military, economic and humanity concerns. Although it looks different in form of distribution and scope, nearly all of the development aid is, in theory, aimed to restore the economies and improve the living standards of the target countries, but in reality, according to some critics, it is believed that the real motivation behind aid-giving has been to prevent the partner country from slipping into the opposite ideology and to gain a political superiority.

In the aftermath of World War II, foreign aid emerged as a powerful tool in the geopolitical landscape, serving both humanitarian and strategic purposes. Initially aimed at containing the spread of communism during the Cold War era, foreign assistance underwent a significant transformation in the post-Cold War period. With the demise of the Soviet Union, new security challenges emerged, most notably the rise of terrorism. This shift in global threats prompted a reevaluation of foreign aid strategies, leading to its increasingly prominent role in addressing security concerns, particularly in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. During the Cold War, foreign aid was largely utilized as a means of promoting political stability, bolstering allies, and containing the influence of rival ideologies. The United States and its allies wielded foreign assistance as a tool of strategic diplomacy, providing economic and military aid to allies and partners in regions deemed critical to the containment of Soviet expansionism (Quirk and Scott, 2023). This approach dominated U.S. foreign policy throughout much of the latter half of the 20th century. However, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 ushered in a new era of global security challenges. While the bipolar competition between the United States and the Soviet Union had come to an end, a host of new threats emerged, chief among them being terrorism. The September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon served as a stark wake-up call, highlighting the vulnerability of the United States and its allies to asymmetric threats emanating from non-state actors. In response to this evolving threat landscape, the leading donor countries recalibrated their approach to foreign aid, placing greater emphasis on addressing security concerns alongside traditional development objectives. Recognizing that poverty, instability and lack of opportunity could create fertile ground for extremism to

flourish, the administration sought to leverage foreign assistance as a means of promoting stability and countering the spread of terrorism. However, the integration of security concerns into foreign aid was not without controversy. Critics argued that the securitization of aid risked politicizing humanitarian assistance and diverting resources away from poverty alleviation and development objectives (Stephen et al, 2015). Additionally, questions were raised about the efficacy of using military aid and counterterrorism assistance as tools for promoting stability, with some arguing that such approaches could exacerbate existing conflicts and undermine long-term peacebuilding efforts (Duffield, 2007:143-150). Despite these concerns, the post-Cold War period marked a significant evolution in the role of foreign aid, with security considerations playing an increasingly prominent role in shaping aid policies and priorities. From the containment of communism to the fight against terrorism, the use of foreign assistance as a tool of strategic diplomacy has continued to evolve in response to shifting global threats, underscoring the dynamic and multifaceted nature of international relations in the 21st century.

In this shifting paradigm, the traditional divide between development and security began to blur, giving rise to what scholars and policymakers often refer to as the "development-security nexus." (Chandler, 2007:362–386). At the heart of this concept lies the recognition that sustainable development is not merely a matter of economic growth and poverty reduction but is also integral to fostering peace, stability, and security on a global scale. Foreign aid, long seen as a tool for promoting economic development and addressing humanitarian crises, assumed renewed significance in this post-Cold War era. No longer solely aimed at containing the spread of communism or advancing strategic interests, foreign assistance now became increasingly intertwined with efforts to combat the root causes of instability and conflict, including poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity. Central to this shift was the acknowledgment that poverty and economic deprivation often serve as fertile breeding grounds for extremism and violence.

In regions plagued by social and economic marginalization, disenfranchised populations may be more susceptible to radicalization and recruitment by terrorist organizations, drawn by promises of purpose, identity, and financial support (UNDP, 2016:19-25). Recognizing this link between poverty and security, policymakers began to adopt a more integrated approach to foreign aid, one that sought to address both the immediate needs of vulnerable populations and the underlying structural factors driving instability. This holistic approach to development, encapsulated in initiatives such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizes the interconnectedness of economic, social, and environmental challenges, and the imperative of addressing them in concert. Moreover, the development-security nexus has prompted a reevaluation of traditional aid modalities, with a growing emphasis on building resilient and inclusive societies capable of withstanding external shocks and internal strife. Rather than viewing security and development as distinct policy objectives, many governments and international organizations now recognize the symbiotic relationship between the two, and the imperative of investing in long-term, sustainable solutions.

