

**POVERTY AND STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY AS A
GLOBAL ISSUE AND NGO'S: A SPECIFIC CASE
STUDY OF TURKEY-RELATED DOCTORS**

WORLDWIDE

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in

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by

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To my father...

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I hereby declare that all information in this document has been obtained and presented in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct. This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for any award or any other degree or diploma in any university or other institution.

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ABSTRACT

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POVERTY AND STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY AS A GLOBAL ISSUE AND NGO'S: A SPECIFIC CASE STUDY OF TURKEY-RELATED DOCTORS WORLDWIDE

Poverty is a global issue the world is confronting today. This study aims to show the ways of struggle against poverty which is a big problem of the world's agenda. NGO's have a big role in the struggle against poverty and therefore this thesis gives particular importance of NGO's in relation with alleviation strategies.

The effect of globalization on poverty, poverty alleviation and the types of poverty definitions, approaches of poverty alleviation, the importance of NGOs in the struggle against poverty and the activities of NGOs in poverty alleviation are mentioned in detail. DWW is an NGO which works in the context of health and medical aid. In this study, while on the one hand poverty and poverty alleviation and the activities of NGOs which work in this context, are examined, on the other hand the activities of DWW is dwelt upon specially as an NGO working in health and medical relief.

Key words:

Poverty, Global Poverty, Struggle against poverty, NGO, Doctors Worldwide

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GLOBAL BİR SORUN OLARAK YOKSULLUK VE ONUNLA MÜCADELEDE SİVİL TOPLUM KURULUŞLARI: TÜRKİYE BAĞLAMINDA ÖZGÜL BİR ÖRNEK OLARAK YERYÜZÜ DOKTORLARI

Bu tezin amacı; küresel bir sorun olan yoksulluk ve yoksullukla mücadelede önemli rol oynayan ana faktörlerden bir tanesi olan sivil toplum kuruluşlarının faaliyetlerinden bahsetmektir. Globalleşmenin yoksulluğa etkisi, yoksulluğun ve yoksulluk çeşitlerinin tanımları, yoksullukla mücadele yaklaşımları ve bu yaklaşımlar doğrultusunda sivil toplum kuruluşları ve faaliyetlerinden bahsetmek, yoksulluğun detaylarını anlamak ve onunla mücadele etmek açısından çok önemlidir. Yeryüzü Doktorları sağlık bağlamında yoksullukla mücadele eden bir STK'dır. Bu çalışmada yoksulluk ve yoksullukla mücadele; bu alanda çalışan sivil toplum kuruluşlarının faaliyetleri bağlamında ele alınmıştır. Ayrıca yoksullukla sağlık bağlamında mücadele eden bir sivil toplum kuruluşu olan Yeryüzü Doktorları'nın amaçları ve faaliyetleri bu çalışmanın özel konusu olarak bahsedilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Yoksulluk, Global Yoksulluk, Yoksullukla Mücadele, STK, Yeryüzü Doktorları

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BOND	British Overseas NGO's for Development
DWW	Doctors Worldwide (Yeryüzü Doktorları)
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCAP	Global Call to Action against Poverty
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IBB	İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality)
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IHH	İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri İnsani Yardım Vakfı (The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief)
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISMEK	İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi Sanat ve Meslek Eğitimi Kursları (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Art and Professional Training Courses)
KEDV	Kadın Emegini Değerlendirme Vakfı (The Foundation for the Support of Women's Labor)
MDG	Millennium Development Goals (Bin Yıl Kalkınma Hedefleri)
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NOGAID	Northern Ghana Aid
OECD	Organization For Economic Co-operation and Development
RADEM	Recherché et action pour un développement multisectoriel
SHCEK	Sosyal Hizmetler ve Çocuk Esirgeme Kurumu (The Social Services and Child Protection Agency)
STK	Sivil Toplum Kuruluşları (Non-governmental Organizations)

TGTV	Türkiye Gönüllü Teşekküller Vakfı (Turkey Voluntary Agencies Foundation)
TİKA	Türk İşbirliği ve Kalkınma İdaresi Başkanlığı (Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency)
TOG	Toplum Gönüllüleri (Community Volunteers Foundation)
TUIK	Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu (Turkish Statistical Institute)
TUSIAD	Türk Sanayicileri ve İşadamları Derneği (Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association)
UK	United Kingdom
UMICPT	University of Missouri International Center for Psychological Trauma
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAID	Unit Aid
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollars
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

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INTRODUCTION

It is accepted that poverty is one of the most challenging issues the world is confronting today. It is not a problem of developing countries only; it is also a problem in the developed countries even though it appears in different forms. While income gaps between the poor and the rich have risen, poverty is rising in most developed countries too. According to World Bank's past estimates of global poverty, in 2005, 1.4 billion people were living under extreme poverty¹. It is clear that poverty can appear in different forms in the different regions of the world. What make poverty important are its physical and physiological consequences on the people's life. Although there is a feeling of pity towards the poor, poverty is perceived as a negative term by the society and therefore, it is seen as a threat to the society. As a consequence, they are isolated from the society. There is the tendency to blame them to be lazy to work and get out of the poverty. The causes of the poverty can be various and complex; and the poor cannot be blamed for being poor. It is fundamental to make people comprehend that being poor is not of one's own will and it is one of the biggest problems of the world.

Poverty can be defined in different ways by economists or sociologist. There are widely divergent opinions, but all of them represent discrete aspects of poverty. On the other hand, basically, it can be defined as a lack of basic needs that are necessary to have a decent life. Food, goods, money are among the essential or basic needs of human beings for living. One of the considerable results of poverty is hunger and it can be defined as not having enough food to continue daily activities. Absence of the food can be considered the breach of the right to life in the case of death because of hunger. Considering that right to life, right to food, right to shelter, right to water etc. have been protected by core international treatments, it could be claimed that it is violation of fundamental human rights. Beyond that, poverty and hunger give rise to the failure on combating transmitted or treatable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and the like.

¹ Chen, Shaohua, Ravallion, Martin, (2008) "The developing world is poorer than we thought, but no less successful in the fight against poverty" Paper provided by The World Bank in its series *Policy Research Working Paper Series* with number 4703.

As it is noticed, just providing medicine or treatment is not enough to combat and eliminate them, ill people have to get sufficient nutrition to beat these most fatal diseases.

Poverty is one of the human rights violations that affect people all over the world regardless of their gender, colour, nationality or age. On the other hand, some groups like children, women, disabled, migrants, minorities, displaced and elderly people etc. are most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged; and thereof influenced more by poverty. This problem is in a degree that most vulnerable groups appear to be more at risk. Here is the concrete example, according to the UNICEF's estimates; over 25.000 children die every day around the world because of poverty, hunger, preventable illness, and other related causes². Similarly, because of the traditional practices and laws, women can be excluded from working life or can earn less than a man for the same job. Consequently, more than 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women as it is stated in the FAO's research paper³. The term "feminisation of poverty" was created by Diana Pearce in 1978 where she noted that poverty was turning into a female problem and women are economically more disadvantaged⁴. Therefore, child-oriented, gender-oriented, migrants-oriented etc. poverty alleviation programmes, policies and projects have been developed by the international organisations, governments and NGOs. For example in the Beijing Declaration, states have committed themselves to reduce heavy burden of poverty on women by "addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes uneconomic, ensuring equal access for all women, including those in rural areas, as vital development agents, to productive resources, opportunities and public services."⁵

Globalisation is the most discussed issue considering its role on poverty. Globalisation emerged in the 1980s and it intends international economic integration by providing free movement of the goods, services, information, capitals in the world. The World Bank is responsible for the implementation of the global economic

² <http://www.unicefusa.org/news/releases/important-message-for-2008.html> (12.12.2009)

³ Skoet, Jakob, and Stamoulis, Kostas, "The State of Food Insecurity in the World in 2006", Available at : <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0750e/a0750e00.htm> (15.11.2009)

⁴ Quoted from Bianchi, Suzanne M. (1999) "Feminisation and Juvenilization of Poverty: Trends, Relative Risks, Causes and Consequences", *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 25,p. 308.

policies in the developing world. That being said globalisation would grow the economies of the developing countries beside the developed ones. It is presumed that growth in the economy would result in increase on income level and thereto reduction of the poverty. However, the facts show that globalisation by itself alone does not correspond to the poverty reduction. It intensifies income gaps between poor and rich countries; as a result more people in the developing world suffer from poverty.

In as much as poverty is a global issue, reducing poverty is on the agenda of the international community for quite some time. Correspondingly, some significant steps have been taken by the international community. For example in 1987, thousands of people gathered in Paris to memorialise people who died because of hunger and poverty. After this gathering, in order to call attention to the poverty, it has been declared that 17th of October be as the International day for eradication of poverty by the United Nations (GA Resolution A/RES/47/196 of 31 March 1993⁶) and it has been celebrated since then. For similar reasons, 1996 was declared as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty by the UN's resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993⁷. Despite the initial feature of these steps, they are important for taking attention to the poverty. In addition, the Copenhagen Declaration and its programme of Action were accepted by the international community at the UN World Summit for Social Development in 1995. Poverty alleviation and promotion of the social rights were addressed⁸. Furthermore, in the context of the Millennium Development Goals; United Nations aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Besides implementing global economic policies in the developing countries, World Bank started to design and implement programme on struggle against poverty at the beginning of 2000s and prepared detailed poverty reduction programmes for the developing world.

⁵ Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995, Beijing Declaration Paragraph 26.

⁶ Full text of the Resolution is available at: <http://www.gdrc.org/doyourbit/poverty-resolution.pdf> (08.01.2010).

⁷ Full text of the Resolution is available at: <http://www.un-documents.net/a48r183.htm> (18.02.2010).

⁸ Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,(1995) UN World Summit for Social Development.

It is evident that different methods and approaches have been adopted and implemented for eradicating poverty based on the different definition of the poverty. Direct aid, development aid, land reform, micro credits, economical growth, social assistance etc are the methods that are used for the poverty eradication. It is argued that for effective and sustainable poverty reduction, just one method would not be sufficient. Seeing that direct aid cannot eradicate poverty alone, it is recommended that it should be used in the case of emergency such as war, draught, flood, etc. Because of the multi dimensional character of the poverty, the economical measures and social measures have to be taken in order to reduce poverty. Besides taking economical measures which includes creating job, economical growth; at the same time social measures such as strengthening civil society organisations, providing equality, taking positive measures for most vulnerable groups are necessary. It is worth mentioning that governments' make efforts for reducing poverty by putting more tax on the rich; and thereby allocate more resources for social benefits. Imposing more taxes on the rich and spending more money on social benefit help to lessen the income gaps between the poor and the rich and consequently reduce poverty. As a consequence, a combination of various strategies has to be developed to fight against poverty.

Notwithstanding the effort of the international community, national governments also play significant roles in fighting against poverty. However this whole effort of the international community is not enough to generate sustainable solutions for the poverty. In every country, there are certain institutions for combating poverty. States need to focus on the economic, social rights so as to eradicate the root causes of poverty. Priority should be given to the issue of development, strengthening of the poor, and making them less vulnerable and less at risk of facing the effect of poverty in general. Importantly, states should share their experiences with others for establishing database for nature, reasons and results of poverty.⁹

⁹UNESCO, (1995), "Contribution To Poverty Eradication And Human Resource Development Within UNICCO's Fields Of Competence", Item 3.5.1 of the provisional agenda.

The international community and national authorities, as well as various NGOs have devoted and dedicated their work to end poverty. Though, they accept the use of different approaches to eliminate poverty, this thesis will investigate the role of NGOs in reducing poverty with specific reference to the Turkey – related Doctors World Wide that aims to provide medical assistance and aid for people who cannot access to medical treatment. It was established in April 2000 and its distinctive Turkish branch was also established in 2004.

To this end, the purpose of the Chapter One is to provide a brief discussion on the term of poverty as a global issue and give brief information regarding the definition of poverty, types of poverty and approaches to eliminate poverty. Chapter Two will assess the role of NGOs in the fight against poverty and give brief information on the main activities of NGOs in this struggle. How significant the role NGOs play in poverty reduction will be explored. The final issue that this study turns to in Chapter Three is the struggle against poverty and the role of NGOs in Turkey. In this section, apart from Doctors World Wide, some other leading NGOs that are working on struggle against poverty will be examined and brief information will be provided on their work related to the struggle against poverty. In doing so, this study will address the outcomes of the activities of the NGOs that are combating poverty.

CHAPTER I

POVERTY AS A GLOBAL ISSUE

Certainly, it is crucial to point out that poverty did not emerge by globalisation, but it is deepened, spread and worsened with globalisation. In spite of the fact that globalisation has resulted in growth in the economies of developing countries and therefore growth in the income level; quite a number of people still live under extreme poverty. It should be noted that sustainable poverty alleviation is based on international, national and local level efforts, because of the multi dimensional character of the poverty. As mentioned above, the challenging issue of poverty is on the agenda of United Nations, World Bank, ILO and other international organisations because of its global texture. In the absence of an acceptance of the effect of globalisation on poverty, the struggle against poverty will fail. Thus, it is obvious that without the involvement of the international community, poverty cannot be eradicated.

Examination of the global texture of poverty is important to determine and identify its scope. On the sociological perspective, there are two views on poverty studies. The first is the American based view which claims poverty is seen in every level and class of the society and this increase with globalisation. The second which is the French based view starts with the social exclusion. It claims that power of the global market weakens the national states and groups that are not needed in this context are excluded and become poorer. Both views conclude that poverty is deepened by globalisation and affects some groups more¹⁰ than others.

For similar reasons, before examining poverty reduction approaches, programmes and policies, different theories of poverty should be examined, given that poverty reduction approaches, programmes and policies respond to these theories. Bradshaw outlined five theories of poverty¹¹: The first is “individual

¹⁰ Oktik, Nurgul (2008) “Conceptual and Theoretical Approaches to the Poverty, Poverty Studies in Turkey”, *Yakin Publishing*, p. 21.

¹¹ Bradshaw, Ted (2007) “Theories of Poverty and Anti-Poverty Programs in Community Development”, *Journal of the Community Development Society*, 38, 1, p. 7.

deficiencies” which is based on the causes of the poverty such as laziness, deficiency, bad choices and genetic qualities such as lack of intelligence and talent. Thus, the individual himself is responsible for creating poverty. This implies that if the individual works harder then he can get out of poverty.

Not so many scholars are arguing in favour of the individualistic theory of the 19th century in Britain.¹² As a result, the individualistic theory is defended by the conservatives. “Individualistic theory” of poverty aims to push the poor into work in order to alleviate poverty and design programmes to punish individuals for not working. Second is “cultural belief systems that support subcultures in poverty”, which roots its cause in “culture of poverty”¹³. Bradshaw explained that “this theory suggests that poverty is created by the transmission over generations of a set of beliefs, values and skills that are socially generated but individually held.” Being victims of impaired subculture lie at the heart of this theory.

The culture of poverty was first created by Oscar Lewis in the 1950s and he defines it as “design for living which is passed down from generation to generation”¹⁴. Approaches on poverty alleviation can be developed for after school programmes where positive social values are imposed on the youth and this is advocated by the liberals. The third “political- economic distortion”¹⁵ and it states that social and economic systems are the cause of the poverty. For example, Marx blames capitalist system for creating jobs with low wages which cause poverty. Socio economic structures of the society prevent people to access education, food, health, services and as a consequence create poverty in the society. It suggests changing the system by using political and economical power.

The fourth is “geographical disparities”¹⁶ and it is based on other theories. As it will be examined in the study, geographically-based theory deals with rural poverty, urban poverty, and regional poverty. As statistical figures prove, rural

¹² Oktik, (2008), p. 32.

¹³ Bradshaw (2007) p. 7.

¹⁴ Coward, Barbara E.; Feagin, Joe R.; Williams, J. Allen (1973) “The Culture of Poverty Debate: Some Additional Data”, *Social Problems*, 21, 4, p. 622.

¹⁵ Bradshaw (2007) p. 7.

¹⁶ Bradshaw (2007) p. 7.

poverty is deeper than urban poverty. Similarly, some regions of the world are poorer than other regions. This theory suggests that the need of depressed local places should be addressed.

And the last theory outlined by Bradshaw is “cumulative and circumstantial origins” which deals with individual situations and community resources as mutually dependent. This theory suggests complex solutions that focus on the individuals and community orientation for poverty reduction¹⁷.

This chapter, first, aims to provide a general overview on what constitute global poverty. Secondly, it will give information on the definition of poverty and types of poverty. The third objective is to assess the approaches of struggle against poverty, due focus being on the role of NGOs.

1.1. WHAT IS GLOBAL POVERTY?

The explanation below demonstrates global context of the poverty. The term globalisation started to be used around the 1980s and there are hundreds of definitions of the globalisation. Globalisation refers to an “extension beyond national borders of the same market forces that have operated for centuries at all levels of human economic activity—village markets, urban industries, or financial centres”.¹⁸ Watkins defined it as “If there is a single defining feature of globalisation in the late twentieth century, it is the increasing ease with which technology can accompany capital across borders.”¹⁹ Significant developments on technology, transportation, and informatics have simplified free movement of the goods, people, and capitals in the world. With the collapse of the socialist block, free market economy becomes the only dominant economical system in the world. As a consequence, it was obligatory for the developing countries to open their market to the global world.²⁰

¹⁷ Bradshaw (2007) p.7.

¹⁸ <http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2008/053008.htm> (12.12.2009).

¹⁹ Watkins, Ken (1997) “Globalisation and Liberalisation: Implications for poverty, distribution, inequality,” Occasional Paper, 32, p. 9.

²⁰ Danisoglu, Ayse Celikel (2004) “The impact of the Globalisation on the income inequality and poverty”, *The Journal of the İstanbul Commerce University*, 5, pp. 215 – 239.

As well as having good impacts on poverty reduction by growing income level, globalisation has also bad effect on it. Some argued that globalisation deepened inequality of income and therefore weakened poor countries. Others argued that noteworthy reduction in poverty has been seen since the globalisation started. The countries most affected by poverty are African and Asian countries which do not have strong economic system and market. When looking at their history, one of the causes of the poverty is colonialism by western countries. The sources of these countries were transferred to the west, which were exploited in the past. Today, in these countries, poverty is deepened by globalisation, as it increases inequality of income. Globalisation is mainly on the benefit of developed countries. For example, local producers cannot compete by the imported goods which can be cheaper; as a result economical loss is experienced by the local people. It is believed that economic growth would reduce poverty but this result does not happen all the time. It is not necessarily the flood of foreign capital to the developing world provide economical growth and play a role on the struggle against poverty. According to the research conducted by the World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations, the richest 1% of adults in the world own 40% of the planet's wealth and the richest 10% of adults accounted for 85% of the world's total of global assets²¹. It is clear from the figures that inequality of income is the most important reason of global poverty and has a global character. According to the World Bank report of 2008, 1.4 billion people in the developing world (one in four) were living on less than US\$1.25 a day in 2005, down from 1.9 billion (one in two) in 1981²². It should be borne in mind that globalisation take into account only the need of the market, not the need of the poor. Because of the liberal policies in order to comply with the market needs, the level of poverty is increasing. Privatisation, back off from social security areas, less investment on the health and education etc. are the new obstacles before the poverty eradication.

