



SUNA'NIN KIZLARI

2024 Annual Report



Suna Kiraç's Legacy

Suna Kiraç left a lasting legacy not only in the business world but also in education and civil society, thanks to her powerful vision, tireless dedication, discipline, unwavering commitment to her values, and ability to get to the heart of complex problems.

When she said, "I have ideals longer than my lifetime," she knew thousands of others shared the same dreams and were ready to help make them real. Her work showed us that the solution is never about one person or one institution. What truly matters is building an ecosystem together.

She helped lay the foundation for some of Türkiye's most important educational and civil society institutions throughout her life. She led the establishment of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, Koç School, Koç University, the Education Volunteers Foundation of Türkiye (TEGV), and the Suna and İnan Kiraç Foundation.

Suna'nın Kızları began its journey to carry forward Suna Kiraç's legacy and contribute to the realization of the dreams she held for children. It works to build a future where every child is emotionally and physically safe, where no child is left behind from school or play, where children have a voice when it comes to decisions about their own lives, and where they are supported in pursuing their dreams.

“

Economic hardship can be overcome.

Political crises can be resolved.

But a society that has failed its children cannot be repaired.””

Suna Kiraç



The journey of Suna'nın Kızları began with my desire to honor the memory of my mother, Suna Kır  , a devoted advocate for education, and my dream of a T  rkiye where no girl is left out of school. With the civil society organizations and partners who believed in this dream and joined our circles, we have built a strong solidarity network in just three years, striving to create safe spaces for children in every sense.

At a time when the world is going through difficult days, my mother's words, "We make our plans not according to the heavy fog ahead, but to the bright horizons beyond it," continue to give me hope that we can build a freer world for girls.

This report in your hands outlines the work carried out in 2024 by Suna'nın Kızları, a collective impact initiative inspired by that very belief.

In 2024, in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services, we increased the number of Children's Hubs we established in the earthquake zone to five. These hubs were designed to provide safe and supportive learning environments for children.

Each hub supports an average of six hundred children annually. The measurable impact these hubs have had on children's well-being has demonstrated that the model works and should be expanded.

While continuing to build spaces that meet children's needs, we also worked to transform all environments where children spend time into safe and nurturing ones. In partnership with the Şanlıurfa Governor's Office, we continued our efforts to create Neighborhoods Supporting Children.

Following our neighborhood and school-based programs, we established our Local Community, which brings together public and civil society representatives, as well as our Teachers Community, made up of dedicated volunteer educators. We signed a new cooperation protocol with the Hatay Governor's Office to expand our Neighborhoods Supporting Children to the province of Hatay in 2025.

We held the second cycle of our Summer Institute, a program designed to empower girls and help them build lifelong skills, increasing the number of female graduates to eighty.

I believe that our growing alumni community will play an essential role in shaping the future of Suna'nın Kızları, a movement of solidarity that will be carried from generation to generation.

2024 was also a year of learning from the experience we gained over the past three years. It was the year we shaped our 2025-2027 Strategic Plan and defined our change and program goals. With this report, I am proud to share the new roadmap of Suna'nın Kızları with you.

I would like to thank all the partners, first and foremost the civil society organizations, but also the public institutions and private sector representatives, who have supported this growing network formed around the dream of a world where all children, especially girls, can live freely and safely.

İpek Kır  

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Suna'nın Kızları Team Structure

Steering Committee

İpek Kırış
Ayşe İnan
Prof. Dr. Bülent Gültekin
Erdal Yıldırım
Prof. Dr. Murat Günel
Oya Ünlü Kızıl
Özalp Birol

Suna'nın Kızları Team

Burcu Gündüz Maşalacı
(General Coordinator)
Dr. Ahu Özyurt
(Corporate Relations and Fundraising Coordinator)

Dr. Ayşel Madra Altınordu
(Research Coordinator)

Ceylan Tokcan
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Melda Akbaş
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Duygu Batık
(Deputy General Coordinator)

Bediz Gürel
(Programs Manager)

Gözde Şekercioğlu
(Fundraising Manager)

Mehmet Veysi Erdem
(Neighborhoods Supporting Children Project Manager)