In the realm of international aid and assistance, Türkiye has emerged as a dynamic and influential actor, offering a unique approach that integrates development and security imperatives to promote stability and prosperity both regionally and globally. At the heart of this approach lies a commitment to addressing the root causes of instability through targeted development interventions, underscoring Türkiye's role as a bridge between traditional aid donors and recipient countries. Today, Türkiye stands as a compelling case study where the intersection of development and security has become increasingly pronounced, particularly in the wake of the 2000s. As a pivotal actor bridging the East and West, Turkish foreign policy has undergone a notable evolution, with a distinct emphasis on integrating economic progress with strategic imperatives. At the heart of this dynamic paradigm shift lies a foreign policy model that navigates the delicate balance between fostering development and ensuring regional and global security. This study focuses on strategies and mechanisms employed by Türkiye to synergize these seemingly divergent goals, shedding light on how this multifaceted approach has shaped its position on the global stage.

Turkish Aid Strategy

While a recipient country until year 2000, Türkiye has become a net donor country from 2002 onwards, an achievement demonstrating her determination in the field of development assistance. For instance, the Global Humanity Aid report prepared by the Developmental Initiatives, a London-based organization, listed Türkiye

in the second place with 5,587 billion dollars spent on humanitarian assistance as a sub-category of Turkish development assistance in 2021, which accounted for 0,86 ODA/GNI. Therefore, among the 20 donors providing the most humanitarian assistance as a percentage of GNI, Türkiye was the biggest humanitarian donor and Most Generous Countries (Country) (Development Initiatives, 2022).

As of the level she reached today, Türkiye introduces a new incentive to the international development policies by drawing attention to increase, not only quantity, but also the quality of development aid. Today, with her aid policy that puts “international reconciliation and cooperation” as top priority, Türkiye follows closely the UN guidelines about reaching the SDGs.

Unlike some traditional donors, Türkiye does not hold an objective of imposing its own values. On the contrary, Türkiye carries out her aid activities by preserving local features and defining special needs of the people in host countries. Türkiye establishes cooperation relationship with partner countries and implements special projects together with these countries who are looking for technical cooperation rather than cash support.

Historical and Geographical Background

Distinction of the Turkish model, which has become a topic of academic research nowadays, can be derived from her rich historical and geographical background. Türkiye enjoys an advantageous position among the world nations with her deep-rooted history through interacting with nearly all nations from Central Asia all the way to Europe to the West. As a country acting in accordance with the principle of “serving and supporting the human life so that the state will remain alive”, Türkiye has emerged as a responsible donor to shoulder its responsibility in achieving the SDGs through its principal aid agency TİKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency).

Walking the Talk

Reaching more than 160 countries throughout the world, 60 of which host its 62 Program Coordination Offices, TİKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency) prefers taking all the risks and defines the problems at their sites and operates at the crux of the trouble. In an environment where TİKA staff establish first-hand dialogues with local authorities and communities, the problems peculiar to those countries are being defined more accurately, while needs, demands and projects can be evaluated and designed with more ease. With this approach, it is possible to prepare well-supported and practical projects based on real needs and demands, rather than imposed and ostentatious projects, costs are also reduced, meanwhile the number of benefits provided for people from each dollar are increased. Unlike some donor countries, in some risky regions such as Somalia, Mali, Niger and Libya, Türkiye is able and continues to carry out directly her own aid activities. Türkiye has been the first country to draw the world’s attention on Somalia, a nearly demolished country abandoned by the international society for 20 years to its own devices. The visit of then Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Somalia with three planes full of visitors including his family and officials has been a milestone in Somalia’s history.²

Touching People’s Hearts and Minds

Türkiye’s main distinction from other donors is that her people feel sympathy for other nations in need and share deeply their sorrows and want all the best for other nations. With this instinct, in countries we serve, we