Even though, the wealth of the world is increasing because of the development of technology and growth production growth in the number of the poor

²¹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2006/dec/06/business.internationalnews> (28.12.2009).

is not decreasing and the content of the poverty is intensified. Obviously, poverty does not result from the lack of the resources, but unequal distribution of income. After the Second World War, post-war welfare state regime was a significant element for preventing poverty in Europe. Growth in the economy with social policies such as providing free education, health services, and unemployment salary helped people in Europe to live out of poverty²³. Globalisation and neo liberal policies led governments to cut social benefits. Neo liberal policies require less state involvement in so many sectors such as education, health, etc. Therefore more people in Europe have started to experience poverty. Consequently, due to globalisation, national states are losing their power, causing the rate of the poverty to increase; international organisations and companies replace the place of national state. Undoubtedly, new strategies are developed for poverty reduction in the globalisation period.

Global aspect of the poverty has negative effect on the poor countries. With rapid urbanisation people move to the cities, because they cannot survive and continue to live on agricultural basis. On the other hand, cities cannot provide enough jobs for the new comers, as a result, there is a growing tendency among the people in the developing countries to migrate to the developed countries in order to benefit from the wealth of those countries²⁴.

In order to reduce negative effects of the neo liberal policies on poverty and income distribution, international organisations have started to design and implement programmes that provide solutions for alleviating poverty. International community is developing new policies so as to provide interventions that would be in favour of the poor countries. In addition, the acts of any country alone to reducing poverty fail to address the problem. On the international level some important steps have been taken to reduce poverty. These steps are examined below.

²²<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0,,contentMDK:21883042~menuPK:2643747~pagePK:64020865~piPK:149114~theSitePK:336992,00.html> (05.01.2009).

²³ Şenses, Fikret, (2001) “Küreselleşmenin Öteki Yüzü: Yoksulluk”, İstanbul: *Iletisim Publishing*, p. 18.

²⁴ Buğra, Ayşe (2008) “Kapitalizm, Yoksulluk ve Türkiye’de Sosyal Politika”. İstanbul: *Iletisim Publishing*, p. 24.

Poverty has been one of the main concerns of the development studies, economics and sociology, etc. Development of the international human rights law and adoption of social and economic rights in the international treatment and the constitutions provided some legal approach to poverty. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequately for the health and well-being of himself and of his family”²⁵. Since the adoption of Universal Declaration, quite a number of people still live under extreme poverty and hunger. Poverty is still widespread and increases infant mortality it and diseases such as malaria; it reduces life expectancy and restricts the right to basic education and basic health services etc. For example, life expectancy is 50.5²⁶ years in Africa, and this rate is lower in some African countries such as Zambia where life expectancy is 38.63²⁷ years. Extreme poverty affects domestic conditions, institutions, policies, decisions, practices, and values that exist and operate in many locations. Secondly, global factors can be responsible for extreme poverty. Taking into account these two tendencies, the responsibility for extreme poverty rely on the relative weight each of these views assigns to domestic factors versus global factors²⁸.

Since poverty is accepted as a global issue, in order to be eradicated, a global action is required and active contribution of international community is needed. First, on the humanitarian area the United Nations and related organisations such as UNDP, UNICEF develops several programmes for eradication of poverty. The policy and programmes that are developed by the UN are not related to the economics. Second group actors are IMF, WB and OECD that are established by the international organisation in order to influence social and economic neo liberal

²⁵ “Article 25” of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, available at: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/> (10.01.2010).

²⁶ World Bank , Regional Brief Africa, available at: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/0,,menuPK:258652~pagePK:146732~piPK:146828~theSitePK:258644,00.html> (02.01.2010).

²⁷ Background Note: Zambia, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2359.htm> (05.01.2010).

²⁸ Bashshar Haydar (2005) “Extreme Poverty and Global Responsibility”, *Metaphilosophy*, 36, 1-2, pp. 240 – 253.

policies. Third group actors are regional organisations such as EU, WTO²⁹. Each group of actors will be evaluated below.

The purposes of the United Nations are to “establish international cooperation in order to solve international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to support and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone without any discrimination”³⁰. In the broader context of the achievement of those purposes, as recent as in 2000, Millennium Summit³¹ was by the UN held by the UN and the leaders of the Summit adopted the UN Millennium Declaration³² and recognized their “... collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level”³³. In this summit, eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been determined to be accomplished by 2015 so as to find solutions to the world's most significant development problems. The first goal is to “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger”. In this context, the first target is to “Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day”. The second target is to “Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people”. And the last but not the least is to “Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”. It is stated that the goal of reducing by half the proportion of people in the developing world that are living on less than \$1 a day by 2015 can be achieved according to Millennium Developments Goals Report 2008.³⁴ It is obvious that some achievements on poverty reduction have so far been realised. But economic crises have badly effected or eroded this achievement especially in poor countries. The global strategy of MDGs is criticized for not covering the point of “development

²⁹ Gokbunar, Ramazan; Cura, Serkan (2008) “The Policies of the World Bank Towards Poverty: The Case of Kyrgyzstan”, *Economical Interpretations*, 519, 45, p. 18.

³⁰ Charter of the United Nations, available at: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter1.shtml> (12.01.2010).

³¹ for More information about the Millennium Summit please see: <http://www.un.org/millennium/summit.htm> (13.01.2010).

³² For the full text of the declaration see: <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm> (16.01.2010).

³³ <http://www.un.org.tr/includes/files/turkeymdgreport.pdf> (12.01.2010).

³⁴ The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2008 For full text of the Report see: http://www.undp.org/publications/MDG_Report_2008_En.pdf (16.01.2010).

as freedom,” “peace, security, human rights and local and national institutions that ensure justice”³⁵

Besides and beyond the MDGs, United Nations international core human rights instruments, such as Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on Civil and Political rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and European Social Charter provide tools for reducing poverty in the global context. In fact, poverty is not expressly mentioned in international human rights law, but it constitutes the breach of human rights. Human rights must be understood as rights which belong to any individual as a consequence of being human, independent of acts of law³⁶. Poverty prevents full enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms provided in these conventions. Thus, poverty is a breach of human dignity and human rights. Unfortunately, regarding social and economic rights, ICESCR set out that states “take steps... to maximum its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures”³⁷. Therefore, it is quite possible that state can find excuses for ignorance of the social and economic rights.

According to the UN Millennium Development Goals 2009 Report³⁸ economic crisis has slowed the developments on the poverty reduction struggle, even though data is not available yet, It is stated in the report that in 2008, those living in

³⁵ Birdsall, Nancy (2006) “Any “Global” Strategy Against Poverty Will be Misguided and incomplete,” The speech was given at the American Economic Association Round Table, “Grand Strategy Against Poverty” Center for Global Development, p. 3.

³⁶ Piechowiak, Marek(1999) “What Are Human Rights? The Concept of Human Rights and Their Extra-Legal Justification”, in Raija Hanski, Markku Suksi (eds.), *An Introduction to the International Protection of Human Rights*, (Institute for Human Rights, Abo Akademi University, Turku) p. 6.

³⁷ Article 21 of the ICESCR.

³⁸ For the full text of the Report see:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_Report_2009_ENG.pdf (12.01.2010).

extreme poverty in the developing regions accounted for slightly more than a quarter of the developing world's populations in 2005, compared to almost half in 1990.³⁹

As it is pointed out above, World Bank is one of the international actors that devoted its work on poverty alleviation and development. WB was established in 1944 and provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries. It is clearly stated that their mission is to eradicate poverty. It consists of two different departments. First organisation is “International Bank for Reconstruction” which aims to alleviate poverty in the middle-income and relatively poor countries. Second one is International Development Association and it focuses on the world's poorest countries⁴⁰. It is responsible for the achievement of the MDGs.

Apart from the UN programmes and the World Bank activities, the European Union also develops programmes and accordingly carries out activities for reducing poverty. The Lisbon Strategy was adopted in 2000 and it aims at becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. It is also capable of sustaining economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion in the next decade⁴¹. It was indicated that investing in people and developing an active and dynamic welfare state will be crucial both to Europe's place in the knowledge economy and for ensuring that the emergence of this new economy does not compound the existing social problems of unemployment, social exclusion and poverty⁴². 2010 was proclaimed as European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in order to show the commitment on eradication of poverty at the EU level. Furthermore, Treaty of Lisbon, which came into effect on 1 December 2009, make special emphasis on the poverty reductions by saying that “Union development

³⁹ http://www.eudevdays.eu/event_coverage/articles/millennium_development_goals_en.htm (04.01.2010).

⁴⁰ About World Bank, available at: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0,,menuPK:336998~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:336992,00.html> (28.12.2009).

⁴¹ Lisbon European Council 23 and 24 March 2000, Presidency Conclusion, Full text is available at: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/summits/lis1_en.htm (10.01.2010).

⁴² *Ibid.*

cooperation policy shall have as its primary objective the reduction and in the long term the eradication of poverty”⁴³.

It has to be noted that despite the international actions, conventions, social policies, poverty as a global issue still exist and threaten the world peace. While income gaps grow between poor and rich countries, global inequality is deepened. Injustice is one of the most important obstacles to the world peace. Places where Wars, military dictatorship, crimes against humanity, civil wars, terrorism, and conflicts are going on also cause the people to extreme poverty.

1.2. DEFINITION OF POVERTY

This part of the study describes the ways in which poverty has been defined. Defining poverty is very in order to determine who is poor and to develop strategies and programmes for reducing poverty. There is no one definition of poverty, and it can mean different things to different people and institutions. Still, poverty can be defined in general as being deprived of basic needs of humanity, such as food, sheltering, education, health, etc. which means lacking a good quality of life. If the notion of “poverty” is only defined as ‘being lack of food’ it has to be defined as ‘poverty of hunger’. Economical definition of the poverty has been given by Watts as “a property of the individual’s situation, rather than a characteristic of the individual or of his pattern of behaviour”⁴⁴. On the other hand, Townsend defines poverty as “the absence or inadequacy of those diets, amenities, standards, services and activities which are common or customary in society.”⁴⁵ This definition refers to the relative poverty. Townsend also places emphasis on the social exclusion and deprivation by saying that “poverty may be best understood as applying ... to those whose resources do not allow them to fulfil the elaborate social demands and

⁴³ Treaty of Lisbon, Article 188, Available at: <http://www.lisbon-treaty.org/wcm/the-lisbon-treaty/treaty-on-the-functioning-of-the-european-union-and-comments/part-5-external-action-by-the-union/title-3-cooperation-with-third-countries-and-humanitarian-aid/chapter-1-development-cooperation/496-article-188d.html> (06.01.2010).

⁴⁴ Goedhart, Theo; Halberstadt, Victor; Kapteyn, Arie; van Prag, Bernard (1977) “The Poverty Line: Concept and Measurement,” *The Journal of Human Resources*, 12, 4, p. 504.

⁴⁵ Nolan, Brian; Whelan, Christopher T. (2002) “Resources, deprivation, and poverty”, *Oxford: Clarendon Press*, p. 11.

customs which have been placed upon citizens of society...”⁴⁶ Similar approach has been taken by the European Union. In The European Union’s understanding: “the poor shall be taken to mean persons, families and groups of persons whose resources (material, cultural, social) are so limited as to exclude them from the minimum acceptable way of life in the member state in which they live”⁴⁷.

Besides its definition, how to measure the poverty needs to be clarified. In order to measure poverty some “consumptions norms” or “poverty line” are specified. According to these definitions, the poor can be defined as those whose consumption standards or incomes remain under the specified norms or line⁴⁸. International institutions like the UN and the World Bank set figures for poverty line and extreme poverty line. Extreme poverty is defined by the UN as “having income less than 1 Dollar a day”. According to the World Bank Report of 2008 estimation of poverty line has changed and it is \$1.25 a day. According to the statistics, over 1 billion people live on less than \$1 per day and about 2.8 billion lives less than \$2 per day.⁴⁹ By these figures that are determined by the World Bank, the number of the poor in developed countries are very little. On the other hand, temporary poverty has been experienced by the people in the developed countries, when they lose their job, if they are single parents, or if they have quite number of children and limited income.

It is clear that the government of the poor countries have more difficulty on the fight against poverty. Hunger is defined as lack of food: according to the Human Development Report dated 2003 “it is also problem of deficiencies in food entitlement and deprivations in relation to essential services (health care, education, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation). Food entitlement differs from food

⁴⁶ Dixon, John and Macarov, David (1998) “Poverty: A Persistent Global Reality”, London: *Routledge*, pp. 7 -8.

⁴⁷ Decision of the Council of Ministers, 19 December 1984.

⁴⁸ Sen, Amartya (1982) “Poverty and Famines, An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation”, Oxford: *Oxford University Press*, p. 9.

⁴⁹ Zulu, Jack Jones (2005) “Poverty Eradication and Current Debates” , available at: http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0002839/Poverty_eradication_current_debates_Zulu.pdf (21.01.2010).

availability in that it indicates what a person can command with income and thus consume, rather than what is available in the market.”⁵⁰

Since social and political exclusion are often gone through by the poor, claiming their rights is not possible. As a consequence, their access to education, health services, and safe drinking water is very finite.⁵¹

Atkins states that statistics in the United States and the United Kingdom demonstrate a rise in poverty between 70’s and 80’s, but scepticism has been pointed out regarding the methods of measurement of poverty ⁵². As a consequence, there are different approaches in measuring poverty over time as stated by Callan ⁵³. Accordingly, such as: “Budget Standard Approach” is established on the specification and costing of nutritionally sufficient diet. “The Food Ratio Method” is based on the proportion of the income spent on food⁵⁴. “The Social Security Poverty line Approach” is based on inference of the “Consensual Income Poverty Lines” which is based on the way in which poverty lines may be based on respondents’ evaluations of variant income levels and the relationship between these subjective evaluations and welfare. “Purely Relative Income Lines” is based on the standard of living of the society in question. Finally, “Style of Living and Deprivation” is based on analysing styles of living and at developing indicators of objective deprivation.

1.3. TYPES OF POVERTY

Poverty is not only consisting of hunger, so there are different types of poverty, such as absolute poverty, relative poverty, human poverty, rural and urban poverty. Also, there is a need to understand the extent of the poverty and the need to

⁵⁰ Human Development Report (2003) “Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty”, available at: http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr03_complete.pdf (16.01.2010).

⁵¹ Sanchez, Pedro, Swaminathan, M.S. Dolbe, Philip; Yüksel, Nalan, (2005) “Halving Hunger: It can be done”, the UK and USA: *Earthscan*.

⁵² Atkinson, A. B. (1987) “On the Measurement of Poverty,” *Econometrica*, 55, 4, p. 749.

⁵³ Callan, Tim; Nolan, Birian; Whelan, Brendan J. (1994) “Poverty in the 1990’s: Evidence from the 1994 living in Ireland Survey”, Dublin: *Oak Tree Press*.

⁵⁴ Prag, Bernard M.S. Vand; Spit, Jan S.; van de Stadt, Huib (1982) “A comparison Between the Food Ratio Poverty Line and the Leyden Poverty Line,” *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 64, 4, pp. 691 – 694.

examine all kinds of poverty. The different aspects and relationship between “absolute” and “relative” help to demonstrate that they represent different content of poverty, based on different understandings of human needs, rather than two different realities.⁵⁵

1.3.1. Absolute Poverty

Absolute poverty is defined in the Copenhagen Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development as “a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to social services.”⁵⁶ This constitutes of a person who does not have sufficient money to buy basic needs every day, such as food, clothes etc. He / She does not have a home to live or to sleep. It is indicated that “food, clothing and shelter are all needed for survival”.⁵⁷ Absolute definition of poverty depends on the experts’ claim on the people’s minimum requirements.⁵⁸ Absolute poverty is measured on minimum calories needed by a person and depends on the socio economic structure of the country. Adequate food is the only measure for assessing the absolute poverty.

In order to measure poverty, the term of poverty line has to be defined too. Poverty line is a level of personal or household income defining the state of poverty and it is different for every country. Hunger line is the cost of adequate food needed by a person.

1.3.2. Relative Poverty

Besides absolute poverty which is assessed on adequate food, there is also another type of poverty; relative poverty. The absolute definition of poverty is not acceptable considering the life standards in the developed countries. Absolute poverty is not always a matter in the developed world; as a consequence, one cannot claim that poverty does not exist in the developed countries. Relatively people can

⁵⁵ Lister, Ruth (2004) “Poverty”, NY: *Polity Publishing*, p. 32.

⁵⁶ http://www.studyingdevelopment.org/Readings_and_Reviews/Readings_&_Reviews/Child_poverty_in_the_developing_world_2005121535.html (01.02.2010)

⁵⁷ What is Poverty, Combat Poverty Agency, <http://www.combatpoverty.ie/publications/studentleaflets/WhatIsPoverty.pdf> (16.01.2010).

think they are poor if they compare their income level and conditions with others. When their income is lower than the average they can feel poor.⁵⁹ As stated above, Townsend defines relative poverty as "the absence or inadequacy of those diets, amenities, standards, services and activities which are common or customary in society."⁶⁰ This is measured as based on low income and low standard of living compared with the rest of the country. People can have adequate food, access medical treatment and shelter but compared with the rest of the society, these people cannot access so many goods and services because of the lack of income. Bradshaw emphasised that "a relative definition of poverty allows community flexibility in addressing pressing local concerns, in spite of the fact that objective definitions allow tracking progress and comparing one to another"⁶¹. Relative poverty is more experienced in the developed countries where people are wealthier and level of income is higher. Hence people can compare their level of income and living standards with others. It is measured as based on income distribution. If the income distribution is not fair and income inequality is high, relative poverty can be felt and seen more. As a result, measurement of relative poverty is depending on certain conditions of each country.

1.3.3. Human Poverty

Today, classical definition of poverty does not satisfy because of the new meaning of poverty. Considering developments in the international human rights law especially on equality, poverty needs to be defined in a way that corresponds to human rights issues. Struggle against poverty is now beyond the economical strategies. The United Nations Development Programme defines 'human poverty' as a 'denial of choices and opportunities for living a tolerable life'; this includes a lack of choices and opportunities in one's life which are basic to human development, such as: living a long life, being healthy, receiving medical care and treatment when

⁵⁸ Spicker, Paul; Leguizamón, Álvarez Sonia; Gordon, David (2007) "Poverty an International Glossary, Comparative Research Programme on Poverty" (second edition) London: *Zed Books*. p.7.

⁵⁹ Stark, Oded; Micevska, Maja; Mycielski, Jerzy(2009) "Relative Poverty as a determinant of migrations: Evidence from Poland", *Economics Letters*, 103, pp. 119 – 122.

