

THE EBRD IN TURKEY

Regional and youth economic inclusion and gender equality

2015-20

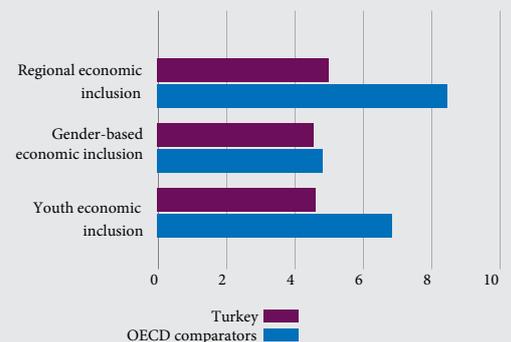
Related SDGs



Turkey's economic activity is concentrated in Istanbul and the Western provinces, which contribute more than 80 per cent of the country's GDP. Regional disparities are pronounced, with a scarcity of formal jobs and limited education, in particular in the south-eastern parts of Turkey. Economic inclusion is lagging, especially for women, youth and rural communities. The gender gap remains large and female labour-force participation (at only 31 per cent) is one of the lowest in the OECD. Moreover, it is estimated that around 4 million refugees have recently settled in Turkey (with large numbers housed in refugee camps), putting significant pressure on domestic resources.

EBRD score

(1-worst, 10-best)



How we work

The EBRD promotes economic opportunities for under-served groups, including refugees, young people and women, through the EBRD's inclusion and gender strategies. In Turkey, we run our flagship Women in Business programme, through which we provide finance and advisory services for women entrepreneurs. We also support youth and refugees through entrepreneurship and job skills training, including digital skills. Our work aligns with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security's strategic plan, which targets an increase in the labour-force participation of disadvantaged groups, with job security, labour-market flexibility, and a lowering of informal employment.

In numbers

€1.6 billion

worth of (200) EBRD projects supporting economic inclusion and gender equality

€146 million

Total financing signed through the EBRD Women in Business programme

Quick links

- > [Women in Business](#)
- > [EBRD Inclusion Strategy](#)
- > [Refugee Response Framework](#)



The EBRD Women in Business programme provides finance, business advice, training and mentoring to female-led SMEs.

Achievements and results: Regional and youth economic inclusion and gender equality

We promoted inclusive economic opportunities, especially for women and young people, by:

- ▶ improving gender opportunities through the Women in Business programme and by working with EBRD clients to attract more women to the energy sector
- ▶ working with clients to promote training for young people (such as TUMAD Gold Mine or Tofas)
- ▶ promoting economic inclusion in underserved regions through investment or training (in good agricultural practices, for example)
- ▶ implementing inclusive and safe infrastructure programmes, for instance, to improve access to healthcare and transport for women (for example, the Ronisans Healthcare PPP or Istanbul Metro)
- ▶ enhancing online learning for women entrepreneurs (for example, on crisis management in response to Covid-19).

We promoted skills and economic opportunities, including for Syrian refugees, by:

- ▶ tailoring advisory support to the needs of refugee-owned SMEs in partnership with the ETF*, International Labour Organization, World Bank, Chambers of Industry and Ministries of Labour and Education
- ▶ improving vocational education and training through a public-private steering group with the Ministry of Education and ETF
- ▶ working with the local Chambers of Commerce to support businesses in south-eastern Turkey
- ▶ establishing a vocational testing centre in Gaziantep for the skills assessment and certification of both locals and Syrian refugees
- ▶ launching “Business Development Mentoring for Syrian-led SMEs”; 52 Syrian-led businesses were integrated into the Turkish market.

Women entrepreneurs

Almost 17,000 Women in Business loans have been disbursed, 66 per cent of them outside major city regions, while more than 2,500 women entrepreneurs have received business diagnostics through the initiative.

Youth employment

EBRD projects contributed to 550 new jobs for young people in Aksaray.

Regional inclusion

More than 1,800 farmers in underserved regions received training on financial literacy or sustainable production thanks to EBRD economic inclusion programmes.

Better skills

Through the EBRD-supported vocational testing centre in Gaziantep, more than 500 Syrians and host community members received training, with almost 50 per cent of them finding formal employment afterwards.

Gender-sensitive training

More than 800 staff received anti-gender-based violence and harassment training during the Bank’s engagement with a private-sector client.

SME growth

The EBRD collaborated with Impact Hub (global community centre for entrepreneurs) to provide a 12-month accelerator programme for 10 Syrian-led information and communications technology companies.

Our case study:

Women in business in Turkey



Watch how the EBRD helped women across all Turkish provinces receive finance, advice, training and mentoring through its flagship Women in Business programme.



Read how the EBRD launched a mentoring programme for Syrian refugees in Turkey.



* European Training Foundation