² During a conference organized by CSIS (Centre for Strategic and International Studies) in 2013 in Washington D.C, Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud, then the President of Somalia was quoted as saying “*the Turkish model in Somalia is very, very clear. They said we want to do this thing in Somalia, and they do it. They don’t have the restrictions that many of the Western world has got. There is a deputy prime minister who come to Somalia every other month just to monitor and see how the projects are going on. They are building or implementing projects that are really tangible ones... They are doing the work there. They are driving their own cars. They are moving the city. They are building. They are teaching. There are a number of clinics that provide a free service to the people in Mogadishu alone... They are there and the government, the people are there. The government aid administration agent is there, their embassies there. Ambassador, full-fledged staff, military attaché, everybody – commercial attachés are there, while the international NGOs staff are not there?*”. His statement is a vivid description Türkiye’s solidarity with Somali people, <https://www.csis.org/news/csis-statesmens-forum-president-somalia-hassan-sheikh-mahamud>.

first define problems and, starting from the most urgent ones, we immediately implement the projects that will solve these problems.

In the Turkish model, no restrictions are drawn in finding solutions and no effort is spared to take the necessary assistance to those in need. One of the best examples of these initiatives is the fieldwork performed by TİKA Program Coordination Office opened in Gaza Strip in 2005 which radically improved the living conditions of the area which were no better than those of an “open air prison”. Contrary to the compassion fatigue other donor countries face with when encountered with the problems increased simultaneously with the population in Gaza, Türkiye extended (and still continues to extend) her helping hand to the locals to support them to survive the already harsh conditions that are worsened by the bombs and poverty.

Effective Aid Delivery

As an emerging donor, Türkiye through TİKA promotes reconciliation and aid activities with realistic budgets, focusing on values coinciding with reality. Today, the Turkish model calls not for the quantity of the aid, but upon the philosophy behind it and offers a more active aid modality that moves with ethical values and feasible, reasonable budgets. The most prominent factor distinguishes TİKA from other international aid organizations is its flexible structure free from the rigidity of the heavy bureaucracy, which allows her to respond calls for aid promptly and efficiently. Today, TİKA is able to respond to emergency events occurring in any part of the world on the same day, as it did at the service of the victims of earthquake, tsunami and floods that occurred in Indonesia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Pakistan.

Case Studies for Promoting Peace and Solidarity

When Millennium Development Goals fell short of meeting its target in 2015, United Nations Member States came together in 2015 and agreed to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development envisaged to provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. At its core are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which requires immediate action by all countries in a global partnership (UN).

Looking back to its track record of aid deliverance, Türkiye stands out as one of the leading countries in the South that has been keen on building peaceful environments in the regions troubled by fragile situation. The following case studies of Turkish aid are closely relevant to the 16th Goal of sustainable development:

1. Charting Progress: Somalia's Path to Stability and Development

When the 2011 famine, which was caused by drought, conflict, rapidly-rising global food prices, and other long-standing structural factors, struck Somalia, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (then the Prime Minister) was touched by the miserable situation when he visited Somalia in August 2011. His historic visit not only draw the world's attention to the plight of Somalia, but also affected the Turkish people deep down in heart. Many Turkish people felt a sense of obligation to help the suffering by donating money or traveling to the country to help on the ground, this kind of action is deeply rooted in waqf culture of Turkish people for many centuries (Yediyıldız, 1996).

Meanwhile, all relevant institutions were mobilized to offer their help. Thus, Somalia has become one of the largest recipients of Turkish assistance ever since. Somalia has served as an ideal country for Ankara to present its goodwill to promote peace and solidarity. However, Türkiye's role in Somalia goes far beyond that emotional engagement under the banner of humanitarian diplomacy. The Turkish assistance model combines development, peace-building and business. Somalia occupies a special place in Türkiye's national consciousness. Türkiye's extensive involvement in Somalia, particularly evident in Mogadishu, underscores its commitment to the country's development. The refurbishment of a 23-kilometer road network, construction of a modern airport terminal, and reconstruction of the Digfer hospital stand as prominent symbols of Türkiye's contributions to Somalia's infrastructure. These initiatives have not only facilitated smoother transportation but also boosted business activities and restored a sense of normalcy, particularly along the vital Makka Al-Mukarrama Road (Wasuge, 2016).