⁶⁰ "An introduction of Social Policy" <http://www2.rgu.ac.uk/publicpolicy/introduction/needf.htm> (10.01.2010).

⁶¹ Bradshaw, (2007),p.7.

required, being educated, living in freedom etc⁶². It does not depend on income level or having enough food to live, but lack of good standard of life. Therefore, definition of poverty is extended to include human poverty as well. Receiving medical treatment, accessing education, having shelter, etc. are taken into account while assessing the human poverty.

Gross national product and poverty line alone are not enough to measure the poverty. For that reason Human Development Index has been developed by UNDP. Human Poverty Index not only takes into account the income, but it represents a multi-dimensional alternative to the 1.25 dollars a day poverty measure⁶³. In order to formulise how to measure human poverty, the UNDP determined three indicators: The first indicator is life expectancy which means long and healthy life. Second one is education. It covers adult literacy rates and percentage of the school enrolment. The last one is economic and social opportunities which make use of data on the percentage of the population lacking healthy drinking water, basic health opportunities and population under five years old that is insufficiently nourished⁶⁴.

Human poverty approach generates different strategies for poverty alleviation. Such an approach should be taken into account to access the basic services based on the indicators.

1.3.4. Urban Poverty and Rural Poverty

Urban poverty is one of the new types of poverty that is experienced with developing countries. With the era of industrialisation, people tend to move to the cities. Since there are not so many jobs in the rural area and people became poorer. Lack of job and income cause them to live in slum houses in very bad conditions. The growth in the urban population will continue to rise, predicted to reach almost 5 billion in 2030. Much of this urbanization is predicted to take place in the developing world, with Asia and Africa having the largest urban populations.⁶⁵ As it is stated by

⁶² http://www.globalfocus.org.nz/gec_media/files/Poverty08.pdf (12.01.2010).

⁶³ http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_TUR.html (16.01.2010).

⁶⁴ Human Development Report, (2003), "Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty", http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr03_complete.pdf (17.12.2009).

⁶⁵ Baker, Judy L. "Urban Poverty: A Global View", *The World Bank*

the World Bank, the world is becoming increasingly urban, so there is a growing demand for better understanding of solutions to the conditions of urban poverty⁶⁶.

Urban poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. The urban poor experience much abstinence. Access to sufficient employment, health and education services is very limited. In addition, inadequate and insecure housing and services are other problems they experience. They live in unhealthy conditions and have limited or no social protection.⁶⁷

Like urban poverty, rural poverty also has multidimensional character. It is estimated that the biggest portion of the poor population is rural people. Rural people are diverse, so they cannot be mentioned just as one single group. For that reason, problem of the rural people in a different region or country can be totally different. Hence, solutions and measures should be different.

It is indicated by IMF that “in almost all the countries, the conditions—in terms of personal consumption and access to education, health care, potable water and sanitation, housing, transport, and communications—faced by the rural poor are far worse than those faced by the urban poor”. It is added that continuously high levels of rural poverty have added to rapid population growth and migration to urban areas⁶⁸. Thus, migrating from rural areas due to poverty creates urban poverty. There has been close relationship between rural and urban poverty.

In order to reduce rural poverty new policies and legislation on agriculture, water, land, and credit facilities (farmers, fisherman etc.) should be developed. Land reform is one of the most useful tools for reducing rural poverty, considering relationship between distribution of the wealth or income and economic growth. Distribution of the State’s land to the farmers or rural poor brings effective use of

http://wwwds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2008/03/24/000333037_20080324021722/Rendered/INDEX/430280NWP0Glob10Box327344B01PUBLIC1.txt (27.12.2009).

⁶⁶<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTURBANDEVELOPMENT/EXTURBANPOVERTY/0,,menuPK:341331~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:341325,00.html> (27.12.2009).

⁶⁷<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTURBANDEVELOPMENT/EXTURBANPOVERTY/0,,contentMDK:20227679~menuPK:473804~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:341325,00.html> (28.12.2009) .

⁶⁸ Khan, Mahmood Hasan, “Rural Poverty in Developing Countries” , *Implications for Public Policy*, Available at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues/issues26/index.htm>

labour, growth in employment and consequently in income. For example, Indian Land Reform from 1958 to 1992 has had positive impact on growth and poverty⁶⁹. The success of the land reforms indeed depends on each country's specific conditions.

1.4. Approaches of Struggle against Poverty

This part of the study will address the various approaches to struggle against poverty that are used in practice. Furthermore, the problems and deficiencies of each approach will be pointed out.

Some questions need to be answered before going into details of “what is the role of the NGOs in poverty reduction”: What kind of approaches can be defined? What are their pros and cons? In what way they can eradicate poverty? What are the challenges regarding each approach? Strategies for struggling against poverty can be varied and changed from region to region and from country to country. Whatever approaches and strategies are adopted and accepted, it should aim at increasing income among poor and thereby alleviate poverty.

The basic question of the social policies is what will happen when a person is ill or unemployed or old or the income of this person is not enough to have minimum living standards⁷⁰. This and many questions lead us to explore solutions for the worldwide problem of poverty.

The approach of “Poverty sector” which is a “set of households that fall below a given income criterion” is used by the World Bank, the United Nations, their agencies and government. This approach consists of three steps. First step is to collect data on poor affected and their geographical locations. Second step is to gather information on causes of the poverty such as race, gender, employment. Thirdly, information on the effect of poverty and concerned factors are used in

⁶⁹ Besley, Timothy; Burgess, Robin (2000) “Land Reform, Poverty Reduction, and Growth: Evidence from India”, *President and Fellows of Harvard College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, 115, 2, pp. 389 – 430.

⁷⁰ Bugra, (2008), p. 10.

models to help design necessary policy and actions ⁷¹. This approach has been criticized for ignoring the poor in the developed countries and global context of the poverty. The poverty lines for one dollar a day just manipulate the number of the poor in the world. This approach adopts the view that one dollar for a day would be enough to cover basic needs. So based on official approach, it won't be surprised achievement of the MDGs by 2010.⁷² Instead, Ethical Poverty Line, which based on analysis of the world's consumption to life outcome data, current World Bank datasets, is comparable to the two Dollars poverty line used by the World Bank. It identifies the substantial scale of socioeconomic change needed to eliminate absolute poverty and raises questions about the scale of over-consumption in the developed world⁷³.

As it is stated above poverty is considered a breach of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the UN. Therefore, poverty is specified by social exclusion, discrimination and inequality. As a consequence, the UN has developed a Human Rights Based Approach to poverty reduction. The rule of law, participation, non discrimination, accountability, and giving special importance to the most vulnerable people in decision making process are the most important elements of this approach. As it is stated in the related guidelines the human rights approach can help to accomplish the goal of poverty reduction in a variety of ways: (a) by pressing rapid acceptance of appreciable poverty alleviation strategy, supported by human rights, as a legal obligation; (b) by extending the scope of poverty alleviation strategies so as to target the discrimination; (c) by stimulating the expansion of civil and political rights, which can have a crucial role in promoting poverty alleviation; (d) by stressing that economic, social and cultural rights are stringent upon international human rights, (e) by emphasising legitimacy to the demand for ensuring participation of the poor in decision-making processes; and non-fulfilment of minimum basic obligations in the name of making trade-offs; and (g) by

⁷¹ Yapa, Lakshman (1996) "What Causes Poverty? A Postmodern View," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 86, 4 , p. 712.

⁷² Özdek, Yasemin (2002) "Küresel Yoksulluk ve İnsan Hakları: Kozmopolit Sorumluluklar ve Reformlar" Ankara: *TODAIE*, p. 3.

⁷³ Edward, Peter (2006) "The Ethical Poverty Line: A Moral Quantification of Absolute Poverty," *Third World Quarterly*, 27, 2, p. 377.

establishing and empowering the institutions so that policy-makers can be held responsible for their actions⁷⁴. As a consequence, poverty reduction is not only a matter of charity, but also obligation of the state. As Nelson Mandela stated at the launch of the Make Poverty History Campaign,

*"Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is not true freedom."*⁷⁵

In the view of human rights based approach, poverty appears to be a form of discrimination, because it denies equality in terms of accessing food, education, health services and therefore physical and psychological well being. In this context, NGOs can contribute to the poverty reduction strategies by monitoring accountability, participation and inclusion of the poor on the decision making process.

Scholars also stated that rights based approach should be taken into consideration by NGOs while struggling against poverty. In the European Union context, social inclusion and social exclusion are the two basic terms that are used in respect of struggle against poverty and social policy. This is very much related to the terms of social rights. For that reason, while talking about social policy or poverty reduction, special importance should be given to the rights based approach. Using rights based approach is very critical for the activities of the NGOs on struggle against poverty⁷⁶.

⁷⁴ For more information regarding human rights based approach to poverty reduction please see guidelines:

http://www.fao.org/righttofood/KC/downloads/vl/docs/Human%20rights%20approach%20to%20poverty%20reduction%20strategies_draft%20guidelines.pdf (16.01.2010).

⁷⁵ <http://www.cflr.org/poverty.htm> (16.01.2010).

⁷⁶ Bugra, Ayse (2005) "Poverty and NGOs on the EU Accession Negotiations, NGOs and Democracy" Working papers, no 12, 2005, *Istanbul Bilgi University, NGO Training and Research Centre*.

For identifying the poverty alleviation policies, programmes, first different approaches should be determined and used for the purpose of poverty alleviation. In the literature two different approaches have been accepted for reducing poverty: the direct and indirect approach. The former one means direct delivery of the goods or services to the poor people so as to meet their needs. The latter one means activities that aim at reducing poverty by raising income level of the poor people. Both of them have their pros and cons, consequently, adopting only one approach would not be enough to reduce poverty. In this part of the study, direct and indirect approaches will be examined in detail.

1.4.1. Indirect Approach

Indirect approach targets at using resources for economical growth and thereby reduces poverty. Since indirect approach aims sustainability and lasting result, it brings advantages in the long term. The World Bank is the most important actor of the indirect approach, since it provides technical assistance to the poor countries. After having successfully implementing war- reconstruction projects in Europe and in Japan, the Bank has become a development bank with the aim of reducing poverty by economic growth in the developing world.⁷⁷ It could be claimed that the basic principle of the World Bank is poverty reduction. In order to alleviate poverty, they provide low-interest loans, interest-free credits and grants to developing countries. These are used for investments in education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management⁷⁸.

Even though indirect approach aims to raise income level and alleviate poverty, in this way, indirect way of poverty reduction takes time. On the other hand, non-poor may also benefit from the indirect approach.⁷⁹ A few criticisms can be directed to the Indirect Approach. First of all, the growth itself may not lead to a

⁷⁷ Birdsall, Nancy; Londono, Juan Luis (1997) "Asset Inequality Matters, An Assessment of the World Bank's Approach to Poverty Reduction," *The American Economic Review*, 87, 2, pp. 32 – 37.

⁷⁸ More info available at:
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/0,,pagePK:50004410~piPK:36602~theSitePK:29708,00.html> (02.01.2010)

significant reduction in poverty in the absence of direct programmes of assistance, especially where unequal distribution of land and other assets are concerned.⁸⁰ Therefore, for sustainable and successful poverty reduction, direct and indirect approaches should be used at the same time. Secondly, economic growth does not necessarily create job in every region of the world. Economic growth has led to an increase in the income level of the East Asian, Middle East and North African countries. The estimated rate of growth for the region passed the rate required to half of the poverty rate. On the contrary, the impact of the economic growth is very limited on poverty and the historical growth rate is by far the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa. As a result, the growth rate requested to halve poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa until 2015 is 28 times of its historical average⁸¹.

1.4.2. Direct Approach

Direct approach can be defined as the programmes and policies that target at improving the life situation of the poor by the allocation of resources to some of the vital areas, such as education, nourishment, shelter by the state, etc⁸². On the other hand allocation of resources is the basic point of this approach. By the cooperation of international organizations such as IMF and World Bank resources can be allocated in different ways.⁸³ There are various types of development problems in different countries because of different reasons, and the solutions also vary to country to country. It is necessary to challenge the idea whether direct approach itself is enough for poverty alleviation. Some problems have been identified regarding direct approach. So, there is a need to understand the extent of the problem with direct approach in this regard.

First of all, it is stated that direct approach can have a negative impact on labour supply. For example in Sri Lanka, subsidiary on the rice producers had

⁷⁹ Yamagata, Tatsufumi (2007) "Poverty Reduction through Labor-Intensive Industrialization: The Cases of Bangladesh and Cambodia," *Paper submitted at International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability*, Japan.

⁸⁰ Riddell, Roger; Robinson, Mark (1995) "Non-governmental organizations and rural poverty alleviation" Oxford: *Oxford University Press*, p. 9.

⁸¹ Besley, Timothy; Burgess, Robin (2003) "Halving Global Poverty," *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17, 3, p. 9.

⁸² Senses (2006), p. 219.

⁸³ Senses (2006), p. 227.

negative effect. Since, they could not benefit from the subsidy; if they produce more⁸⁴. Secondly, limited resources can prevent an effective poverty reduction programme. Allocated resources can be insufficient considering the context and size of the poverty. For example in Bolivia, Social Fund for poverty alleviation created 20.000-30.000 jobs. On the other hand, 32.000 people were dismissed from the state owned mine sector⁸⁵. Thirdly, administrative and political difficulties are another obstacle for effective poverty reduction. Redistribution of the aids, considering priority of the poor etc can be experienced in this context⁸⁶. Finally, using sources out of the aim and difficulty on targeting more poor people can be possible in the direct approach strategies.

1.4.2.1. Poverty Reduction Programs in the World and Turkey

In fact, poverty is a tremendously serious problem in the whole world. Statistics are clear in this regard; and NGO's continuously emphasise that states must eradicate the poverty. Different poverty reduction programmes are implemented in the world. Among them development aid, direct food aid to the poor countries, giving vocational training, creating new jobs, fair trade, microfinance and NGOs' activities can be mentioned. Development aid is transferring resources to the poor countries by the rich countries. Importance of the development aid was acknowledged by the UN, and in 1970 the UN General Assembly agreed on resolution: "In recognition of the special importance of the role which can be fulfilled only by official development assistance, a major part of financial resource transferred to the developing countries should be provided in the form of official development assistance."⁸⁷ As a result, economically advanced countries like Canada and USA promised to donate a minimum net amount of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product at market prices by the middle of the decade⁸⁸ by providing development aid to the poor countries, they aimed to reduce poverty. United States (US\$24 billion), Japan (US\$18 billion), the United Kingdom (US\$13 billion),

⁸⁴ *Ibid.* p. 265.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.* p. 267.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.* p. 267.

⁸⁷ http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/costs_benefits2.htm (10.01.2010) .

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

Germany and France (US\$12 billion each), the Netherlands (nearly US\$6 billion), Spain and Italy (just over US\$4 billion each) are biggest donors in the world.⁸⁹

Since the main subject of this study is concerned to it, it is worth to mention UNITAID. That is a poverty reduction programme regarding preventable disease. It addresses solution to the preventable disease such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis which kill 4.4 million people every year in the under developed and developing countries. If the required medicines are not accessible, because either they are expensive or do not exist in the county; they can be fatal and cause death of millions of people. In order to tackle this problem, there has been some effort for raising global awareness and providing funding. Consequently, UNITAID was established in 2006 in order to support existing efforts of organisation that are working on achieving MDGs, WHO and other institutions that are working on preventable disease. So far, UNITAID have created further funding opportunities so as to increase the number of the people who can get access to the treatment. In addition, the resources are used for improving treatment methods of the above mentioned diseases. Their work also aims at reducing the price of the existing medicines⁹⁰. Civil society organisations are also represented at the UNITAID board, so they have the opportunity to influence the policy of the UNITAID. Another poverty reduction programme is fair trade which aims to protect producers in the developing countries and help them to continue to produce. Fair trade products are more expensive than non fair trade products, because they respect the social rights of the producer and are environment friendly.

Considering poverty as a human rights abuse, it triggers State responsibility as well. Like many governments in the world, the government of Turkey has committed itself towards fulfilling MDGs, including Goal One: eradicating extreme poverty. In Turkey, poverty has been neglected by academic and economic politic practise of many years. The reason for this negligence was the expectation that poverty will end by economic growth and social solidarity. Today, poverty is a

⁸⁹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, (2007), available at: http://www.oecd.org/countrylist/0,2578,en_2649_34447_1783495_1_1_1_1_00.html (10.01.2010).

⁹⁰ For more information regarding UNITAID, please see: <http://www.unitaid.eu/> (13.01.2010).

notable issue on the agenda of Turkey. The report of the International organisations and state organs shows the extent, reasons, and characters of poverty. Such information speeds up the poverty reduction procedures in Turkey.⁹¹

In Turkey, until the 1980s, poverty was alleviated by policies that aimed at reducing the income inequality and social solidarity⁹². Now, poverty reduction policies are more programmatic and sustainable in Turkey. Article 60 of the Constitution states that “Every individual is entitled to social security”⁹³. The State takes the necessary measures to create this confidence and organizes the organization”⁹⁴. Turkey’s national institutions dealing with poverty and social security are varying.

Social Assistance and Solidarity General Directorate, as State's most important social assistance and protection agency, accomplish state’s social responsibility in the country by providing social assistance and vocational training projects.⁹⁵ It was established in 2004 and is managed by Prime Ministry Secretariat General of Funds. The “green card programme” started in 1992 and enabled the poor people to benefit from social security services. It was established as foundations in all the cities and the number of the foundations was 973. Their 2009 budget was 235 million Turkish Liras. On the other hand, the design of the Fund has been criticised for being just a charitable institution, which provides cash and in kind, aid without any clear criteria of electiveness and thereof without indicating where to appeal as legal rights.⁹⁶ As a response, they claimed that social assistance is not a charity, and criterias are set objectively⁹⁷. They provided aid in kind and cash for shelter, food, education, health and disabled people. In addition, they implemented employment

⁹¹ Oktik (2008).p.28

⁹² Tutar, Erdinc; Demira, Mehmet (2008) “Improving income equality in Turkey and the role of the NGOs in Turkey in the struggle against Poverty,” *Turkish Quarterly of Association*, 5, p. 50.

⁹³ <http://www.allaboutturkey.com/health.htm> (12.06.2010)

⁹⁴ *Ibid.* (12.06.2010)

⁹⁵ For more info: <http://www.sydgm.gov.tr/en/> (06.02.2010).

⁹⁶ Buğra Ayşe,; Keyder, Çağlar (2003) “New Poverty and the Changing Welfare Regime of Turkey”, Ankara: *United Nations Development Program*.

⁹⁷ See the statement of Minister of State Mr. Hayati Yazıcı, available at: <http://www.sydgm.gov.tr/tr/haberler/s/1370> (06.02.2010).

oriented project on vocational training. They are also implementing a project for eradicating rural poverty by providing support to rural poor.