Sidar Yavuz
(Children's Hubs Field Manager)

Yağmur Pal
(Community Manager)

Betül Sarı
(Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist)

Burcu Kutlu
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Can Ulusoy
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Gaye Polat Taşpınar
(Digital Communications Specialist)

Gizem Çiftçi
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Kader Çiloğlu
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Adıyaman - Altınşehir Children's Hubs

Esra Nur Üçer - Şehriban Çelik
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Fadime Temel Karlılar
(Program Specialist)

Gülşah Rabia Ermen
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Berfin Hanalp
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Kader Çetintaş
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Hatay - Güzelburç Children's Hubs

Ezgi Alkan
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Ezgi Topal
(Program Specialist)

Zeynep İlayda Yüksel
(Program Facilitator)

Gökçe Demirel
(Program Facilitator)

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Hatay - Antakya Children's Hubs

Dilek Bekçi
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Esin Bilgin
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Eylem Nur
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Aziz Koç
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Merve Şan
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Ceren Arslan
(Program Specialist)

Feride Canbek
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Suna and İnan Kırış Foundation Team

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Gamze Bilgili
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(Child Rights Advisor)

Gökçe Baltacı
(Child Safety Advisor)

Prof. Dr. Sedat Benek

Koç University Social Impact Forum

Koç University Independent Evaluation Laboratory

Porta Education and Psychological Counseling

InCommon Fellows

INKA Consulting

CORE Research Institute

Special Thanks for Supporting the Programs

Ebru Sağır

Gülbahar Özişik

Hande Kibar

Hayrettin Özen

Merve Yücel

Nevin Rozerin Eriş

Nurullah Dilek

Pakize Bolat

Semanur Tolay

Yarencan Çingir



Suna'nın Kızları Community



Independent Experts

Barış Sarısoy
(School-Centered Solution Circle)

Selen Yüksel
(Girl-Centered Design Support Circle)

Sanem Bülbül Hüner
(School-Centered Solution Circle)

Thank you

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Tina Achkar

Carol Fixman

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Lenovo Türkiye

Tech To The Rescue

Alpha Age Teknoloji

Ryno Ajans

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Mercure Hotel Altunizade

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Suna'nın Kızları Community in Brief

Suna'nın Kızları, roughly translates as Suna's Daughters, was established by İpek Kırâç under the umbrella of the Suna and İnan Kırâç Foundation to preserve and advance Suna Kırâç's efforts, values, goals, and vision in the field of education.

Focusing on the needs of girls aged 0 to 18 who grow up without access to services that support their development, Suna'nın Kızları works to ensure that all children, especially girls, can thrive emotionally and physically, continue learning without interruption, make time for play and rest, live free from pressure, and participate in decisions that affect their lives.

To achieve these goals, Suna'nın Kızları aims to help build an ecosystem that provides learning opportunities tailored to the developmental needs of girls and supports them in gaining the most from this process. Suna'nın Kızları brings together Solution and Support Circles as part of a systemic change strategy.

Our Strategic Approaches

Suna'nın Kızları works to build ecosystems that supports the capabilities of children, particularly girls. This ecosystem is built through a collective impact that brings together different actors around shared goals. In all of its strategic approaches, Suna'nın Kızları prioritizes girl-centered design and implements working models that are shaped around the unique needs of girls.

The Capability Approach

Suna'nın Kızları adopts the “capability approach” across all of its endeavors. It carries out activities that support the capabilities of all children, with a focus on girls, across five dimensions: physical, social, intellectual, economic, and political.

Developed by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum, the capability approach¹ is a framework that evaluates wellbeing not only through individuals’ resources but also through their freedoms, opportunities, and ability to make choices. This approach offers a strong foundation for understanding children’s well-being and shaping social policies that affect them.

An individual’s well-being is not defined by their resources but by how effectively they can use those resources. This approach shifts the focus from “what we have” to “what we can do.” In other words, the capabilities approach does not aim to give all children equal resources or expect similar outcomes from children in different circumstances. Instead, it seeks to make the opportunities available to them more fair and equitable. Children have the capacity to grow physically, mentally, and

¹Sen, 1979; Nussbaum, 2011.

emotionally from an early stage in their lives. Their capabilities may differ from those of adults, not because they are lacking but because they occupy a different stage of development.