Beyond infrastructure, Türkiye's engagement spans various sectors including education, agriculture, healthcare, waste management and security. Investments in these areas have not only improved livelihoods but also enhanced Somalia's capacity for self-sufficiency and resilience. Notably, Türkiye's provision of military and police training, along with the construction of barracks, highlights its commitment to bolstering Somalia's security apparatus.

Türkiye's unique approach in Somalia encompasses peace-building efforts, including mediation between Somaliland and the federal government. This comprehensive model, blending humanitarian aid with strategic initiatives, distinguishes Türkiye's role in Somalia and underscores its broader commitment to regional stability and development. Türkiye's involvement in Somalia exemplifies a multifaceted approach to aid and development, intertwining humanitarian efforts with strategic interests. Beyond the immediate response to humanitarian crises, Türkiye has strategically leveraged its assistance to expand its influence in the Horn of Africa region. The rehabilitation of critical infrastructure like roads and airports not only facilitates aid delivery but also lays the groundwork for economic development and trade, benefiting both Somalia and Türkiye.

Moreover, the establishment of schools, vocational training centers, and agricultural initiatives contributes to long-term capacity building and economic empowerment. By investing in education and skills development, Türkiye aims to empower Somalis to rebuild their nation and foster sustainable development.

Furthermore, Türkiye's military and security cooperation with Somalia underscores its commitment to stability and security in the region. Military training programs, construction of barracks, and police training initiatives not only strengthen Somalia's security apparatus but also deepen bilateral ties between the two nations. Türkiye's role in facilitating peace talks between Somaliland and the federal government demonstrates its commitment to conflict resolution and regional stability.

Türkiye's holistic approach to assistance in Somalia reflects its broader foreign policy objectives, which emphasize soft power projection and regional influence. By combining humanitarian aid with economic development, security cooperation, and diplomatic mediation, Türkiye seeks to position itself as a key actor in shaping the future of Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa region.

2. Addressing the Rohingya Refugee Crisis: A Comprehensive Approach Extending a helping hand to the persecuted Rohingya refugees and finding a lasting solution to the crises are one of Türkiye's main foreign policy objectives and priorities. Türkiye was among the first countries involved in humanitarian relief for Rohingya Muslims. Since 2012, when communal violence broke out between Buddhist and Muslim populations, Turkish aid agencies, NGOs were mobilized to offer humanitarian assistance, with high-level government officials visiting refugee camps and having talks with Myanmar government for the peaceful resolution of the crisis (Arabnews, 2017). In other words, Türkiye's commitment to aiding Rohingya refugees extends beyond immediate humanitarian assistance. In addition to providing crucial aid, Türkiye has actively pursued diplomatic efforts to address the root causes of the crisis. This includes advocating for the rights of the Rohingya people on the international stage and calling for accountability for human rights violations in Myanmar.

When the second crisis broke out in 2017, Turkish First Lady Emine Erdoğan and the then Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu flew to Cox's Bazar to show Türkiye's solidarity with Bangladesh government in coping with this crisis. Subsequent Turkish contributions to the wellbeing of Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar camps exceed US\$ 60 million, besides the aid which is dispersed through the UN agencies (Reuters, 2017; Çam, 2017).

Furthermore, Türkiye has emphasized the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis. This involves not only addressing the immediate needs of refugees but also working towards long-term stability and reconciliation in the region. To this end, Türkiye has engaged in dialogue with regional and international partners to explore avenues for peaceful resolution and lasting peace in Rakhine State.

Türkiye's support for the Rohingya refugees extends to education and livelihood programs aimed at empowering them to rebuild their lives with dignity. By investing in education and skills training, Türkiye aims to equip Rohingya refugees with the tools they need to contribute positively to their communities and ultimately, to society as a whole.

Türkiye's steadfast commitment to the Rohingya cause underscores its dedication to humanitarian principles and its belief in the importance of international solidarity in addressing global crises. As the plight of the Rohingya continues, Türkiye remains a steadfast ally and advocate for their rights, working tirelessly to alleviate their suffering and promote a brighter future for all those affected by the crisis.