With the financial support of World Bank, General Directorate of Social Assistance and Solidarity implemented “Social Risk Mitigation Project” so as to provide regular assistance to the poor between 2003 and 2007. The Project aimed towards lessening the impact of the economic crisis of February 2001 on poor households and improves their capacity to overcome similar risk in the future⁹⁸. Within the context of the project, “Local Initiative” programmes were created which aimed towards employment opportunities for poor households. Besides “Local initiative” programmers, “Conditional Cash Transfer” provided support for poorest of the poor families to send their children to the school. Conditionality was the driving force for people to send the children to school. Otherwise, just cash transfer might have no effect on the school enrolment. It was suggested that for successful conditional cash transfer scheme, and supplementary programs, social policies should be developed⁹⁹. In addition to the conditional cash transfer on education of children, UNICEF and Ministry of Education supported the campaign “Haydi Kizlar Okula¹⁰⁰” whose aim was to increase girls’ enrolment in primary school. Moreover, Social Risk Mitigation Project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the organizations that dealt with social assistance and poverty, such as the Social Services and Child Protection Agency and Social Solidarity and Assistance Fund.

The Social Services and Child Protection Agency (SHCEK) is one of the main social assistance and protection organisations in Turkey and has “social services board” in all cities in the country. SHCEK supplies protection for children, disabled people and the elderly that are in need. It is also in charge for monitoring and implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹⁰¹

⁹⁸ Turkey, Social Risk Mitigation Project, <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/0,,contentMDK:20026481~menuPK:64282137~pagePK:41367~piPK:279616~theSitePK:40941,00.html> (16.01.2010).

⁹⁹ Son, Hyun H. (2008) “Conditional Cash Transfer Programs: An Effective Tool for Poverty Alleviation?” *Asian Development Bank, ERD Policy Brief Series*, N. 51, p. 8.

¹⁰⁰ <http://haydikizlarokula.meb.gov.tr/> (12.02.2010).

¹⁰¹ www.undp.org.tr/.../Promotion_of_Cooperation_in_the_Area_of_Social_Assistance_FINAL1_1_.doc (12.02.2010) .

In spite of the fact that its effect on poverty reduction is debated, putting standard for a minimum wages can be another method for poverty reduction. Turkish Labour Code¹⁰² requires minimum wages. According to the Regulation of the Minimum Wages¹⁰³, the Minimum Wage Commission affiliated to the Ministry of Labour determines minimum wages in Turkey every year¹⁰⁴. It helps in fair distribution of the incomes. The objective of the minimum wage is to raise the incomes of low level workers. Even though, there are big gaps between some regions of Turkey as it is stated in the UNDP reports, just one minimum wage is determined for whole country. Whether minimum wage plays a role in poverty reduction or not, is arguable. Some argue that minimum wages increase the level of income and allow some low-wage workers to move from below the income line, used to measure poverty, to above that line¹⁰⁵. On the other hand, it is argued that poverty is mostly experienced by the non worker, unemployed persons; therefore minimum wage does not alleviate poverty. For example, in some countries poverty rate is very high among elderly people, and these people are not in the work force. Hence, it cannot be expected that their income will increase by minimum wage¹⁰⁶. It is also argued that it causes some negative effect on employment and it can cause more damage if people lose their jobs. Regardless of its negative effect, minimum wage is a useful tool for fair distribution of the income; therefore for poverty alleviation and as a tool to help people to have income above the poverty line.

The change in the “Social Insurance and Universal Health Insurance Law¹⁰⁷ ensures health insurance to all children up to the age of eighteen years. This law provides free health services for the children that are from poor families, and therefore, it will reduce negative effect of poverty on health. Since health is one of

¹⁰² Article 39 of the 22/5/2003 dated ve 4857 numbered Turkish Labour Code.

¹⁰³ Number 25540 and dated 01.08.200, Full text of the Regulations available at:

<http://www.iskanunu.com/kanunlar/kanun-ve-yonetmelikler/asgari-ucret-yonetmeli.html>
(26.01.2010).

¹⁰⁴ The gross minimum wage is currently TL 729 for workers over 16 and after tax it is TL 499

http://www.csgb.gov.tr/files/pdf/2010ilkalti.pdf?category_id=284 (27.01.2010).

¹⁰⁵ Vedder, Richard K.; Gallaway, Lowel E. (2001) “Can Minimum wage reduce poverty?” Ohio: *Ohio University*.

¹⁰⁶ Arabacı, Rabihan Yüksel “Yoksulluk ve Gelirin Yeniden Dağılımı Açısından 'Asgari Ücret’”, *Akademik Araştırmalar Dergisi*, 9, 33, p. 65.

¹⁰⁷ Number: 5510 , date: 31.05.2006.

the indicators to measure poverty, it therefore will reduce poverty. Other poverty reduction measures that are implemented in Turkey are tax refund, conditional unemployment salary provided by the Labour Code, subsidies on the agricultural sector, vocational training courses that are run by ISMEK¹⁰⁸.

On the other hand, Bugra and Keyder indicated that there is a need for modern social assistance programme in Turkey and they recommended that minimum income support to the poor should be provided to the needy people as citizenship rights¹⁰⁹. Their recommendations have been criticised; since providing income support would be a heavy burden on the public resources.

Finally, another proposal is putting ‘negative income tax’¹¹⁰ for poverty reduction. It states that, the people who earn below the minimum income line would be exempted from tax, and other income groups that are above this line would be subject to taxation. Furthermore, it provides income support to those whose income was below the minimum line.”¹¹¹ In addition to the above mentioned state agencies on poverty alleviation, NGOs play an important role in this area. Since poverty takes place on the agenda of the state authorities and civil society organisation for a while, more attention is paid to the poverty reduction strategies. Because of the special importance of the microcredit and NGOs, they are examined in detail below.

1.4.2.2. Microcredit

As a matter of fact, there are various approaches employed as direct ones in poverty reduction, such as legal regulations, land management, urban agriculture, access to municipal services, education and health aid, coordination, food banking etc. In that context, there has recently developed another specific such tool to be used in the struggle against poverty, known and named as “Microcredit” and employed particularly in the developing and least developed countries. In this part, for the sake of its very directness and specificity, that approach will only be examined concisely.

¹⁰⁸ İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Art and professional training courses, <http://ismek.ibb.gov.tr/portal/default.asp> (23.01.2010)

¹⁰⁹ Buğra, Keyder (2003).

¹¹⁰ It was created by George Stigler (1946).

¹¹¹ Aktan, Coşkun Can; Vural, İstiklal Yaşar (2002) “Negative Income tax in the struggle against poverty”, *İstanbul: Hak –İş confederations Publishing*.

The way of reducing poverty by microcredit was created and developed by Nobel Prize winner Muhammed Yunus in the 1970's¹¹². Until 1970 it was sponsored by Central Bank and other commercial banks. But in 1983, Grameen Bank was established to give microcredits to the poor people.

Microcredit aims towards alleviation of the poverty by creating self-employment. The idea of microcredit refuses charity. As it is stated by Yunus "it creates dependency and takes away the individual's initiative to break through the wall of poverty"¹¹³. Microcredit is a credit service for poor people who cannot take loan from commercial banks because of the belief that they cannot pay back the loan. As a matter of fact, the state of being unemployed or having income under poverty level are the reasons of this belief. On the contrary, microcredit provides opportunity for the poor people to start a business and increases the level of income and thus reduces poverty. It empowers the poor on the grass roots level by giving them tools to confront the poverty. Worldwide, 58 million families which refer to 350-400 million people benefited from micro credits by 2003¹¹⁴.

So as to attract the attention of the financial organisation and to raise awareness among people, the United Nations recognised the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit¹¹⁵. The reason for supporting micro credit system is explained as in the following way "A major reason why people cannot get out of poverty is because they do not have enough credit to invest in small enterprises"¹¹⁶. The poor do not have access to credit because financial organisations perceive them as a risk, since they cannot provide an underwriter or security deposit to ensure repayment of the credit. However, these perceptions are gradually changing.

¹¹² More information about Muhammed Yunus is available at <http://www.muhammadyunus.org/> (16.01.2010).

¹¹³ Expanding Microcredit Outreach to Reach the Millennium Development Goals (2003) International Seminar on Attacking Poverty with Microcredit, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

¹¹⁴ Işık, Bayram; Işık, Nihat (2007) "A successful Tool for struggle Against Poverty: Micro Credit," *IVth International NGOs Conference, Global Poverty*, 2007, Canakkale, , p.847IV.

¹¹⁵ For official web site please see: <http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org/> (28.01.2010).

¹¹⁶ <http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2005/issue3/0305p45.html> (28.01.2010).

Microcredit banks, which supplies credit towards the disadvantages, consider the poor as reliable¹¹⁷.

Despite the fact that microcredit system was born in Bangladesh, it is commonly used in other countries including Turkey. The first microcredit project, which called Turkish Grameen Microcredit, was implemented by Turkish Foundation for Waste Reduction¹¹⁸ in cooperation with Diyarbakir Governorship in 2003. Furthermore, the Foundation for the Support of Women's Work (KEDV)¹¹⁹ started a microcredit programme. Two State-owned banks, Halk Bankasi, which provides loans to small enterprises, and Ziraat Bankasi, which provides loans to farmers, are giving microcredit. Furthermore, Turkish Economic Bank, UNDP and Young Managers and Businessmen's Association implemented "micro credit" business model for Turkish youth¹²⁰. This is the first programme in the world focusing on the youth. Finally, Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG)¹²¹ made an agreement with HSBC Bank and started to implement a microcredit project in Samsun as a pilot area.

In addition, the new Code on the Special Provincial Administration states that proving micro credit is one of the duties of the Special Provincial Administration¹²². Finally, establishing a microcredit bank named "Damlabank" or "Fakirbank" is on the agenda of the Turkish Foundation for Waste Reduction.¹²³

Microcredit models are endorsed and fostered as a way of integrating market aims with poverty reduction and strengthening strategies in accordance with neo-liberal approach implemented after the 1980s¹²⁴.

¹¹⁷ Srivastava, Paritosh Reducing Poverty and Empowering Communities, available at: <http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2005/issue3/0305p45.html> (29.01.2010).

¹¹⁸ <http://www.tgmp.net/eng/index.html> (28.01.2010).

¹¹⁹ http://www.kedv.org.tr/index.php?page=ekonomik_guclendirme (28.01.2010).

¹²⁰ UNDP, Poverty Reduction Programmes, EB, UNDP, GYIAD initiating a First With the Youth-Aimed Micro Credit Implementation.

¹²¹ www.tog.org.tr (15.02.2010)

¹²² Article 6 of the Code Number 5302, dated (22.02.2005).

¹²³ Atalay, Asuman (2007) "Prevention of the Global Poverty: Microcredits," *Financial, Politic and Economic Interpretations*, 44, 510, p. 65.

¹²⁴ Gürses, Didem (2009) "Microfinance and Poverty Reduction in Turkey," *Yildiz Technical University, Humanities and Social Sciences, Perspective on Global Development and Technology*, 8, 1, pp. 90-110.

1.4.2.3. Non-Governmental Organizations

Methods of struggle for reducing poverty have changed in the length of time according to the economical, social and political climate. During middle ages, begging was tolerable and helping them was good for the soul of the rich. On the contrary, in the 19th century, with the industrial revolution, the poor became work force and begging became intolerable. Additionally, it was thought that state should not take any role in the social assistance and this task was given to private person or civil society organisations, because of the liberal ideology of the 19th century¹²⁵. With the effect of the liberal thought, non-governmental organisations' role on struggle against poverty has got bigger since the last century. Moreover, looking at the number and size of NGOs, and their growing role, it is hard to argue that poverty can be reduced without the effort of the NGOs. The role of the non-governmental organisations in the struggle against poverty is examined below in detail.

¹²⁵ Buğra (2008) p. 27.

CHAPTER II

THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF NGO'S IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY

In this chapter, the study will address the question of how important is the role of the NGOs in the struggle against poverty. As poverty is a global issue, NGOs become global actors for poverty reduction. They work at international level and the impact of their work is seen at the local level. NGOs can play a significant role in the struggle against poverty by influencing governments' as well as international organisations' policies, poverty reduction programmes and economic development programmes; attracting attention of public opinion and international community; raising awareness among the public. For example, Oxfam criticised 1990 World Development Report of the World Bank and recommended that national sources should be used less for defence and more for poverty reduction. Land reform should be provided and social inequalities should be alleviated. Accordingly, these suggestions were taken into account in the next report and the World Bank came up with same concepts. This example shows the role of the NGOs in the struggle against poverty¹²⁶. Similarly, Oxfam also criticised the World Bank's support to private sector investment in health care provisions in the developing countries¹²⁷. These criticisms were quickly responded by the World Bank¹²⁸. Moreover, Operations Policy Department of the World Bank prepared a Practical Guide in 1995 on working with the NGOs¹²⁹. Similarly, the World Health Organisation published a report on WHO and Civil Society for linking towards better health¹³⁰. According to the Human Development Report, in 2002, there were over 37.000 NGOs, in the world dealing

¹²⁶ Şenses (2001) P. 254.

¹²⁷ Blind Optimism, (10.03.2009), available at: <http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/bp125-blind-optimism> (18.01.2010).

¹²⁸ World Bank Under Fire over Support for private sector health care, available at: <http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/art-564183> (23.01.2010).

¹²⁹ Malena, Carmen (1995) "Working with NGOs A Practical Guide to Operational Collaboration between the World Bank and Non-Governmental Organizations". NY: *World Bank*, pp. 7 - 9.

¹³⁰ WHO/CSI/2002/DP1.

with development and poverty issues¹³¹. The UN also clears the role of the NGOs, and the relationship between the NGOs and the UN work is pointed out in the ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.¹³² Now, more than 2700 NGOs have consultative status at the UN level¹³³. Similarly, the NGOs' work for reducing poverty is emphasised in the UN Resolution 47/196 adopted on 22 December 1992 and the NGOs invited the assisted states to organise national activities considering that attention to the specific problems of the destitution.¹³⁴ It is obvious that cooperation with NGOs and work of the NGOs are clearly accepted by the international organisations as well, and thus, it is promoted and guidelines are prepared for further and better co operation.

Likewise, they have capacity to make direct and indirect aid, develop new development policies and projects. Since they are non profit organisations, they can work independently. Additionally, the NGOs working on reducing poverty can be vital for people's life in the case of emergency, war times, reconciliation times etc. Moreover, they can mobilise volunteers when needed. Therefore, right to establish and run a NGO must be provided by law and additionally, they should be able to work without interference of either state authorities or private persons. NGOs exist in different forms and their aims can be various. Despite the existence of NGOs working on other issues such as human rights, environment, and donor organisations, in this chapter, the study will discuss the role of the NGOs for reducing poverty in general.

In the first chapter of the study, a subject titled 'approaches of struggle against poverty' had been mentioned. The microcredit under the title of "direct approach" was not explained in detail here because microcredit is not a method directly related to the example chosen. It was briefly discussed as it is included in the available poverty reduction programs. What is important in this study is poverty reduction programs related with non-governmental organizations.

¹³¹ UNDP (2002) "Human Development Report 2002: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World," New York: *UNDP*.

¹³² UN (1996) Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, 1996/31. *ECOSOC, UN*.

¹³³ International NGOs and the UN, <https://www.unifem-usnc.org/UNreport2007> (18.01.2010).

2.1. WHAT IS NGO AS A CONCEPTUAL EXPLANATION

The types, sizes and aims of the NGOs can be very different and hence it could be difficult to give a single definition for NGO. The term, "non-governmental organization" or NGO, came into use in 1945. The United Nations Charter (Article 71 of Chapter 10) sets out consultative role for the nongovernmental organisations. The UN had distinguished in its Charter between governments, states and private organisations. At the UN, almost all types of private bodies can be recognized as NGOs. According to the UN definition "NGOs only have to be independent from government control, not seeking to challenge governments either as a political party or by a narrow focus on human rights, non-profit-making and non-criminal"¹³⁵. Despite the fact that they can have employees, they are voluntary based organisations and are established by the private sectors. On the other hand, the World Bank defines NGOs as "private organisations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interest of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services or undertake community development"¹³⁶ They could also be defined as "private voluntary organisations". The Organisations for Economic Cooperation and Development defines NGOs as "organisations that are established and governed by a group of private citizens for a stated philanthropic purpose and supported by voluntary individual contribution"¹³⁷ According to laws related to the status or activities of the NGOs, NGOs can be formed for example as a charity, association or foundation. According to the UNDP civil society organisations are non profit organisations and institutions different from the state, market and the family and include non-governmental organisations, trade unions, religious groups, business organisations etc. On the other hand, this study is focusing on the activities and the role of the NGOs in the struggle against poverty¹³⁸. In addition, in order to define an

¹³⁴ <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/47/a47r196.htm> (23.01.2010).

¹³⁵ Willett, Peter (2006) "What is a Non-Governmental Organization?" London: *UNESCO Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems, Output from the Research Project on Civil Society Networks in Global Governance*, Available at: <http://www.staff.city.ac.uk/p.willetts/CS-NTWKS/NGO-ART.HTM> (21.01.2010).

¹³⁶ Operational Directive 14.70 (28.08.1989).

¹³⁷ OECD (1998) "Voluntary aid for development The Role of Non Governmental Organisations", Paris: *OECD*.

¹³⁸ www.undp.org (26.01.2010).

organisation as an NGO, it should aim to promote the interests that are stated in its status. Though it should not be established by a government, it can work in cooperation with a government.

NGOs can target different purpose and therefore, can use different methods in their work. Some NGOs prefer to carry out more advocacy work and thus publish reports on human rights like the Amnesty International¹³⁹. They try to influence decision making process. Some of them provide legal assistance to the victims of domestic violence like the Mor Çatı Women Shelter's Foundation¹⁴⁰; prepare shadow report for the UN Mechanism, like the Women for Women's Human Rights-New Ways¹⁴¹. Some of them provide equipment and skills to find food, like Oxfam¹⁴². Some others provide funding for special purposes like promoting women's rights, human rights, environmental justice, like the Sigrid Rausing Trust¹⁴³. And some of them provide medical assistance to poor people in all over the world like the Doctors Worldwide, which will be examined below in detail.

2.2. THE ROLE OF NGOs IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY

Even though poverty is still extreme, yet there are some developments because of the policies developed by international organization and non-governmental organizations. As was mentioned earlier, in order to eradicate poverty, Millennium Development Goals were set up at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, the World Bank has developed various strategies, and governments have dedicated their work on the struggle against poverty. Besides efforts of the international organization to combat poverty, the role of the NGOs in the struggle against poverty is worth mentioning since they have a big role in this struggle since the early 1990s. As mentioned previously, NGOs have social purposes. In this context, some NGOs' aim is to eradicate poverty and for this purpose, they design projects and implement them. The NGOs, which work in poverty alleviation, target poor people and help them in socio-economic dimension. Helping poor people according to his/her needs

¹³⁹ <http://www.amnesty.org/> (26.01.2010).

