



SUNA'NIN KIZLARI

Suna'nın Kızları aims first pilot in Şanlıurfa

The Suna'nin Kizlari (SK) team headed to Şanlıurfa to launch the first pilot of its collective impact effort to increase girls' schooling in the city and its five neighbourhoods.

In a recent trip to the historic border city of Şanlıurfa, the SK team and the Board of Directors met with various NGOs, local officials, teachers, and young girls and mothers. In order to facilitate the community-led efforts to empower girls, Suna'nin Kizlari also secured important bureaucratic and legal infrastructural frameworks in the city.

Launched by İpek Kiraç to pursue her mother's legacy to provide education for every child in Türkiye, SK focuses on the needs of girls (0-18) who do not have access to services supporting their developmental needs; and, while doing so, it aims to create solutions that will benefit both girls and boys.

İpek Kiraç, together with the Governor of Şanlıurfa, Mr. Salih Ayhan, signed an MoU that will enable SK and its community partners to pursue empowerment programs, specifically aimed at teachers and parents in the five neighbourhoods of the Eyyubiye province.

Governor Ayhan, thanked İpek Kiraç for bringing her late mother, Suna Kirac's, name and efforts of positive social change and support to disadvantaged populations to the city and stressed the need to act decisively and collectively to solve the problems regarding girls' education. Governor Ayhan also expressed his own passion to increase literacy rates in the region by distributing 10.000 books every month.

"We have a child population that is more than the total population of certain cities in Turkey, even in Europe. So every step taken towards improving girls' education, to empower them to reach their full potential, is priceless", Ayhan said.

İpek Kiraç underlined the importance of local solutions and local leadership in tackling society's big problems. "It would be unfair and incorrect to push for interventions from Istanbul to Şanlıurfa. Our aim at Suna'nin Kizlari is to bring together the local forces, local ideas and local energy, while adding that final missing piece to the puzzle and pushing for that final step", she added.

NGOs WILL BE INVITED

The SK team and the Board of Directors then met with local opinion leaders and various NGOs at the TEGV Sevgi and Erdogan Gönül Education Park in Şanlıurfa.

In its first pilot, SK will be working with local NGOs to create local “school” and “neighbourhood” circles, purpose-driven task forces that will collaborate in various ways to improve collectively set goals in their respective areas of focus.

İpek Kiraç and SK also visited and listened to girls in the nearby village of Giyimli village. The village, though not too far from the city itself, the village has the lowest rate of girls’ schooling after middle school. The team also met with women who were forced into early marriage.

To learn about our Collective impact approach and our Solution Circles:

<https://www.sunaninkizlari.org/en/solution-and-support-circles.html>