3. Navigating Peace: Resolving the Conflict in Mindanao

Thanks to active mediation of Malaysian government, forty years of on and off fighting between Muslim armed opposition groups in Mindanao and the Philippine military forces was officially ended when the Philippine government and the country's largest Muslim rebel group signed a peace deal in 2012. This would serve as a blueprint for setting up a new autonomous region in the south (Hurights Osaka, 2008).

Türkiye is among the members of both International Contact Group (ICG) and Third-Party Monitoring Team (TPMT), supporting the Peace Process between the Government of Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and of the Peace Committee for South Philippines, established within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (PSCP-OIC) to support the peace process between the Government of Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Furthermore, Türkiye is contributing to the Peace Process in South Philippines by assuming the Chairmanship of the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB) since its establishment in 2014 (MFA Türkiye).

In addition to its involvement in supporting the peace process in Mindanao, Türkiye has also played a crucial role in promoting economic development and stability in the region. Through its development agency, TİKA, Türkiye has implemented various projects aimed at improving livelihoods and infrastructure in Mindanao.

The "TİKA Buhayan" agricultural development program is just one example of Türkiye's efforts to support sustainable economic growth in the region. By providing training, resources and infrastructure support to local farmers, this program helps to boost agricultural productivity and create new opportunities for employment and income generation.

Moreover, Türkiye's investment in education and healthcare infrastructure underscores its commitment to addressing the underlying socio-economic challenges that contribute to conflict and instability. The construction of schools and donation of medical equipment not only improves access to essential services but also contributes to building trust and fostering goodwill among local communities.

Türkiye's multifaceted approach to supporting peace and development in Mindanao highlights the importance of addressing both the political and socio-economic dimensions of conflict. By combining diplomatic engagement with practical initiatives on the ground, Türkiye aims to contribute to a lasting and sustainable peace in the region.

Türkiye's leadership in chairing the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB) demonstrates its commitment to the peace process and its willingness to take on a proactive role in implementing key aspects of the peace agreement. This leadership role not only enhances Türkiye's credibility as a peace mediator but also strengthens its partnership with the Philippines and other international stakeholders involved in the peace process.

Overall, Türkiye's engagement in Mindanao reflects its broader commitment to promoting peace, stability, and development in conflict-affected regions around the world. By leveraging its diplomatic influence and development expertise, Türkiye continues to make meaningful contributions to building a more peaceful and prosperous future for the people of Mindanao.

4. Fostering Stability: Peacebuilding Initiatives in Colombia

In September 2016, then Colombia President Juan Manuel Santos and Rodrigo Londono, leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia signed a historic peace accord, thus ending a half-century of combat that caused more than 220,000 deaths and made 8 million homeless ([The Associated Press](#), 2006).

Shortly after the peace deal, upon the request of then President Santos of Colombia, TİKA was instructed by President Erdoğan to build a modern school in the Orejon area of Antioquia, in the country's northwest to show Türkiye's solidarity by contributing to the newly reached peace process. Inaugurated in May 2017 by President Santos, the school has emerged as a major employer in the region besides its main purpose of

educating rural children, thus Antioquia became the first region to see the benefits of Colombian government's peace deal with guerrillas with TİKA's hard work (TRT World, 2017). Other projects for the purpose of reconciliation in the Antioquia region include fishing project in Choco, Santander de Quilichao; agricultural projects in Verede Mandiva, Hacari, Teorama; Health projects in Caqueta and Norte Santander; municipal capacity building project for Bojava and poultry project for Medlin.

TİKA's involvement in Colombia's peace process highlights Türkiye's commitment to supporting post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation efforts worldwide. By constructing a modern school in the Orejon area of Antioquia, Türkiye demonstrated tangible solidarity with Colombia's peace-building endeavors. This project not only symbolized international support for the peace deal but also provided a concrete benefit to the local community by creating employment opportunities and improving access to education.