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.morcati.org.tr/> (26.01.2010).

¹⁴¹ <http://www.wwhr.org/> (26.01.2010).

¹⁴² <http://www.oxfam.org/> (26.01.2010).

¹⁴³ <http://www.sigrid-rausing-trust.org/> (26.01.2010).

such as health, food, education and etc. Some of the NGOs provide training to the number of people in order them to have a skill to be able to work. Some of them have shown good practices. Among them especially, the ‘ *Doctors Without Borders*’ is worth mentioning because of its resemblance to the specific case of this study, the ‘Doctors Worldwide’ ,which are both being established by doctors. The Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization set up by doctors and journalists in France in 1971¹⁴⁴. But on the other hand, this thesis will not give detailed information about MSF, since this organization’s aim is not fighting against poverty, its aim is to provide medical care to people whose life is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care or natural disasters¹⁴⁵.

Experience on poverty reduction in the developing world demonstrated that NGOs are different from market and government, since it contains “a third force” development work. Experiences proved that the NGOs have great capacity to mobilise both domestic and international resources that cannot be accessed by governments¹⁴⁶. For example, according to the official records of 1993, the NGOs transferred some 3 billion dollars to the developing world. In addition, the World Bank now has a formal mechanism for linking with the NGOs and is spending effort for the involvement of NGOs in its projects in different countries.¹⁴⁷

Some scholars indicated that the first task of the NGOs or civil society organisations on poverty reduction is to press state to fulfil her duties, to meet responsibilities, to take action for ensuring social inclusion, and to allocate some resources in order to do that. The NGOs’ first task should be doing what the state

¹⁴⁴ For more info about MSF look at: <http://doctorswithoutborders.org/aboutus/?ref=main-menu> (28.01.2010).

¹⁴⁵ Doctors Without Borders physicians will receive free access to MD Consult through new Elsevier program , (17.11.2009).
<http://www.reedelsevier.com/mediacentre/pressreleases/2009/Pages/DoctorsWithoutBordersphysicianwillreceivefreeaccesstoMDConsultthroughnewElsevierprogram.aspx> (03.02.2010).

¹⁴⁶ Beijing Joint Declaration on Poverty Alleviation by Chinese NGOs, available at: <http://en.chinagate.cn/english/3065.htm> (03.02.2010).

¹⁴⁷ Riddel, Robinson (2001) p. 1.

cannot do or giving support to the politicians'.¹⁴⁸ Demand side and supply side approaches will be examined in detail below.

NGOs can carry out activities at local, national and international level. In addition, co operations of local and international NGOs are encouraged since it will decrease the cost of delivery of the aid in kind. For example, it can be hard for international NGOs to identify and decide whom to help or deliver the aid, since local needs and conditions are different from each other. In this context, local NGOs can provide accurate information. What is more, they can have experience and expertise but not resources to implement anti poverty programmes. Hence, cooperation between local and international NGOs helps more effective poverty alleviation programmes. It also, strengthens relationship between the NGOs in the developed and developing countries. Finally, local NGOs can provide information for global poverty reports that have been prepared by international organisations or agencies.

Certain NGOs, coalitions and networks that are working on poverty reduction can be significant actors on policy shaping at national, European and international level. Coalitions and networks are examined in detail below. In sum, it could be said that NGOs are playing increasingly more important role in the struggle against poverty, since they can reach poor people, work in remote areas that is difficult for other agencies. Furthermore, they have great scale to contribute development assistance. Finally, they represent poorer people and have close links with poor communities¹⁴⁹.

2.3. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POVERTY AND NGO'S

The obligation to ensure that all people have access to adequate food is the responsibility of States at first. "The right to food" is protected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. So the states have to create related institutions to eradicate poverty and hunger. Reducing poverty and ending hunger is difficult task, despite the

¹⁴⁸ Buğra (2005).

international commitments, declarations and the efforts of the national states. Due rightly to the multidimensional characteristic of the poverty, in addition to states, the work of the NGOs and international organizations are important on the poverty reduction. The NGOs should assist governments' poverty reduction policies and help them to implement these policies. The role of the NGOs on poverty alleviation is more and more recognized by the government.

Regarding the relationship between NGOs and poverty reduction, it is important to mention some of the leading international coalitions or movements. One of the notable civil society movements is "Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)" which was emerged in 2003 with the aim of forcing governments to fulfil their commitments to alleviate poverty. They are active in more than 100 countries all over the world. It is noted that main aim of the GCAP is to achieve policy and practice changes that will improve the lives of people living in poverty¹⁵⁰. Their work is additional to the work of the national NGOs. One of the reasons to form a coalition was that advocacy work of the coalition would be more effective than individual organisation in the fight against poverty. This coalition is organising global actions so as to influence governmental and nongovernmental organisations to take more effective measures to end the poverty.

Another important coalition in the fight against poverty is "Making Poverty History" movement¹⁵¹. It was established by several NGOs as an international coalition in 2005 with the aim of exerting pressure on governments to accomplish their promises for ending poverty. They run campaigns to have an effect upon poverty reduction policies worldwide. Making Poverty History movement believes that unfair world trade rules imposed by wealthy nations force the world's poorest people further into poverty, and for that reason, they launched a global action week on 14th of April 2005. Apart from trade justice campaign, they also carry out advocacy work and campaign for cancellation of the unpayable debts of the world's

¹⁴⁹ Clark, John (1992) "The Relationship Between the State and the Voluntary Sector", *The Global Development Research Centre*, Available at: <http://www.gdrc.org/ngo/state-ngo.html> (02.02.2010) .

¹⁵⁰ <http://www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/what-is-gcap> (03.02.2010).

¹⁵¹ List of the member NGOs can be seen at: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/whoweare/members-a.shtml> (03.02.2010).

poorest countries and for persuading donors to deliver at least 50 billion dollars in aid and set a binding timetable for spending 0.7% of national income on aid¹⁵².

“The European Anti-Poverty Network”, which was established in 1990, is fighting for a Social Europe free of poverty at the European Union level. Their activities aimed at combating poverty and social exclusion. In addition, they aim to place the fight against poverty high on the agenda of the EU and to ensure cooperation at the EU level aimed at the eradication of poverty and social exclusion¹⁵³. Although it is difficult to measure the impact of the global action for poverty reduction, international campaigns, coalitions or civil society movements enable people to come and act together and put pressure on decision makers for common problems such as poverty. References made to the work of the coalitions by world’s eminent leaders¹⁵⁴ can give us clue of how important is the work of the NGOs and coalitions in poverty reduction struggle.

2.4. MAIN ACTIVITIES OF NGOs ABOUT POVERTY

As shown above, governments’ effort alone cannot be enough in the struggle against poverty. On this point, NGOs can play a big role on eradication of poverty. Consequently governments need an active participation of the NGOs in solving these problems. As it is stated above, The UN has issued a resolution on the relationship between the United Nations and the NGOs. Similarly, the World Bank has stressed how important is the cooperation with the NGOs on the poverty alleviation and published the relevant guidelines on working with them.

Activities of the NGOs in poverty alleviation can be varying. Two approaches that are used by them in order to combat poverty are supply side and demand side approaches¹⁵⁵; or “operational and advocacy activities”, as described also in the

¹⁵² www.makepovertyhistory.org/docs/manifesto.doc (03.02.2010).

¹⁵³ <http://www.eapn.eu/content/view/1/18/lang,en/> (03.02.2010).

¹⁵⁴ For Tony Blair’s statement on the work of the movement of the “Making Poverty History” see: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/2005/whattheysaid.shtml> (03.02.2010).

¹⁵⁵ Clark (1992).

Commission's Discussion paper¹⁵⁶. Demand side approach aims to help or mobilise poor people to make their voice heard and demand their rights from the State, governments or local administrations. This approach first has to determine who duty bearer is and who can be accountable for not providing these services. The NGOs that use demand side strategies also monitor the duty bearers and hold them accountable. Moreover, demand side approach also strengthens vulnerable groups. For example, demanding from the government to allocate some resources in the budget for the social services such as for disabled people or elderly people. Or they could run campaigns or carry out advocacy work on more effective social policies. Demand side approach plays indirect effect on poverty alleviation. As Clark summarised, demand side approach enable the NGOs to assist citizens in finding out about activities of the government; to help communities mobilize and form organisations to speak about their concerns and demands. Furthermore The NGOs can create platforms where government or local governments consult people about the budget and development plans¹⁵⁷.

Supply side approach aims to provide basic needs to the poor. That could be providing food, water, health services etc. Food aid is described as supplying food and related aids to end hunger, both in emergency situations and to help with longer term hunger alleviation and provide food security¹⁵⁸. Food Aid Convention¹⁵⁹ sets principles on food aid. The global food aid system is facing several problems. Donor countries often miscarry to undertake sufficient food aid and they deliver aid late and distribute unequally. Food aid can also weaken local agricultural production in the developing countries and put in danger the long-term food security. It should be borne in mind that even the best-planned food assistance programs, based on the best of intentions can end up in shortages¹⁶⁰. There are different types of food aid that provided by the NGOs: among them: "Emergency food aid" is provided for the

¹⁵⁶ The Commission and The Non-Governmental Organisations: Building a Stronger Partnership, Presented by Prodi and Kninnock, Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/civil_society/ngo/docs/communication_en.pdf (13.01.2010).

¹⁵⁷ Clark, (1992).

¹⁵⁸ "What is Food aid?" Available at: <http://www.globalissues.org/article/748/food-aid> (24.01.2010).

¹⁵⁹ http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/development/sectoral_development_policies/r12505_en.htm (03.02.2010).

victims of disasters and distributed freely; “Project Food Aid” is provided for the activities that aim poverty reduction and disaster prevention; “Programme Food Aid” is supplied as a resources transfer for balance of payments or budgetary support activities and it is not targeted a certain beneficiary groups”¹⁶¹ In 2004, 7.5 tons of food were delivered and 27 % of it channelled by NGOs¹⁶². Where governments are donors, NGOs are playing role on the distribution of the food. In other cases, they run campaign and collect money or food and distribute them to the poor. On the other hand, supplying food costs a lot, considering transportation and storing expenses. Instead of supplying food, except in cases of natural or man-made disasters such as wars and conflict, the programmes aiming at local people to produce necessary ingredients should be supported for sustainability and eliminating hunger. NGOs should use the raised money in favour of local people to continue producing food.

Another activity is supplying clothing. The right to adequate clothing is part of the right of adequate standard of living described in the Universal Declaration. Some NGOs work on collecting clothes and sending to the poor countries and distributing them to the poor. Again private persons, companies or states can be donors, but NGOs role are distributing the aid.

Moreover, financial aid can be supplied by the NGOs. They can directly give cash to the people in order them to cover their basic needs. This activity cannot be long lasting taking into account NGOs’ limited resources. In case of emergency, the important thing is to keep people alive. Local and international NGOs raise money for the needy people, in the emergency aid that is against hunger or extreme poverty, the aid is usually not in cash but in kind. The reason for not using the cash aid is that in the case of emergency there is already not enough food and clothes, so people cannot use money for buying goods. As a result providing cash do not help people¹⁶³.

¹⁶⁰ Wahlberg, Katarina “Food Aid for the hungry?”, *Global Policy Forum*, January 2008, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/217/46251.html> (03.02.2010).

¹⁶¹ Global Food Aid Deliveries, World Food Programme’s *International Food Aid Information System (INTERFAIS)*, available at: <http://www.wfp.org/fais/> (04.02.2010).

¹⁶² <http://www.globalpolicy.org/world-hunger/tables-and-charts-on-global-food-aid.html> (04.02.2010).

¹⁶³ Insel, Ahmet (2005) “Poverty, Exclusion and NGOs”, *İstanbul: İstanbul Bilgi University, Civil Society and Democracy Conference series*, 6.

Education aid for poor students is also possible like providing scholarships, stationary, books etc. Statistics show that the more the level of education increases, the less poverty is experienced. Therefore, supplying educational aid can help people get out of poverty. For example, the Roma Education Fund Scholarship Program and the Open Society Institute designed scholarship programmes for poor Roma students in order to point out the lack of Roma in professional life¹⁶⁴. In addition, building school facilities or dormitories also is assessed in the context of the education aid. Supplying house is considered in the context of the sheltering aid. It is important in the case of big earthquake and other natural disasters where most of the houses are devastated by them.

Finally, another poverty alleviation activity of the NGOs is providing health aid. Health aid can be provided so as to eliminate the health problems of the poor people who have low income and have no social security. Consultancy, medical materials, medicine, tests, treatment, preventive measures are among the health aid¹⁶⁵. They can develop capacity of the health staff in the developing or under developed countries. There is a close link between health and poverty. More NGOs are involving in medical relief activities. They are essential to establish hospitals or providing medicines in the remote areas that are not reachable by the International organisations or states. The main subject of this study is a medical relief-based NGO called Doctors Worldwide, thus health aid will be examined in more detail below.

These activities taken together provide a significant amount to poverty reductions and make differences in life of the poor. NGOs can put up at the all stages of the poverty alleviation work either on supply side approach or demand side approach. They are important to point out key areas and consequently, promote the well being of the poor and advocate in favour of them. An NGO does not have to choose just one of these approaches. Both of the approaches can be chosen and used for poverty alleviation since there are linkages between the two strategies.

¹⁶⁴ Roma Education Fund Scholarship Programme, <http://ref.rmusp.org/home/index.php> (26.01.2010)

¹⁶⁵ <http://www.gulderen.org/facilities.html> (03.02.2010)

CHAPTER III

STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY IN TURKEY AND THE ROLE OF NGO'S: THE SPECIAL CASE OF DOCTORS WORLDWIDE

The purpose of this chapter is to describe and examine the role of NGOs in poverty reduction in Turkey. Recently, NGOs have become important actors in increasing well-being of the poor. Taking into consideration the explanation provided in the previous chapter, it is apparent that Turkish NGOs dealing with poverty also carry out similar activities. In this regard, first part of the chapter will give brief information about poverty in Turkey. Second part will give brief information on three leading examples of NGOs that are by and large working on poverty alleviation, apart from the special case to be examined later. These NGOs are Deniz Feneri, İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH) and Kimse Yok Mu Dayanışma ve Yardımlaşma Derneği respectively. Final section of the chapter will describe the poverty alleviation work of the Turkey-related Doctors World Wide, since health and wealth are very much related concepts.

The Turkish Statistical Institute is the official state agency to prepare, collect and compile the statistics on several of issues in Turkey. Related to the poverty, it monitors poverty; carries out household income and expenditure surveys in order to measure poverty rates in Turkey. The surveys are carried out every year and at the end of the year the data are announced¹⁶⁶. According to the 2008 Poverty Study of The Turkish Statistical Institute, the rate of the extreme poverty is at 0.54 % (374.000 people) which is very small proportion. On the other hand, approximately 10% of the population lives on less than 4.30 USD a day according the survey dated 2007.¹⁶⁷.

According to the just mentioned 2008 Poverty Study the poverty rate, in general, is 17.11. %. The rate was 18.56 % in 2007. On the contrary, hunger rate

¹⁶⁶ Website of the Turkish Statistical Institute: <http://www.tuik.gov.tr/Start.do> (10.01.2010).

¹⁶⁷ Poverty Reduction, Available at: <http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem.aspx?WebSayfaNo=93> (14.01.2010).

appears to increase from 0.48 % to 0.54 %. In 2008, rural and urban poverty rates are 34.62 % and 9.38 respectively, where urban and rural poverty rates were 34.80 % and 10.36 % in 2007. Although rural poverty rate seems to decrease in 2008, still the rate of the rural poverty is bigger than the urban poverty rate. It is indicated in the reports that while the number of the household increases, more poverty is seen. Hunger rate is estimated as 0.54 %. It is emphasised in the report that there is no one who lives under 1 Dollar in Turkey. When taking 2.15 Dollar as poverty line, the rate of the population living under this figure is 0.47 %.. The report also indicates that while the level of education increases the risk of being poor decreases. Finally, the number of poor people in Turkey is estimated as 11.9 million people¹⁶⁸.

The Turkish Statistical Institute has measured absolute poverty so far, it has been announced that relative poverty will be measured as well in order to comply EU Accession process¹⁶⁹. Meanwhile, attempts to study relative poverty seem to have started by TUSIAD. In its related report published in 2000, it is stated that from among the individuals living under the poverty line the rate of those experiencing the relative poverty was 15.5 percent in 1987; with same decrease it amounted to 14.5 in 1994. Poverty trap index, in the meantime, also dropped from 4.6 to 3.7, between those years. Last but not the least, the same report also noted that income of the poor are close to the poverty line, so even small delivery of the income can help people get out of the poverty¹⁷⁰.

Regional disparity between the Eastern and South-eastern regions is underlined by the UNDP and OECD. It is stated that “the reason for the regional disparities are of long historical standing and are partly due to less advantageous levels of natural and human resources and to the fact that the coastal areas along the Mediterranean Sea enjoy better access to world and regional markets”.¹⁷¹ For example, while poverty caused malnutrition rate among children is 16 % in Turkey;

¹⁶⁸ Result of the 2008 Poverty Work, http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PreTablo.do?tb_id=23&ust_id=7 (03.02.2010).

¹⁶⁹ Statement of Omer Toprak Vice President of the Turkish Statistical Institute, <http://www.radikal.com.tr/Radikal.aspx?aType=RadikalHaberDetay&Date=14.09.2009&ArticleID=954365> (05.02.2010).

¹⁷⁰ Gürsel, Seyfettin; Levent, Haluk; Selim, Raziye; Sarica, Özlem (2000) “Türkiye’de Bireysel Gelir Dağılımı ve Yoksulluk: Avrupa Birliği ile Karşılaştırma”, İstanbul: *TÜSİAD*, p. 100.

this rate is increasing up to the 30 % in the East of Turkey¹⁷². Therefore, regional development policies such as “integrated regional development plans”, “investment incentives”, “priority development areas”, “organised industrial estates” , “small industry sites” and “rural development projects” have been indentified and developed¹⁷³.The impact of these policies have not led important improvement because of the terror incidents in the East of Turkey.

The term of “New Poverty” has been developed by the UNDP after carrying out quite number of research on poverty. UNDP concluded that “new poverty” is increasing and defined it as “poverty which is long term and not easily remedied by access to traditional support networks of family and friends”. The new dimension of the poverty requires state provide long lasting and sustainable social assistance programmes that aim to reduce poverty.¹⁷⁴

Though, significant improvements have been observed living standards of women; women are one of the groups who have traditionally been economically disadvantaged in Turkey, particularly in remote rural areas and in the shanty towns of large cities according to the UNDP.¹⁷⁵Several studies showed that women are more vulnerable in terms of poverty and they are subject to adverse effect of poverty more than men. The General Directorate on the Status of Women stated that “Gender inequality and discrepancies in economic power, the unequal distribution and control of non-remunerated labour between women and men, and all harmful traditions and customs prevent the empowerment of women” economically and accelerate the feminisation of poverty”¹⁷⁶

Another population group which is mostly affected from migration trends and the economic downturns underlined by UNDP is youth. The unemployment figures

¹⁷¹ Poverty Reduction, <http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem.aspx?WebSayfaNo=93> (23.01.2010).

