



SUBMISSION TO THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

I. INTRODUCTION

KIMSE YOK MU (hereinafter “KYM”) is an international humanitarian relief program founded in January 2002 who successfully provided humanitarian relief to more than 100 countries with more than 220,000 volunteers operating on yearly budget of 80 million US dollars.

II. KYM’S SUCCESS IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS

KYM has successfully implemented humanitarian programs for humanitarian aid, educational programs, medical assistance and sustainable infrastructure development to refugees, built and renovated hospitals, schools and orphanages; and provided healthcare and cash assistance relief.

KYM partnered with UNHCR and the Japanese government for Syrian refugees in Turkey’s Hatay and collaborated with the Presidency of Kyrgyzstan and other projects in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda providing construction and renovation of a dormitory for orphans.

KYM received numerous national and international awards in recognition of its humanitarian activities including the Turkish Assembly Outstanding Service Award in 2008; Holding United Nations ECOSOC Special Consultancy Status, UN Global Compact and Clinton Global Initiative membership and worked with or partnered with 140 various partners within the United Nation, countries, governments, GOs and NGOs and the African Union and were a voting member of CIVICUS and selected as one of the world’s best 100 NGOs by nonprofit Global Geneva.



III. PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY KYM

Humanitarian aid programs

KYM supported and registered more than 300,000 needy families in Turkey and implemented 30 Kindness Centers providing costless clothes for needy families and implemented Sister Family Projects.

Humanitarian aid for refugees

KYM has worked with UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency) providing cash assistance to 2.825 families or a total of 16.750 refugees; assisted more than 100.000 Syrian refugees in Turkey; implemented mobile soup kitchens and served hot meals daily to 4.000 refugees, and implemented education centers in Hatay and Kilis for Syrian refugees.

Development programs healthcare program

KYM successfully built and sustained hospitals in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Haiti where medical professionals performed more than 46.600 cataract surgeries and provided eye examinations to more than 550.000 refugees, and 592 volunteer medical professionals provided 109 medical screenings.

Education program

The African Union Commission partnered with KYM and signed a Memorandum of understanding with the African Union commission in 2015 to provide humanitarian education assistance to Africa to ensure that every child had access to education and particularly children in displaced situations due to conflicts and disasters. As a result, KYM built 35 schools and provided scholarships to 3000 individuals in 2015-2016 and assisted students with school supplies.

Vulnerable children program¹

KYM's humanitarian relief program for vulnerable children successfully built and renovated 30 orphanages in 17 countries which supported more than 20.000 vulnerable or orphaned children throughout 60 countries.

¹ A vulnerable child is defined as being under the age of 18 years and currently at high risk of lacking adequate care and protection. <http://hgsf-global.org/en/ovc/background/263-orphans-and-vulnerable-children-defined>



Clean water program

KYM prioritized the immediate need for clean water in its humanitarian relief as 750 million people have no access to clean water and allocated resources and built water network systems which connect existing water systems to rich water resources providing immediate water to people in need and built 3400 water pumps in 19 countries, including the most severely needed African countries including Kenya which has benefited more than 5 million individuals.

Vocational training program

KYM implemented a Nigerian agricultural training program and trained 200 local Nigerians in efficient agricultural techniques adapted to local climate.²

Vocational training for women empowerment

Women are the most vulnerable refugees whose husbands are dead, missing or imprisoned and are left to look after their children and KYM organized vocational training programs in various countries and provided training including Sewing, Bakery, Tailoring, Carpet Weaving, Culinary Skills, Computer Courses, and Pasta making courses to more than 500 women.

Infrastructure development program

KYM has been effective in infrastructure development and providing construction and improvement services for economic growth including social complexes (schools, hospitals, dormitories, and soup kitchens) in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia and in Pakistan KYM constructed an entire town Pakistan Ikbaliye Town with 296 housing units, schools and small shopping center.

² The current employment figures from the NBS report that the number of unemployed Nigerians stands at 11.19 million or 14.2 per cent. <https://www.theafricancourier.de/opinion-analysis/why-nigeria-desperately-needs-to-bring-back-vocational-training/>



IV. KYM'S FORCED CLOSURE

In 2013 the Turkish government initiated unexpected audits on KYM targeted to put pressure on the organization and directed by President Mr. Erdogan which was fueled by his paranoia and insecurity at KYM's success.

KYM lost its right to collect donations which was critical for their survival and in violation of their right through the Cabinet Decree which forced it to seek government permission before each fundraising event. Ongoing audits were conducted that lasted months and KYM was forced to provide voluminous documents which were scrutinized by inspectors who fabricated false and defamatory reports against KYM. When inspectors were unable to find any illegal activities they made them up and a notice was sent by Chief Public Prosecutor's office in Ankara accusing KYM as being an illegal organization although they found no evidence to support the accusations or findings, and refused to provide KYM with the reports grossly hindering KYM's humanitarian efforts.

On October 9, 2014, the Ministry of the Interior notified KYM via the Governor of Istanbul to terminate all of KYM's relief efforts and froze bank accounts without judicial approval or legal justification. Telephone communication was shut off forcing donations to cease. KYM and its branches were inspected and raided by the police and board directors were arrested without evidence or legal cause.

In addition, the Turkish Government violated the Freedom of Information Act as KYM's attorneys were denied access to case files .

Despite the judicial proceeding brought by KYM, the government announced a state of emergency and removed KYM board of directors on July 22, 2016 .

On July 23, 2016 KYM was permanently shut down by a decree of State of emergency.

It is totally unacceptable and a clear violation of human rights putting KYM staff, volunteers and donators behind bars when once KYM was a legal organization who partnered and worked with international organizations. How can donators be criminals by merely donating to KYM?