Türkiye's engagement in various other projects across the Antioquia region underscores its comprehensive approach to promoting reconciliation and sustainable development. From fishing and agricultural initiatives to healthcare and municipal capacity-building projects, Türkiye's assistance aims to address the socio-economic challenges that have long fueled conflict and instability in the region.

The success of these projects in Antioquia serves as a testament to the potential for international collaboration to drive positive change in post-conflict settings. By leveraging its resources and expertise, Türkiye has made significant contributions to Colombia's peace process and laid the groundwork for a more prosperous and peaceful future for the people of Antioquia and beyond.

5. Empowering Communities: The North Macedonian Beekeeping Initiative

With the "Development of Beekeeping Project" carried out since 2007 in various regions of North Macedonia, TİKA supported rural development and contributed to the improvement of the socio-economic infrastructure for the people of the region. The project helps the people of the region learn about the beekeeping profession and supports beekeeping to turn into an industry in the region by marketing the products of the project.

Within this framework, active implementation of the project in Radovis, Konce and Valandovo regions revitalized the commercial life. These regions are well known for the frictions among its diverse ethnic groups. This project has proved boosting the rate of employment and increasing household income. By including families of various ethnic backgrounds in the project, it has contributed to the reconciliation among different ethnic groups and the will to live together in Macedonia.

Since its inception in 2007, the "Development of Beekeeping Project" by TİKA has not only contributed to rural development but also fostered environmental conservation efforts. Through the promotion of sustainable beekeeping practices, the project has aided in the preservation of local flora and ecosystems, thus promoting biodiversity. Additionally, by educating communities about the importance of bees in pollination and ecosystem health, the project has raised awareness about environmental stewardship.

The project has provided training and resources to local beekeepers, empowering them to adopt modern beekeeping techniques and improve the quality of their products. This has not only enhanced the competitiveness of Macedonian honey in domestic and international markets but has also opened up avenues for entrepreneurship and innovation within the beekeeping industry.

Furthermore, the inclusive nature of the project, which involves families from various ethnic backgrounds, has fostered social cohesion and interethnic harmony in regions historically marked by tensions. By providing opportunities for collaboration and economic cooperation, the project has promoted dialogue and understanding among different ethnic communities, ultimately contributing to the social fabric of North Macedonia.

In essence, beyond its economic impact, the "Development of Beekeeping Project" stands as a testament to the transformative power of sustainable development initiatives in fostering both economic prosperity and social cohesion in diverse communities.

Conclusion

From these case studies, it is self-evident that Türkiye's understanding of its role in promoting peace and global solidarity is, quite simply, to be part of the solution. Before becoming part of the solution however, it is important to first understand the dimensions of the problem. This helps to identify how one can use their expertise most effectively in solving the issue. In order to become a more effective part of the solution, Türkiye has fully used its main strengths in the area of development assistance and is actively applying this knowledge where it is needed.

While responding to the aid requests, Türkiye uses all its available means to provide support by strictly conforming to the laws and regulations of the partner country without pursuing any hidden agenda. All projects tailored for meeting the needs of a region and implemented with respect to regional diversities naturally attract the attention of the global community and they are rated as the best practice by international organizations.³

Since the early 2000s, Türkiye has steadily expanded its foreign aid program, positioning itself as a key player in global development efforts. Unlike traditional aid models, which often prioritize geopolitical interests or strategic alliances, the Turkish aid model emphasizes solidarity, mutual respect, and partnership with recipient countries, reflecting Türkiye's own experience as a developing nation striving for progress and prosperity. Central to the Turkish development aid model is the principle of humanitarianism, which recognizes that sustainable development is essential for fostering peace, stability, and security in conflict-affected and vulnerable regions. By addressing the underlying socio-economic grievances that fuel instability and extremism, Türkiye seeks to create conditions conducive to peacebuilding and reconciliation, laying the groundwork for long-term stability and prosperity. One hallmark of the Turkish aid model is its focus on humanitarian assistance and capacity-building initiatives that empower local communities and institutions. Whether through infrastructure projects, education and healthcare programs, or vocational training and entrepreneurship initiatives, Türkiye's aid efforts prioritize the needs and aspirations of the people, fostering a sense of ownership and self-reliance among recipient communities. Moreover, Türkiye's aid strategy is inherently multilateral and inclusive, reflecting its commitment to global solidarity and cooperation. Through partnerships with international organizations, regional actors, and civil society groups, Türkiye leverages its resources and expertise to address shared challenges, from humanitarian crises and natural disasters to socio-economic development and peacebuilding efforts. A key example of Türkiye's development-security approach is its engagement in conflict-affected regions, such as Somalia, Syria, Iraq, and the broader Middle East. Rather than adopting a purely security-centric approach, Türkiye has sought to address the humanitarian and development needs of affected populations, providing vital assistance in areas such as healthcare, education, and food security. In doing so, Türkiye not only mitigates the immediate impact of crises but also lays the groundwork for long-term stability and reconciliation, fostering social cohesion and resilience among communities torn apart by conflict and displacement. By investing in the human capital and social infrastructure of these regions, Türkiye aims to create opportunities for peace and prosperity to take root, countering the influence of extremist ideologies and promoting a more inclusive and sustainable future for all.