¹⁷² Hatun, Şükrü (2001) “On the 13th Anniversary of the Child Convention, Poverty and its effects on Children,” Istanbul: *Türk Tabipler Birliği*.

¹⁷³ Dinçer, Bülent; Özaslan, Metin (2004) “İlçelerin Sosyo_Ekonomik Gelişmişlik Sıralaması Araştırması” Ankara: *DPT*.

¹⁷⁴ Poverty Reduction, UNDP , available at <http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem.aspx?WebSayfaNo=93> (26.01.2010) ..

¹⁷⁵ Poverty Reduction, <http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem.aspx?WebSayfaNo=93> (27.01.2010)

¹⁷⁶ KSSGM (2001) Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document (Turkish-English) Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Ankara, September, p. 12.

pertaining to 2008 for all of the population stands at 11%, while the youth unemployment for the same year is 21.5%, which is rather high. This makes them feel insecure and hopeless particularly about their future, as can be seen from the National Human Development Report published in 2008¹⁷⁷.

As statistics demonstrate, poverty is a phenomenon in Turkey and some groups and regions are more affected negatively by the poverty. Improving living standards of these groups; ensuring them to access education and health services; creating long term jobs considering special needs of these most vulnerable groups and region will help reducing the poverty in Turkey. Such figures as earlier mentioned as gross national product are not enough to measure the poverty. For that reason Human Development Index has been developed by the UNDP. According to the Turkey 2007 Human Development Index of UNDP, the relevant Index for Turkey is 0.806, which gives Turkey a rank of 79th out of 182 countries¹⁷⁸. On the other hand human poverty Index for Turkey valued as 8.3 % , ranks Turkey 40th among 135 countries for which the index has calculated. Human Development Index based on life expectancy, literacy rate and standard of living is measured on gross domestic per capita for buying goods. Regarding the three indicators, life expectancy is 71.7 and 5.7 % of the population at the risk of not living to do age of 40. School enrolment rate is 71.1 and adult literacy rate is 88.7. Regarding social economic indicators, 3 % of the population cannot access to clean drinkable water and 4 % of the children that are under the age of five are underweighted in Turkey. In the report, it is also indicated that even though Turkey has high level of income which is 12,955 US\$, it is placed 79th out of 182 countries, because of the low literacy rate comparing with the other states¹⁷⁹.

The State Planning Organisation is responsible for the achievement of the MDGs and preparing national reports on the MDGs. It is also responsible for preparing five years development programmes. Regarding the MDGs, in the 2005 report, it is stated that Turkey has achieved many goals of the MDGs, despite the

¹⁷⁷ Poverty Reduction, <http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem.aspx?WebSayfaNo=93> (13.01.2010).

¹⁷⁸ http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_TUR.html (03.02.2010).

¹⁷⁹ UNDP (2005) p. 227.

existence of poverty. Thus, more effort is going to be spent on poverty reduction by the Government of Turkey and the UNDP. It is indicated that Turkey was successful on the reduction of the level of poverty in the last five years¹⁸⁰.

In sum, Turkey is not considered as a poor country taking into account global standards. On the other hand, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute “a fifth of the populations was at risk of poverty in 2005”¹⁸¹. Even though extreme poverty is not a big issue in Turkey, 0.54 (374.000 people)¹⁸² percent of the population lives under hunger line and thus eradication of poverty is an important issue. Eradicating extreme poverty is the first goal of the MDGs and in order to achieve that, it is discussed that the role of the NGOs can be crucial. As stated above, one of the most challenging issue reducing or ending poverty takes place in the agenda of Turkish nongovernmental organisations recently.

3.1. NGO’S IN THE CONTEXT OF POVERTY IN TURKEY

The capacity of the nongovernmental organisations has grown with the EU accession and democratisation process in Turkey. Nongovernmental organisations had been perceived by suspicion until recently. With the change in the law and the perception of people, nongovernmental organisations are now seen as important factors for the development of the country. Therefore, the number and the size of the NGOs have been increased recently. In Turkish legal system, nongovernmental organisation can be formed as an association or foundation. According to the research of the Chamber of the Accountant and financial consultant, there are 80.212 association and 471 foundation in Turkey as of 2007¹⁸³. In 2004, donations made to the organization that has status of working in the interest of public were exempted from tax. After this change, new NGOs have been established in order to run food bank. As of 2007, 20 associations and 7 foundations are running food bank in order to alleviate poverty according to the same research. They can carry out advocacy

¹⁸⁰ National development plans surpass MDG requirements, Turkey MDG Profile, http://www.mdgmonitor.org/factsheets_00.cfm?c=TUR&cd# (18.01.2010).

¹⁸¹ UNESCO (2007) “Say Yes,” Preventing Child Poverty in Turkey, Ankara: UNESCO.

¹⁸² Turkish Statical Institute, 2008 Survey.

¹⁸³ Chamber of the Accountant and Financial Consultant, Research on Civil Society in Turkey.

work on variety of issues and make differences on the law and practice; hence they can make changes in people's life in a good way. NGOs can have important contributions in ending poverty in many ways. There have been many NGOs established in Turkey and working on poverty reduction. They can be classified into two, in one particular sense: those having their activities restricted within Turkey and those having activities both in Turkey and abroad. *Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı* (Community Volunteers Foundation), *Türkiye Eğitim Gönüllüleri Vakfı* (Turkish Volunteers for Education Foundation), *Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği* (Association for the Support of Contemporary Life) etc are some examples of the first category. Together with the Deniz Feneri Association (*Deniz Feneri Derneği*)¹⁸⁴, the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (*İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri İnsani Yardım Vakfı-IHH*)¹⁸⁵ and Kimse Yok mu Solidarity and Aid Association (*Kimse Yok mu Dayanışma ve Yardımlaşma Derneği*)¹⁸⁶, the specific case study of this thesis, the Doctors Worldwide, are the most noticeable examples of the second category. Having emerged in both categories, they have various activities to strengthen poor people and communities. They can adopt different approaches for ending poverty and therefore can play different role in poverty reduction struggle. As the just-mentioned specific case of this thesis belongs to the second category above, in this part of the study, those NGOs which make activities only within Turkey will not be dwelt upon. Yet, before examining the Doctors Worldwide in its entirety, the other three, above-mentioned examples of the NGOs having activities both in Turkey and abroad will be shortly reviewed, with a view to reaching a clear idea regarding the distinctive characteristics of the hitherto-less-known-and-studied Doctors Worldwide.

3.1.1. Deniz Feneri Association (Deniz Feneri Derneği)

This association was born out of a single TV programme named “City and Ramadan” during Ramadan in 1996. Then it became a weekly TV programme called “Deniz Feneri” Ramadan. Finally, it became a nation-wide association in 2002. Before then, Ankara Branch of the Association was established in 2000. In order to

¹⁸⁴ For more info: <http://kurban.denizfeneri.org.tr/> (21.01.2010).

¹⁸⁵ For more info: <http://www.ihh.org.tr/Home.7.0.html?&L=1> (21.01.2010).

run its programmes, it has five representative offices all over Turkey. Furthermore, it has already obtained the status of an organization working in the public interest.

Deniz Feneri is an association that mostly adopts supply side poverty reduction approach. Their main activities are delivering food, health, shelter and financial aid in Turkey and in some other countries. They are providing food, clothes, cash, to the families that are determined in advance one time or periodically. Regarding education, they have scholarship programmes and deliver school materials. Moreover, they are providing health aid by referring people who have not got any social security protection to the contracted private hospitals. Finally, providing shelter is among their activities¹⁸⁷. They are running programmes that aim to help in the case of natural disaster by providing very essential necessities such as food, clothes, shelter etc.

The regulation of the Ministry of Finance dated 21. 03. 2004¹⁸⁸ states that donation in kind that are made to the NGOs are exempted from tax. In the statute of the NGO it should be noted that they can collect and deliver food. This Regulation encourages people make donations to the NGOs. And, thanks to this Regulation, NGOs can establish food bank and distribute the food to the needy people. In this context, Deniz Feneri is also getting donations in kind and distributes them to the poor families; therefore, contributing for the alleviation of poverty. More importantly, the association runs training programmes in order to make poor people obtain skills and have a profession which can bring income and help reduce poverty¹⁸⁹. In addition, they take care of most vulnerable groups such as ex-prisoners by giving them vocational training courses.

The volunteers of Deniz Feneri, in carrying out activities abroad, have so far been operational in African countries such as Ethiopia, Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone and Ghana; in Asian countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan; in Balkans such as Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro; in Caucasian countries such as

¹⁸⁶ For more info: <http://kurban.kimseyokmu.org.tr/> (21.01.2010).

¹⁸⁷ Activities of Deniz Feneri, <http://www.denizfeneri.org.tr/icerik.aspx?kod=AID> (21.01.2010).

¹⁸⁸ Income Tax General Regulation, http://www.alomaliye.com/gvk_teb_251.htm (21.01.2010).

Azerbaijan, Georgia; in Middle Eastern countries such as Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Yemen¹⁹⁰. Activities in such places include delivering food aid, humanitarian aid and educational aid. In order to support poor people, they mobilise, arrange and distribute sources to the poor in order to alleviate poverty. They also provide education, health services etc.

As part of its strategy, the association has established a research centre called Deniz Feneri Poverty Research Centre in order to carry out research on poverty after the Poverty Symposium in 2003. The centre organised that Symposium not only in 2003 but also in 2005; published books and reports on poverty. Moreover, the centre also organised an international symposium on poverty in 2008¹⁹¹. In order to continue these activities and support the poor, they are initiating campaigns in order to raise money.

3.1.2. The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (*İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri İnsani Yardım Vakfı- İHH*)

It is stated in their website that “İHH is acting with the motive of brotherhood and aims at providing all needy and wronged people with a dignified life through extending humanitarian aid and taking any actions to fight violation of anyone’s basic liberties and human rights, and to counter any policy and practice that make people dependent on aid”¹⁹². They are affiliated to the Union of NGOs of the Islamic World Humanitarian Forum, Consultative membership to the U.N. Economic and Social Council, and Turkey Voluntary Agencies Foundation (TGTV).

Their activity areas are social aid, educational aid, cultural and sanitary aid. On the social aid areas they implement food assistance programmes including qurban¹⁹³ programmes, organising fast breaking dinner during Ramadan. In the context of the Orphan Care Programme they are constructing and running facilities,

¹⁸⁹ Activities of Deniz Feneri, <http://www.denizfeneri.org.tr/icerik.aspx?kod=AID> (21.01.2010).

¹⁹⁰ International Aid, <http://www.denizfeneri.org.tr/english.aspx> (22.01.2010).

¹⁹¹ Deniz Feneri Poverty Research Centre, <http://www.denizfeneri.org.tr/icerik.aspx?KOD=YOKSULLUKARASTIRMA> (13.02.2010).

¹⁹² <http://ihh.org.tr/Notre-mission.173.0.html?&'=&L=1> (26.01.2010).

supplying the basic needs and educational aids to the children. Furthermore, they are implementing shelter and clothing assistance programme by providing prefabricating shelter and clothes to the victims of the disaster or poor people. Another programme IHH implementing is vocational training programme which aims provide skills so that people can job. And, finally, they construct drilling water wells and canal.¹⁹⁴ On the Educational Aid areas they provide educational facilities and infrastructure assistance. They are building and/or renovating educational facilities and establishing science and computer laboratories, libraries, sports halls, etc. Apart from these, they are distributing stationeries, school bags etc. Similarly, they organise vocational trainings¹⁹⁵.

On the Cultural Aid areas, they are supporting radio and television broadcasting and building shrines and mosques¹⁹⁶. On the Sanitary Aid areas, they set up health facilities and provide infrastructure aid. Their health Services cover cataract surgeries, employment of voluntary health personnel, rehabilitation of young drug addicts and AIDS victims, health screenings, preventive medical measures, etc.¹⁹⁷ Furthermore, they are working in cooperation with UN regarding the refugees. They have signed a protocol with UN and have undertaken to provide humanitarian aid to the refugees, raise awareness in the public opinion, strengthen refuges, etc.¹⁹⁸

As it is obvious from their activities, IHH is a direct aid oriented NGO and it targets the poor. IHH makes changes in the lives of the poor people by designing and implementing aid programmes. Providing vocational training for the poor can help them to have a profession or skill and find a job.

¹⁹³ Qurban means "Festival of Sacrifice" or "Greater Eid" which is an important religious day celebrated by Muslims. Qurban is the animal such as a sheep, goat, cow, or camel, which is sacrificed for the name of Allah.

¹⁹⁴ <http://www.ihh.org.tr/Activity-Kinds-and-Areas.176.0.html?&L=1> (23.01.2010) .

¹⁹⁵ <http://www.ihh.org.tr/Activity-Kinds-and-Areas.176.0.html?&L=1> (23.01.2010) .

¹⁹⁶ <http://www.ihh.org.tr/Activity-Kinds-and-Areas.176.0.html?&L=1> (23.01.2010) .

¹⁹⁷ <http://www.ihh.org.tr/Activity-Kinds-and-Areas.176.0.html?&L=1> (23.01.2010) .

¹⁹⁸ IHH and UN cooperation on Refugees, <http://multeci.ihh.org.tr/genel/ihh-ile-bm-is-birliigi-protokolu-imzaladi.html> (23.01.2010) .

3.1.3. Solidarity and Aid Association (Kimse Yok mu?)

“Kimse yok mu?” was started as a TV programme to help people in need and it became an association in 2004. They opened branches in several cities in Turkey and abroad, including Europe, the US, Canada and Australia. They are aiming to “build a bridge between the poor and the producers having need for extra food, cloth, hygiene materials, and fuel; restaurants, markets, hotels, etc. real and legal persons, and also aiming to prevent extravagance along with providing the social justice”.¹⁹⁹ Due to these activities, Kimse Yok Mu Association granted the status of “Association of Public Interest” by the decision of the Council of Ministers in 2006. The donations made to the association can be exempted from the annual tax return of the donators²⁰⁰. Like Deniz Feneri, they are also running food bank.

The association aims to make charitable people contribute to the solution of the poverty problem. They stated that struggle against poverty is religious, moral and national duty. They helped people by providing food, clothing, fuel requirements, education, health services and money for rent. Currently they are implementing a project called “Sister Family”. The aim of the project is to find a family for every poor: The project is based on charitable principles. The family can support the poor and as a consequence the poor family can reach the life standard of majority of people in the society. In the context of the food aid: they ran a food campaign in 2004 and they provided food to 600 families in Istanbul, in Agri Province after an earthquake in 2004, looked after the families of martyrs’ during Ramadan in 2004 etc..In the context of the clothing aid, they delivered clothes to the people who live in Bakırköy Mental Hospital. They also delivered fuel to the families in need. Finally, they delivered education supplies to 1000 students in 13 schools. As well as operating in Turkey, they delivered aid to India and Pakistan after earthquakes. Moreover, they carried out aid programmes in Palestine-Lebanon Campaign. Finally they sent the meats of sacrificed animals to some African countries²⁰¹. The person in need can apply directly to the Kimse Yok mu and they examine the application

¹⁹⁹ <http://www.kimseyokmu.org.tr/en/Pages.aspx?pagesID=565> (03.02.2010) .

²⁰⁰ <http://www.kimseyokmu.org.tr/en/Pages.aspx?pagesID=587> (03.02.2010) .

²⁰¹ <http://www.kimseyokmu.org.tr/en/Pages.aspx?pagesID=541> (03.02.2010) .

whether the applicant is really in need or not. Through providing services to the poor people in different places, they show their commitment to reduce the poverty in Turkey and the World.

3.2. SPECIAL CASE OF DOCTORS WORLDWIDE

It is obvious that NGOs support public health and public health programmes in developing and under developed countries. Health is one of the indicators for measuring poverty. As a result, improvement in the public health is considered in the context of the poverty alleviation work. Poverty has negative effects on the health such as malnutrition, child mortality, maternal mortality and death because of the treatable disease, etc. NGOs have capacity to reach remote rural areas, hear the voice of the poor, provide technical assistance, and point out most critical public health issues and finally raise funds for improving health services in poor countries. Both supply and demand strategies can be used by NGOs for improvement of the public health in the third world countries. Doctors Worldwide is an NGO that is fighting against poverty in the particular context of providing medical relief to the poor in the poor countries. DWW is operating at an international level and it has taken up wide range of activities on the health issues. The effect of DWW's work on people at the individual and society levels is apparent. The case of Doctor Worldwide shows that reputable NGOs with adequate professional staff, volunteers and resources can contribute a lot in improving public health and as a result alleviate poverty.

The aim of this chapter, first, is to give brief information about Doctors Worldwide. Secondly, the aim of the Doctors Worldwide will be examined. And finally, activities of the Doctors Worldwide in Turkey will be explored.

3.2.1. Doctors Worldwide: A Short Introduction

Doctors Worldwide is an ongoing working example of global movement of civil society in the fight against poverty by improving health situations in the developing world. Doctors Worldwide is an international medical relief organisation and was formed as an NGO in April 2000, centered in Britain, and its stated purpose

being to “provide medical relief and aid to those who are in need without any access or means to basic medical care.”²⁰² It is registered as a charity under the UK regulation²⁰³ and a member of the British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND)²⁰⁴. In fact, DWW was established by Muslim doctors from all over the world, particularly from Turkey, England and America. The reason for establishing the charity in England was because of the English laws that encourage and promote establishment and work of NGOs in international aid in 2000. Even though, there is quite an important development in the Turkish law regarding NGOs, the heavy work of bureaucracy in Turkey led them to set up the NGO in England at first²⁰⁵. According to the Charity Commission, it operates throughout England, Bangladesh, Burma, Kenya, Niger, Ghana, Pakistan and Republic of Congo and its annual income is £606,617.²⁰⁶ Besides having volunteer medical personnel in order to provide medical training and provide direct medical aid, they also provide medical equipment or build medical infrastructure and help for the capacity building of the local NGOs.

Doctors Worldwide, a charity of general medical practitioners, were nominated for the Seoul Peace Prize sponsored by the South Korean government²⁰⁷. In 2004, its Turkey branch was established in Istanbul. Moreover, in 2008 Bangladesh branch was established in Dhaka. DWW is very sensitive to work in cooperation with local NGOs. Cooperation with local NGOs helps to reduce cost of the delivery of the aid. Furthermore, it helps capacity building of the local NGOs and thus, promotes growth in their capacity.

²⁰² <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/about.shtml> (03.02.2010) .

²⁰³ Charity registration number is: 1122671.

²⁰⁴ <http://www.bond.org.uk/pages/about-us.html> . Bond is the UK membership body for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in international development. Established in 1993, Bond now has over 330 member organisations, from large organisations with a world-wide presence to smaller, more specialist organisations working in specific regions or with specific groups of people.