Türkiye's commitment to the development-security nexus offers a compelling vision for the future of international aid, one that prioritizes human dignity, solidarity, and cooperation in addressing the shared challenges facing the global community. As Türkiye continues to expand its role as a champion of inclusive and sustainable development, its aid model demonstrates a good example of a development-oriented humanitarian approach that produces long-term and sustainable results. In this sense, the Turkish aid model represents a departure from traditional approaches that often dichotomize security and development. Instead, Türkiye

³ For the best practice TİKA projects, see the following websites: <https://unsouthsouth.org/2021/10/12/good-practices-in-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-for-sustainable-development-vol-3-2020/>; <https://unsouthsouth.org/2021/07/07/good-practices-in-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-for-sustainable-development-in-sid-advancing-samoa-pathway-and-achieving-sustainable-recovery/>; [https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:miwbQ-uiv2gJ:https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/partner-of-the-month/tika/&cd=3&hl=tr&ct=clnk&gl=tr](https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:miwbQ-uiv2gJ:https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/partner-of-the-month/tika/&cd=3&hl=tr&ct=clnk&gl=tr;); <https://my.southsouth-galaxy.org/en/solutions/?search=TİKA>

recognizes the interconnectedness of these two dimensions, understanding that addressing immediate humanitarian needs is essential for laying the groundwork for sustainable development and lasting peace.

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GENİŞLETİLMİŞ ÖZET

Dış yardımın kökenleri 19. yüzyılın sonlarında Avrupa güçlerinin Afrika, Latin Amerika ve Asya'daki sömürgelerinde altyapı geliştirme odaklı yardım programlarını başlattığı döneme kadar uzanmaktadır. Aynı dönemde, özellikle Ford ve Rockefeller Vakıfları ile ilişkilendirilen Amerikalı sanayiciler, kalkınma yardım çabalarına katılmışlardır. Ancak, İkinci Dünya Savaşı'nın ardından, özellikle Avrupa ve Asya'da komünist hükümetlerin ortaya çıkmasıyla birlikte yabancı yardımın manzarasında önemli bir değişimi olmuştur.

Bu siyasi çalkantı, ABD'nin Truman Doktrini ve Marshall Planı gibi girişimleri benimsemesine neden olmuştur; bu girişimler komünizmin yayılmasını engelleme ve savaş sonrası Avrupa'nın ekonomik istikrarını ve yeniden inşasını teşvik etmeyi amaçlamıştır. Soğuk Savaş boyunca, dış yardım, esas olarak Sovyet etkisini kontrol etmek amacıyla ABD öncülüğünde politik, ekonomik ve askeri hedefleri ilerletmede önemli bir araç haline gelmiştir. Ancak, Sovyetler Birliği'nin çöküşü, özellikle küresel terörizm gibi ortaya çıkan güvenlik sorunlarının ön plana çıktığı yeni bir dönemin başlangıcını işaret etmiştir; bu da dış yardım stratejilerinin yeniden düzenlenmesini gerektirmiştir.