²⁰⁵ Atak Ummuhan, Interview with Ihsan Karaman head of the executive Board of Doctors Worldwide Turkey, *Gercek Hayat Magazine*, , available at:

<http://www.gercek hayat.com/...ay&yaziid=4634&sayi=423> (03.02.2010) .

²⁰⁶ <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/ShowCharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityWithPartB.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1122671&SubsidiaryNumber=0&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> (16.01.2010) .

²⁰⁷ <http://web.ebscohost.com.ludwig.lub.lu.se/ehost/pdf?vid=2&hid=105&sid=1e6a2be3-5872-48d9-9c49-4d96d318c679%40sessionmgr111> (03.02.2010) .

The Turkish branch of the DWW, having its headquarters in England, is of great importance for us. In this thesis, DWW has been chosen to study because it is not just solely a Turkish NGO established in Turkey but an international NGO being active worldwide. Stated differently, the reason why I choose the DWW is that it is actually an international NGO and has one of its branches in Turkey, which means that it also carries out activities in Turkey. One of the most important characteristics of DWW is that when an activity is performed in any country, volunteers of the DWW worldwide participate in this activity.

Access to the health services and medicines are still one of the main problems in developing world and under developed world. For example, according to the UNICEF's estimates, malaria, which is a treatable disease in developed countries, causes more than one million deaths each year. Similarly, tuberculosis caused two million deaths in 2002.²⁰⁸ These figures demonstrate that quite a number of poor people cannot receive treatment for preventable disease. In view of that fact, DWW's activities stand salient. It is because it provides services to the people through primarily the delivery of medical equipment or medicine. It is also engaged with establishing and running hospitals. DWW is also training local staff in order to provide sustainability. In this context, the activities of the DWW develop human resources too. In the viewpoint of DWW, building hospitals, training medical staff, providing medical utilities and medicine are the basis of the poverty reduction works.

DWW does not accept grant from government and therefore it is independent in its work. In order to support the above mentioned activities, DWW needs donations from people or companies. It accepts donation of medical equipment or medicine to send to the clinics or hospitals in countries where DWW operates. In this context, DWW is carrying out fund raising activities. They are raising money for

²⁰⁸ Fact Sheet, available at: http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/mdg/explore_2203.html (14.01.2010).

Mother and Child Fund²⁰⁹, Fistula Fund²¹⁰, General Fund²¹¹ and Education and Equipment Fund²¹².

They also accept medicines directly as donation²¹³. Furthermore, contribution to the mission of the DWW can be made by voluntary work. Health care professionals volunteer their time and expertise. Beside the work of the volunteers, DWW is hiring local staff in refugee camps and poor countries and train them in order to provide continuities with the medical care²¹⁴.

3.2.2. Aims of Doctors Worldwide

The objective of the Doctors Worldwide, as stated in its statue, is to ease need among people who are victims of poverty, famine, disease, disasters, wars and civil wars without any discrimination based on race, religion, ideology or politics. Such aim, in actually, would involve providing food, shelter, education, training, medical personnel and other charitable assistance in order to maintain and promote good health and well-being and overcome disease, injury, illness and malnutrition for the sick, the poor and communities affected by conflict, disaster, discrimination, and instability throughout the world.²¹⁵

Although DWW is not an NGO only struggling against poverty from a narrow point of view due to its structure, when its above-mentioned objectives are closely examined, we see that it is struggling against poverty in detail from a wider point of view. What is underlined at this point will be more clearly understood when one reads worldwide activities of DWW, to be given in the following part of this chapter. The activities of DWW are suitable for struggling against poverty as stated before, when the above mentioned objectives are analyzed in terms of medical aid and relief.

²⁰⁹ Doctors Worldwide, Mother Child Fund,

<http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/funds/motherchildfund.pdf> (14.01.2010).

²¹⁰ DWW, Fistula Fund <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/funds/fistulafund.pdf> (14.01.2010).

²¹¹ DWW, General Fund, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/funds/genfund.pdf> (14.01.2010).

²¹² DWW, Education and Equipment Fund, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/funds/eeffund.pdf> (14.01.2010).

²¹³ DWW, Donate Drugs, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/funds/dodrugs.pdf> (14.01.2010).

²¹⁴ DWW, Volunteer, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/donate.shtml> (16.01.2010).

²¹⁵ <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/ShowCharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityFramework.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1122671&SubsidiaryNumber=0> (16.01.2010) .

3.2.3. The Activities of Doctors Worldwide

DWW is carrying out activities in some African countries such as Sierra Leone, Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Niger, and Sudan; in some European countries such as Bosnia, Macedonia, Ingushetia and Kosovo; in some Asian countries such as Iraq, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Aceh, Afghanistan, Georgia, Lebanon, Palestine, Pakistan, and Bangladesh; and in American countries such as Guatemala. Activities in each country will be separately reviewed below:

3.2.3.1. Activities in Sierra Leone:

Before starting to work in a country, DWW usually sends fact finding mission to the country in question. Therefore, after the happening of a civil war, DWW sent a team to Sierra Leone in 2002 in order to get information on the impact of the civil war. In the light of the information given by that fact finding mission, DWW decided to work in the eastern district of Kono where main district hospitals were mostly devastated and pillaged. Additionally, health clinics were not operating owing to lack of necessary equipment. After having agreed with the Ministry of Health, DWW sent necessary equipment to the hospital in Kono in 2003. The hospital is now fully operating and serving the local people.²¹⁶

3.2.3.2. Activities in Congo:

DWW has operated in Congo, since it received an application from an NGO called RADEM in the city of Lubumbashi where a large number of internally displaced people are living. RADEM²¹⁷ has been operating a health clinic in the area of Gambela.

DWW helped the establishment of maternity clinics in Gambela/Lubumbashi and Kamina, such areas where no other governmental or non governmental clinics operated. The Hewa Bora hospital was set up for poor families. Besides dealing with

²¹⁶ <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/sierraleone/index.shtml> (14.01.2010) .

²¹⁷ <http://www.radem.org/> (16.01.2010). According to the DWW website: RADEM (Recherche et action pour un developpement multisectoriel) was established by Jibrill Kasongo and Dr Paul Mawaw joined later. They are now co-directors of RADEM. The people who work for RADEM are volunteers. DWW has been doing all of Congo projects with them. RADEM has very strong community support and very good relations with local health officials.

ordinary health issues and training, the hospital mainly provides support for HIV and malaria related programmes. Moreover, DWW opened rural maternity clinics in Lumata, Malemba-Nkulu and Lwalaba to improve maternal and child health in the area. In addition to opening clinics and hospitals, 140.000 circumcisions have been done in Katanga region by the end of August 2009 in the context of the HIV prevention strategy. Besides circumcision, HIV education programmes are implemented by RADEM volunteers and economical supports are provided for those adults and orphan victims of HIV/AIDS.

Another activity DWW is carrying out in Congo is a special kind of poverty reduction programme which has two aspects: providing nutritional help for children in rural areas and medical examination for these children. At 60 locations, more than 3600 children have received nutrition and medical examination so far. Furthermore, DWW implemented a Project with the above-mentioned local partner, RADEM to help internally displaced people (IDPs) in Katanga region by setting up clinics in 2006. And they set up another clinic in Goma to help IDPs. In the context of the infectious disease programme, they sent four emergency medical teams to the Malemba-Nkulu area where measles epidemic occurred and they treated more than 150 children. Another team was sent to the Katanga Province where cholera outbreak occurred and DWW donated 5000 litres of saline to help them. Finally, DWW is going to set up an anaemia treatment programme at Sendwe hospital in Lubumbashi, since Congo women have high rate of anaemia according to WHO and DWW will supply iron and folic acid tablets for pregnant women in order to eliminate anaemia²¹⁸.

3.2.3.3. Activities in Georgia:

DWW circumcised nearly 150 children in Georgia in April 2009. Four volunteer DWW doctors circumcised 150 children within two days. The DWW Doctors circumcised 200 children in total, in three different rural center of population of Georgia in October 2009²¹⁹. Totally 200 children were circumcised in three

²¹⁸DWW in Congo, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/congo/index.shtml> (16.01.2010) .

²¹⁹YYD in Georgia <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/kafkasya/gurcistan/197-yeniden-gurcistandayiz.html> (01.06.2010)

different centers within three days by two volunteer DWW doctors. In the activity carried out in cooperation between Doctors worldwide Association and Georgia Friendship Association, 331 children from two different center of population of Georgia were circumcised. Although it had been firstly planned to circumcise 160 children living in rural areas, the wealthy families living in the region also demanded for circumcision of their own children because of the fact that the surgical operations are carried out in conformity with hygienical conditions and in a very clean way. 180 persons in the first day and 31 persons in the following day were circumcised. The number of circumcised persons was raised to 211 because of heavy demand. In the second day, another 120 persons were circumcised. 331 children were circumcised in two different regions within two days²²⁰.

3.2.3.4. Activities in Aceh:

The tsunami caused by the earthquake with a submarine epicenter in the vicinity of Aceh on 26 December 2004 resulted in a 157.000 loss of life. A team of volunteers from DWW made investigations, gave health service in Ache Sumatra and brought aid from Turkey after tsunami disaster²²¹.

3.2.3.5. Activities in Indonesia:

Following the earthquake occurred in Indonesia on 27 May-2006 Indenosia, a two-person volunteer doctors worldwide team brought health services to the earthquake victims by turns, in the activity carried out in cooperation with Deniz Feneri Association²²².

3.2.3.6. Activities in Sudan:

For fact finding mission, DWW sent a team of five people to the El-Geneina, in Sudan, where a large number of IDPs is living. They visited the El-Geneina hospital and it is stated that even though the hospital is not in a good condition, it has some spectacular medical staff and has ten basic primary care units. DWW team

²²⁰ YYD in Georgia <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/kafkasya/gurcistan/198-yeryuzu-doktorlari-3kez-gurcistanda.html> (06.05.2010)

²²¹ YYD in Aceh <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/asya/ace/95-tsunami-sonrasi-yeryuzuzu-doktorlari-acedeydi-.html> (17.05.2010)

²²² YYD in Indenosia <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/asya/endonezya/96-endonezyayi-vuran-depremde-yeryuzu-doktorlari-yara-sardi-.html> (23.04.2010)

provided some health care and donated an operating microscope and 300 lenses. Based on the observation of the fact finding mission, DWW is considering designing a rehabilitation project for the hospital.²²³

3.2.3.7. Activities in Kenya:

A UK charity operating a school and orphanage outside of Mombasa, in Kenya, asked DWW to help. Upon that request, DWW has soon provided the necessary equipment to run a small clinic that is now being operated by local doctors. Furthermore, DWW is planning to send volunteers to provide medical care and support and train local staff²²⁴.

3.2.3.8. Activities in Niger:

DWW assessment mission conducted some work in Niger and they observed the obviously poor health conditions due to the extreme poverty. After then, DWW has initiated there an obstetric fistula repair programme with a local NGO. As a matter of fact, according to the World Health Organisation, there are 2 million people with untreated fistula and 100.000 women having fistula every year. It is mainly seen in developing countries²²⁵. With the help of DWW in Turkey, DWW will send more volunteers to carry out more operations. In the context of such medical care, they have already started to provide cataract operations in Niger free of charge.²²⁶

3.2.3.9. Activities in Ghana:

Like Congo, DWW received an application from a local NGO called NOGAID and sent two fact finding missions to Ghana. The teams observed that there are regional disparities regarding health indicators. Especially the health conditions in Northern regions are below the average. Therefore, supports are needed on several health issues. DWW is implementing projects on teaching and training of the local medical staff. Furthermore, DWW will send volunteers to support

²²³DWW in Sudan, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/sudan/index.shtml> (02.02.2010) .

²²⁴ DWW in Kenya, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/kenya/index.shtml> (02.02.2010) .

²²⁵ Fistula Foundation, Fistula Fast Facts, <http://www.fistulafoundation.org/aboutfistula/faqs.html> (02.02.2010) .

²²⁶ DWW in Niger, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/niger/index.shtml> (02.02.2010) .

government clinics, considering there are only 22 doctors for 2.2 million population in government clinics, the need for volunteer support is rather great.²²⁷

3.2.3.10. Activities in Bosnia

The assessment team stated that the needs of the returnees following the Bosnian war were serious. With the help of local Cardiologists in Sarajevo, DWW started to implement the Project on training in interventional Cardiology. Moreover, state of the art theatre and electrophysiological equipment were donated to the main teaching hospital. In addition, Bosnian medical groups continue to supply humanitarian medical attention to the returnees. At the moment, there is no Project implemented by DWW, but it continues to monitor needs through local NGOs.²²⁸

3.2.3.11. Activities in Kosovo

Since 2004, volunteer medical and dental staffs of the DWW have been providing health care in Pristine in Kosova. Almost 40.000 people have received health care in a year. DWW also operates specialist departments like paediatrics, internal medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology. One complete dental suite including x-ray facilities was donated by the DWW and thus DWW clinics can provide dental care too. DWW is planning to continue extending local services and to send volunteers to provide with further training. It has just started a medical education and exchange project in Kosovo in cooperation with Pristine Hospital. For this project, DWW requires specialist who can give lectures and medical training.²²⁹

3.2.3.12. Activities in Macedonia

After a relevant fact finding mission, DWW established a primary health clinic in Skopje within Macedonia and started to work in cooperation with local NGO called Cultural Humanitarian Organisation of Merhamet. In 2004, that clinic turned into a fully working clinic with necessary equipment. The first capital costs and running costs were ensured by the DWW on the first year of the clinic. Besides setting and running it, DWW donated medical equipment, including ultrasound

²²⁷DWW in Ghana, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/ghana/index.shtml> (02.02.2010) .

²²⁸DWW in Bosnia, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/bosnia/index.shtml> (03.02.2010)

²²⁹DWW in Kosovo, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/kosova/index.shtml> (03.02.2010)

machines, endoscopy units, lab equipment and cardiac equipment, which are equal to the value of over £30,000, to the Merhamet clinic in Skopje²³⁰.

Doctors Worldwide (DWW) Turkey branch made circumcision activities in cooperation with Istanbul International Brotherhood and Solidarity Association and Deniz Feneri Association in Macedonia in 2008 and 2009. During these activities, 400 children in 2008 and 225 children in 2009 were circumcised by volunteer Doctors Worldwide²³¹.

3.2.3.13. Activities in Ingushetia

In coordination with the local UN organising committee, DWW gave support for operating primary health care clinics in the refugee camps. Within Ingushetia local doctors and nurses from the refugee camp were trained to continue to operate the clinic. On the 7-11 November 2003, Doctors Worldwide organised a seminar and invited 10 Chechen mental health workers to attend the seminar in Istanbul. A specialist team from the UMICPT (University of Missouri International Centre for Psychological Trauma) gave training on methods to work with psychologically traumatized children and their families²³².

3.2.3.14. Activities in Iraq

In order to assess the situation in Iraq, DWW sent a team of specialists to Iraq in 2001. The team also conducted post graduate medical training. The team was consisting of an Ophthalmic Surgeon, and Accident and Emergency specialist, an Orthopaedic Surgeon and a Gastroenterologist. DWW continued to communicate with the Red Crescent of Iraq and the Post Graduate deans of medical schools. Furthermore, in order to improve medical education and facilities in the country, DWW continues to send medical books and medical equipments.²³³

²³⁰DWW in Macedonia, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/macedonia/index.shtml> (03.02.2010) .

²³¹YYD in Macedonia <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/balkanlar/makedonya/119-yyd-makedonyada-sunnet-yapti-2009.html> (20.05.2010)

²³²DWW in Ingushetia, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/ingushetia/index.shtml> (03.02.2010) .

²³³ DWW in Iraq, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/iraq/index.shtml> (29.01.2010) .

3.2.3.15. Activities in Sri Lanka

After the earthquake, a team of medical staff was sent to Sri Lanka and they carried out medical care activities. One fully equipped ambulance was donated to Kalmunai district health services by DWW. Moreover, DWW arranged a three days psychological trauma course for local mental health workers. Finally, DWW has reached an agreement with the Ministry of Health of Sri Lanka in order to build two health centres in Sainthamartu and Oluvil. The construction work will start soon.²³⁴

3.2.3.16. Activities in India

Following the recent earthquake in India, a team of 50 doctors and paramedical staff provided medical help in 61 towns. In addition to the medical staff, DWW donated 30 tons of medical goods. DWW also started medical rehabilitation program in Gujarat for the injured and traumatized victims. A team which funded by the DWW trained the staff and established a psychosocial counselling for trauma victims in Gujarat. During 2004, DWW implemented a project in Hyderabad and Mumbai by providing a mobile health clinic. It carried out small surgery cases. 4000 children had benefited from these services²³⁵.

3.2.3.17. Activities in Afghanistan

DWW started to work in the poorest area of Afghanistan in 2001 by funding a local doctor and providing emergency first aid kits. In addition, DWW volunteers carried out activities and helped displaced people in the camps in Spin Boldak. Furthermore, DWW signed and agreed with the ministry of health to operate the hospital of Qalat in Zabul province. In 2003, the hospital was returned back to Ministry of Health. In Islamabad, in cooperation with UMICPT (University of Missouri International Centre for Psychological Trauma), DWW arranged a seminar for training local health practitioners. The seminar aimed at teaching them to work with psychologically traumatized children and their families. In 2004 DWW set up a first aid course with the help of lecturers of Kandahar University and medical school.

²³⁴ Sri Lanka, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/srilanka/index.shtml> (03.02.2010) .

²³⁵ India, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/india/index.shtml> (03.02.2010) .

²³⁶. Furthermore, medical books were donated to the library of the Kandahar Medical school and volunteers gave lectures. Finally, DWW started to train local junior doctors and medical students. Unfortunately, the training project has been cancelled because of the security situation in Afghanistan.

3.2.3.18. Activities in Palestine

The DWW activities in Palestine are not only restricted to extending their habitual medical help towards Palestinians but also more specifically encompass development of the capacity of the medical staff, and establishment or improvement of the conditions of the hospitals. In that regard, since the pressing majority of the activities in Palestine have been actually and particularly carried out by the DWW-Turkey. Accordingly, those activities in Palestine will be explained below under the section of “Activities of the DWW-Turkey²³⁷”.

3.2.3.19. Activities in Lebanon

Thousands of people were killed during the 34-day war, when Israeli intruded in Lebanon, between 12 July and 14 August 2006. Doctors worldwide got the 2-articulated-lorry medicine and medical equipment gathered with the campaign to collect medicine. These medicines and medical equipment were launched to the harbor in Lebanon by the ship of Deniz Feneri which was departed from Mersin Harbor on 24 August 2006.

3.2.3.20. Activities in Bangladesh

In cooperation with Civil Surgeons Office, DWW implemented a new project in the South Bangladesh area of Bhola Island. Needs of sincere request led DWW to appeal for a Basic Health Unit in the Daulat Khan region. At first, a simple building was completed. Secondly, ante-natal service was opened and finally training for the

²³⁶ Afghanistan, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/afghanistan/index.shtml> (29.01.2010) .