11 Eylül saldırıları, ABD ve müttefiklerinin, devlet dışı aktörlerden gelen asimetrik tehditlere karşı hassasiyetini vurgulayan belirgin bir uyanış anı olmuştur. Bu durum, dış yardım politikalarının yeniden değerlendirilmesine yol açmış ve geleneksel kalkınma hedeflerine ek olarak güvenlik endişelerine daha fazla önem verilmesini sağlamıştır. Yardımın siyasallaşma ve askeri yardımın istikrarı teşvik etmedeki etkinliği konusundaki endişelere rağmen, Soğuk Savaş sonrası dönem, dış yardımın rolünde önemli bir evrimi işaret etmiştir.

Bu dönemdeki önemli gelişmelerden biri, kalkınma ve güvenlik arasındaki geleneksel ayrımın bulanıklaşması olmuş ve bu da bilim insanlarının ve siyasetçilerin sıklıkla "kalkınma-güvenlik bağlantısı" olarak atıfta bulunduğu bir kavramın ortaya çıkmasına yol açmıştır. Bu kavram, sürdürülebilir kalkınmanın sadece ekonomik büyüme ve yoksulluğun azaltılması meselesi olmadığını, aynı zamanda küresel ölçekte barış, istikrar ve güvenliğin teşviki için de temel olduğunu altını çizmektedir.

Kalkınma ile güvenlik arasındaki bu karşılıklı bağın farkına varan politika yapıcılar, hem insani ihtiyaçları hem de istikrarsızlığı teşvik eden yapısal faktörleri ele alacak daha bütüncül bir yaklaşım benimsemişlerdir. Bu gelişmelere bağlı olarak, Birleşmiş Milletler'in Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri (SKH) gibi girişimlerde ekonomik, sosyal ve çevresel zorlukların birbirine bağlılığını vurgulayan bir yaklaşım benimsenmiştir.

Bu bağlamda, Türkiye uluslararası yardım alanında dinamik ve etkili bir aktör olarak ortaya çıkmış ve küresel istikrarı ve refahı teşvik etmek için kalkınma ve güvenlik önceliklerini entegre eden benzersiz bir yaklaşım sunmuştur. Jeopolitik çıkarlara dayalı geleneksel yardım modellerinin aksine, Türkiye'nin yaklaşımı dayanışma, karşılıklı saygı ve yardım alan ülkelerle ortaklık üzerine odaklanmaktadır.

Türkiye'nin yardım modelinin merkezinde, sürdürülebilir kalkınmanın barış ve istikrar için temel olduğunu kabul eden insancılık prensibi yer almaktadır. Türk yardım çabaları, yerel toplulukları ve kurumları güçlendiren insani yardım ve kapasite geliştirme girişimlerine öncelik vermektedir. Ayrıca, Türkiye'nin yardım stratejisi, uluslararası örgütler, bölgesel aktörler ve sivil toplum gruplarıyla ortaklıklar kurarak, ortak zorlukları ele almak için kaynaklarını ve uzmanlığını kullanmaktadır.

Türkiye'nin Somali, Suriye ve Irak gibi çatışma bölgelerindeki mücadelesi, insani ve kalkınma ihtiyaçlarına cevap verme konusundaki taahhüdünü göstermekte ve uzun vadeli istikrar ve uzlaşma için temel oluşturmaktadır. Türkiye, insan sermayesi ve sosyal altyapıya yatırım yaparak, aşırıcılığı önlemeyi ve kapsayıcı ve sürdürülebilir kalkınmayı teşvik etmeyi amaçlanmaktadır.

Türkiye'nin kalkınma-güvenlik bağlantısına olan taahhüdü, küresel topluluğun karşı karşıya olduğu ortak zorlukları ele alırken insanlık haysiyeti, dayanışma ve işbirliğini öncelik veren etkileyici bir vizyon sunmaktadır. Türkiye, kalkınma ve güvenlik arasındaki bağlantının, güvenliğin sağlanması ve kalıcı barış için hemen insani ihtiyaçların ele alınmasının zorunlu olduğunu kabul eden geleneksel yaklaşımlardan ayrıldığı bir yardım modeli ortaya koymaktadır.