²³⁷ DWW activities in Palestine, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/palestine/index.shtml> (03.02.2010) .

local doctors has been carried out. Health education programme is also one of the strategic areas.²³⁸

3.2.3.21. Activities in Pakistan

DWW started to work in Pakistan after the earthquake in 2005 by establishing clinics in a UN compound in Muzafferabad and volunteers of DWW continued to manage it for more than a year. Immunisation programme was carried out in the Lower Neelum Valley. In Tariqabad, Chalabandi and Jalalabad camps, three health clinics were established and run until May 2006. Furthermore, Komikot Basic Health Unit was also established in 2005 and handed over to Kashmir government in 2006, where health service continued to be made for approximately 200 people a day. DWW has bought a land to build a childrens' hospital in Ugi. It is planned that volunteers will contribute to the hospital by giving training and teaching paediatric skills.²³⁹

3.2.3.22. Activities in Guatemala

Doctors Worldwide carried out activities by providing medical help in one rural mountainous region of Guatemala. The Mercedes Duksil clinic, which has rooms for doctors and nurses with dormitory, was built in 2003. The work of the medical volunteers are very much needed in the clinic²⁴⁰.

Based on those activities mentioned above, it can be summed up by way of conclusion that health is the key point for reducing poverty and providing development in the developing countries. Hence, DWW operates in developing countries in order to improve health units that were destroyed by war or natural disasters such as earthquakes. It is observed that disasters and wars especially have negative impacts on poor people. Therefore, for poor people accessing to basic health services becomes impossible in case of war and disasters. In addition to this, DWW devoted and dedicated its work to capacity building. Consequently, it organises trainings in order to improve capacity of the local medical people. Furthermore,

²³⁸DWW activities in Bangladesh, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/bangladesh/index.shtml> (03.02.2010).

²³⁹DWW activities in Pakistan, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/pakistan/index.shtml> (03.02.2010).

DWW volunteers conduct surgeries for treating cataract and fistula patients which are treatable diseases but not all people in the developing world can access this treatment because of the poverty. At this point, it is important to mention that voluntarism is the most essential element of the DWW activities. All these activities aim at improving the health conditions, including physical, mental and social well being of the poor. The focuses are on the socially disadvantaged people such as children, women, people in refugee camps and remote rural areas. DWW's activities has helped, to a considerable extent, the prevention of the disease, treatment of the preventable disease and therefore improvement of the health services. Overall, all these activities empower poor people and generate awareness on poverty.

3.2.4. Activities of Doctors Worldwide – Turkey

DWW - Turkey is an NGO situated in Turkey, indeed to be seen as the most noticeable branch of DWW, which have activities both in Turkey and abroad. They will be explained in detail below.

3.2.4.1. Activities Abroad

As it is stated above, Turkey's branch of the Doctors Worldwide was established in 2004 in Istanbul. Doctors Worldwide-Turkey carries out activities not only throughout several countries of the third world such as Congo, Georgia, Niger, Pakistan and Palestine but particularly also in Turkey. They have 400 volunteers and 100 out of 400 volunteers take active part in the medical relief activities in the developing world.²⁴¹ DWW-Turkey distributes meat at Muslim's Eid Al Adha Sacrifice festival annually. This project had provided meat for over 40,000 families so far. They are implementing projects on "Hope Violent of the Africa" which aims at treating fistula patients, "Eye straining of Africa" which aims at operating cataract patients, "Smiling Lips" project also aiming at operating cleft palate patients in Palestine. "Village of hope project" in Congo on the other hand aims to provide basic

²⁴⁰ DWW activities in Guatemala, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/guatemala/index.shtml> (29.01.2010).

²⁴¹ Interview with Ihsan Karaman.

health services. They established there a fully equipped hospital and four primary child care units. DWW also trained women to help labouring women.

Furthermore, they had carried out 100.000 circumcision operations in order to prevent HIV/AIDS. Since it is recommended by the WHO, circumcision prevents HIV infections.²⁴²

In Pakistan, DWW, essentially by the Turkish branch, funded the construction of Kumikot Basic Health Unit in Muzaffarabad District under Pakistan-administered Kashmir. It is stated that this construction is the first permanent pre-fabricated hospital in the region since the earthquake²⁴³. Besides the construction of a hospital, after the earthquake in Pakistan, almost ten DWW medical staff and volunteers provided emergency medical relief and since June 2009 DWW focused on medical care and rehabilitation efforts. DWW Turkey has also sent them an ambulance and mobile clinic services.

After the earthquake this time in Indonesia DWW Turkey had sent a medical team there to give medical relief to the victims of earthquake. A medical team was also sent to Sudan in 2005. Together with Deniz Feneri and Hudayi Foundation, they sent a cargo plane full of medical utilities to the Palestine. Moreover, DWW Turkey sent a group of medical doctors, 12 ambulances bought from Egypt were delivered to the authorities. There, they also established a trauma centre. And they sent a truck full of medical equipment in 2008.

Moreover, doctors from Palestine have been trained in Istanbul. DWW Turkey sent a team of surgeons in order to deal with serious cases. Apart from this team, four teams were sent in 2007 and 2008 and they carried out quite a number of operations. In addition, DWW arranged psychological trauma course in Ramallah and Gaza in 2002 after Israeli incursion. DWW is also planning another course in Gaza and Hebron in the near future²⁴⁴. They sent a ferry with full of medical

²⁴² WHO and UNAIDS announce recommendations from exper consultation on male circumcision for HIV prevention, available at: <http://www.who.int/hiv/mediacentre/news68/en/index.html> (16.01.2010).

²⁴³ Pakistan: Doctors Worldwide resconstructs first BHU in the eartquake region, <http://ocha-gwapps1.unog.ch/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/DPAS-6LBGK8?OpenDocument> (17.01.2010).

²⁴⁴ Palestine, <http://www.doctorsworldwide.org/projects/palestine/index.shtml> (03.02.2010).

equipment to Lebanon in 2006. In cooperation with Bosnia ISKRE, they held health seminars on preventive health measures. A five person DWW team -including a plastic surgeon, ear-nose-and-throat specialist and anesthesiologist and set out in 2007- made operations in the fields of particularly cleft lip/palate, burn sequellae and hand surgery and gave polyclinic service for about two weeks in Alia Public Hospital, Hebron, Palestine. They made 74 operations within that period.

Within the scope of Palestine smiling children project, Doctors Worldwide went to Hebron and made cleft lip/palate and hypospadias operations with a five person surgery team in 2008.

Doctors Worldwide went to Gaza from Turkey in order to relieve the pain of the sufferers –struggling to survive under heavy bombardment, to understand their pain as their own, to make them feel that they are not ignored and to ascertain and announce the results of the blockade and unbalanced force usage to the world. The 4th phase of Palestine Smiling Children Project, after earlier achieved three times with the aim of treating the children with cleft lip/palate surgically, was lastly carried out in Alia Public Hospital, Hebron, Palestine in 2009.

Within the scope of the just mentioned project, the medical care team composed of 11 persons made operations and gave related trainings during a whole week. Within that period, they made 170 practices, 49 plastic surgeries and 13 angios. Moreover, the 12-person team setting out for the fifth time for Palestinian children with the cooperation between Doctors Worldwide and TİKA (Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency), kept working seven day long.

The team made particularly cleft lip/palate and hypospadias operations, which require specialization, over 100 examinations and 55 operations in Hebron Aliya and Ramallah Public Hospitals, found the opportunity to share their professional specializations and experiments with Palestinian doctors by means of the applications. Last but not the least, six doctors from Palestine were invited to Istanbul and they were given vocational training on trauma.

DWW Turkey organised a campaign and distributed meat to almost 40.000 poor families in Congo, Kenya and Ghana. They operated 85 fistula patients in Niger. Moreover, they operated 183 cataract patients and 16 sick people for general

problems. They have so far organized circumcision campaign, apart from within several cities of Turkey, in Macedonia and Georgia. Nowadays DWW-Turkey is one of the most active branch of the DWW with the help and support of the Turkish community.

3.2.4.2 Activities within Turkey

3.2.4.2.1 Activities in Kars:

Doctors Worldwide Volunteers made health examinations in the Koyunyurdu Village of Kars province. Approximately 150 practices were made and information about general dental care and brushing methods was given by Doctors Worldwide volunteers. Practices around 100 were examined in the specialty of infantile diseases. Patients around 200 were practiced in the polyclinic of internal medicine. A large number of those patients were given the medicine brought together. Prescriptions were written out for unavailable medicine. Specific and follow-up-required patients were directed to hospitals.

Erzurum Province Volunteers of Doctors Worldwide Association relieved the grief of the students and parents of the Ali Kara Elementary School in the activity carried out in cooperation with İstanbul Büyük Çamlıca College, which got aid to Ali Kara Elementary School of Koyunyurdu Village within the scope of Sister School Project²⁴⁵.

3.2.4.2.2. Activities in İstanbul:

Six specialist doctors coming from Palestine attended the courses of Trauma Resuscitation lectures organized by the Turkish Association of Trauma and Emergency Surgery. The six specialist doctors, obtaining a certificate following the four day training, which they attended with the sponsorship of Doctors Worldwide Turkey, turned back to their country so as to give a more qualified and equipped service.²⁴⁶

²⁴⁵ YYD, Activities in Kars <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/yurtici/kars/87-yyd-karsta-saglik-taramasi-yapti.html> (01.06.2010)

²⁴⁶ YYD, Activities in İstanbul <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/yurtici/istanbul/88-filistinden-gelen-uzman-hekimler-travma-resusitasyon-kursuna-katildi.html> (30.05.2010)

DWW-Turkey organized a symposium in 18 August 2007 in İstanbul, titled “Need Assesment” aimed at DWW volunteers and health workers who will take charge in fieldworks so as to observe the requirements and determine appropriate strategies for fieldworks. The symposium –organized for Doctors Worldwide Volunteers and the Members of the Executive Board, was presented by Dr Kani Torun the DWW General Director and Dr Perihan Torun the Public Health Specialist.²⁴⁷

Dr Perihan Torun made a one-hour speech titled “Determination of Public Health Service Requirements”. She stressed that it must be of first priority to decrease deaths in countries such as Africa and this must be ensured on the principle of minimum cost-maximum outturn. She mentioned that the volunteers must search the internet (WHO data) or look into the reports prepared by the previous teams in order to get the required data of the country to be gone, and must have a check list while going to the target region. She discussed the points of detecting the priorities of the community, determination of the fields to which the sources will be poured and that the project must be prepared for the ones getting less benefits from the services. She expressed that a systematical work will be possible upon going to a community whose needs were detected in advance.

These activities carried out by DWW are sort of an evidence of how sensitively the volunteer doctors’ work in the areas they go. The 11-group supported program –organized in İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Florya Social Facilities under the auspices of Kadir Topbaş the Metropolitan Mayor and his wife Özleyiş Topbaş with the aim of supporting the “Obstetric Fistula Treatment Project” titled “Hope Violets” to be carried out in Niger by Doctors Worldwide Association- drew great interest. Doctors Worldwide Association and Hope Violets Project were presented in the program²⁴⁸.

The 9th of Asiye Küçük Circumcision Feasts –which is made intended for the families of Kurfalı district, Kartal/Istanbul with narrow circumstances every year in

²⁴⁷ YYD, Activities in İstanbul <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/yurtici/istanbul/89-yyd-gonullulerine-yonelik-need-assessment-semineri-duzenlendi.html>

²⁴⁸ YYD, Activities in İstanbul <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/yurtici/istanbul/90-yeryuzu-doktorlari-gonulluleri-bulusmasi.html> (02.06.2010)

July and organized by Madam Asiye Küçük and with the attendance of Doctors Worldwide, was made in 19 July 2009²⁴⁹.

3.2.4.2.3 Activities in Şanlıurfa:

Within the frame of “the I. Halil İbrahim Sofrası Social Aid Week Activities” – which is done in Şanlıurfa in 2007 for the first time, Doctors Worldwide made circumcisions of 72 children with the attendance of volunteer urologist doctors from İstanbul²⁵⁰. This activity has been turned to a almost tradition continuing with the circumcisions of 86 child in 2008 and 100 child in 2009²⁵¹.

3.2.4.2.4. Activities in Kırşehir:

Doctors Worldwide made free health examination intended for public in Dulkadirli Town of Kırşehir in 2009. A six-person team, including an Urologist, Internal Diseases Specialist, Eye Diseases Specialist and two persons from Young Doctors Worldwide, was attended to the health examination intended for seven villages in the town. In the health examination to which the town people show great interest, 450 practices were examined and screened in the branches of internal medicine, urology and eye²⁵².

3.2.4.2.5. Activities in İzmir:

Around 1700 Africans from various countries, who entered the country in illegal ways, are struggling to survive under very heavy conditions in the Basmane vicinity of İzmir. With the contributions of Deniz Feneri Association and İnsander (the Association of Human Education, Culture, Aid and İzmir Food Bank), DWW Volunteers got medical aid to the immigrants in need, having been struggling for life under inhuman conditions for nearly one year. Totally six doctors from various branches attended to the health examinations made between 25 and 26 August 2007 on behalf of Doctors Worldwide. A significant number of the immigrants were

²⁴⁹ YYD, Activities in İstanbul <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/yurtici/istanbul/139-9asiye-kucuk-sunnet-soleni.html> (02.06.2010)

²⁵⁰ YYD, Activities in Şanlıurfa; <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/yurtici/sanliurfa/92-yyd-sanliurfa-halil-ibrahim-senliklerinde-2007-.html> (01.06.2010)

²⁵¹ YYD, Activities in Şanlıurfa; <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/yurtici/sanliurfa/94-yyd-urfa-hibrahim-senliklerinde-2009-.html> (01.06.2010)

²⁵² YYD, Activities in Kırşehir; <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/yurtici/kirsehir/141-kirsehirde-saglik-taramasi.html> (30.05.2010)

practiced and 40 children between the ages of 0-5 were vaccinated with DBT-POLIO-HIB 5-component-mixed vaccine²⁵³.

²⁵³YYD, Activities in Izmir; <http://www.yeryuzudoktorlari.org/faaliyetler/yurtici/izmir/142-yyd-izmirde-saglik-taramasi-yapti-.html> (28.05.2010)

CONCLUSIONS

The case of DWW examined in this study demonstrates that NGOs work at local level and international level helps reduce poverty. In order to support the poor on social and economical level, DWW provides health services, equipments, volunteers, and training for the local doctors. With the work of the DWW as explained above, the health conditions of the poor have been getting better considering the number of the people who benefited from the services provided by DWW.

Poverty is a global issue, as stated before; poverty can be dealt with local, national and international efforts. To this end, the most effective solution can be found with absolute international efforts. That DWW is a transnational NGO grabbed my attention. Although DWW does not seem an NGO only and restirictively struggling against poverty, it is seen that DWW is carrying out activities in order to fight against poverty as stated in the objectives and activities of DWW.

There are two most important reasons for choosing this NGO.

1. It is a transnational NGO within the context of a global issue and it is an example of globalization as we see in its activities and as it carries out activities all over the world.
2. It is observed that DWW carries out a good deal of similar activities done by other NGOs; however, what makes DWW different from other NGOs is that DWW performs activities in medical field in particular where other NGOs struggling against poverty could not reach exculsively within the general context of struggling against poverty.

As a matter of fact, DWW's works may be regarded as a great contribution to relief and rehabilitation especially to post conflict areas. Taking into account their experience and the capacity, poverty will be reduced increasingly with the contribution of the DWW in the future. While poverty continues to be existing, DWW would devote its work not only for emergency aid in post conflict and post war areas, but also for long-lasting health care, prevention of transmitted diseases.

DWW Turkey acts in particular, at the local level and international level. This enables DWW Turkey to carry out more effective poverty reduction programmes in Turkey. The activities of the DWW Turkey aim at reducing urban poverty, besides rural poverty. Therefore, it contributes great amount for reducing poverty in urban and rural areas. We intentionally mentioned “types of poverty” in the beginning of this study because DWW struggles against almost all types of poverty. I will explain it with the following examples.

DWW struggles against almost all types of poverty which were explained in the previous chapters. For instance: absolute poverty: "a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to social services." We can see that health is a basic human need for living in a good condition, if we look at the activities of DWW, we can understand that DWW struggles against absolute poverty because DWW makes people healthy and gives medical care.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, the definition of human poverty is the denial of choices and opportunities for leading a tolerable life; this includes lack of choices and opportunities in one's life which are the basis of human development, such as: living long, being healthy, receiving medical care and treatment when required, being educated, living in freedom and etc. It does not depend on income level or having enough food to live, but lack of good living standards. At this point, according to human poverty definition, we can see that DWW struggles against human poverty, again, with making people healthy and giving medical care.

The third type of poverty is ‘urban and rural poverty’ together. Here when we look at the activities of DWW, we can see that they make activities in both urban and rural areas. The urban poor experience much abstinence. Access to sufficient employment and health and education services are very limited. Like urban poverty, rural poverty also has a multidimensional character. IMF indicates that “in almost all countries, the conditions—in terms of personal consumption and access to education, health care, potable water and sanitation, housing, transport, and communications—

faced by the rural poor are far worse than those faced by the urban poor”. As mentioned above, urban and rural poverty are also subject of DWW.

Another important point regarding the DWW Turkey is to work in cooperation with other Turkish NGOs such as Deniz Feneri. Cooperation provides spreading their work in all over the world and prevents overlap of the activities. Otherwise, different NGOs could carry out activities in the same areas. Even if DWW, the specific case study of this study, does not seem as an NGO directly struggling against poverty like Deniz Feneri, one of other NGOs I mentioned before, it is an NGO combating against poverty in particular within the context of medicine and medical relief.

On the other hand having problems about some issues such as getting visa, having security matters, having financial problems and etc are important issues for an NGO. According to the researches about DWW, we can see that they don't live such problems, the only noticeable problem they frequently face can be said that the demand to their activities by poor people has almost everywhere been higher than they expected. But the volunteers of DWW seem to see it not really a problem but indeed a further motive to work more enthusiastically to help those people that are in dire need of their medical relief from all over the world.

Even though, DWW is a service based NGO on health issues, beside aid programmes, DWW carries out advocacy work at the national and international level, It has the capacity to do that. Since the resources of the DWW are limited, DWW should try to put pressure on the decision makers in order to adopt more effective anti poverty reduction programmes, to allocate more money and human resources for poverty reduction programmes. Furthermore, in order to provide involvement of more volunteers, they should make their work more apparent in the eyes of the public. Volunteer staff of the DWW has to deal with quite a number of beneficiaries while they are on the field. Thus, more volunteer would enable them to deal with more beneficiaries in the developing countries. Same effort is also needed for further fund raising. Thanks to the generous donations from people and companies, and the laws that ensure tax exemption for donations; DWW can continue its work on poverty alleviation in better way.

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