The capability approach encourages us to view children not just as individuals who need protection but as active holders of rights. At the same time, children are not independent political or economic actors. Their well-being often depends on decisions made by adults and the conditions offered by society. When children receive support in ways that reflect their specific needs and circumstances, their capabilities expand.

For this reason, a fair approach to children is only possible by building a system that provides them with the capabilities they need to realize their full potential.

Ecological Systems Theory

Suna'nın Kızları aims to build ecosystems where children are supported throughout their developmental journey by all individuals and institutions they come into contact with.

Developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner, the ecological systems theory explains individual development through dynamic interactions with the surrounding environment. The theory outlines five interconnected systems that shape a child’s development. The microsystem includes the child’s immediate environment, such as family, friends, and school. The mesosystem refers to interactions between those microsystems, such as the relationship between parents and teachers. The exosystem comprises settings that indirectly influence the child, such as workplaces or social services. The macrosystem covers broader factors like cultural values, economic conditions, and societal norms. Lastly, the chronosystem highlights changes in these systems over time and the impact of life events on the child’s development.

Collective Impact

Collective Impact is an approach that emphasizes the importance of coming together to generate shared impact around common goals. It provides a structured method for stakeholders to collaborate effectively.

The collective impact framework comprises five core conditions: a common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and a backbone organization.



Guided by these five conditions, collective impact becomes a journey of learning together, aligning efforts, and integrating actions while also highlighting the values of justice and equity as essential components of systemic transformation.

As the backbone organization, Suna'nın Kızları brings circles together around shared goals and aims to strengthen cross-sector connections to implement joint solutions.

“

I'm part of a circle where, for the first time, an organization is working through the collective impact. From the very beginning, it felt deeply meaningful. There are people from many different fields, and I see them combining their strengths around a shared purpose. We are creating something much greater as everyone's expertise merges.” ”

Circle Participant
Suna'nın Kızları Collective Impact Process Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF)

“

The sense of fulfillment that comes from truly working together is incredibly powerful. We created something in partnership with very different institutions, including ones we had never worked with before.” ”

Circle Participant
Suna'nın Kızları Collective Impact Process Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF)



Girl-Centered Design

Suna'nın Kızları adopts a girl-centered design approach in every field and under all circumstances in which it operates. This approach aims to create inclusive processes that enable girls, who often face limited access to activities, to benefit from programs and projects. Girl-centered design is a process that, based on children's rights, develops solutions for how spaces, institutional policies, programs, and content can be created together with girls for the benefit of girls by considering their unique needs and experiences. It also involves promoting the girl-centered design approach among decision-makers and practitioners. This design is applied to ensure that all girls can access programs, spaces, and activities and that these activities effectively reach the intended group of girls.

Girls face multiple gender-based risks that limit their capabilities throughout their lives. Many are already exposed to risks such as child, early and forced marriage, pregnancy, and physical or emotional abuse. During times of disaster or crisis, the likelihood of being subjected to these risks increases. Designing physically and emotionally safe spaces, programs, and processes that meet the needs and expectations of all children, especially girls, is essential to reducing the negative impact they may experience during such periods.



Areas of Activity

As the supporting entity in the collective impact approach, Suna'nın Kızları carries out the following activities:

Creates Solution and Support Circles: Provides the necessary resources, methods, spaces, and expertise to create digital and physical circles centered on the needs of girls.

Generates Data and Evidence: Supports the development of innovative research methods and content to generate knowledge needed in the field. Builds the infrastructure for impact analyses and monitoring as well as evaluation studies to strengthen practices.

Makes Incubation Investments: Invests in the development of innovative ideas, the adaptation of best practices, and the implementation of pilot programs through collaborations shaped around collective impact.

Develops and Implements Programs: Develops programs, workshops, and seminars to address unmet needs that cannot be incubated within circles. Builds systems to ensure the quality implementation of these programs and coordinates their execution within implementation areas.

Enables Communication: Creates platforms for girls, donors, volunteers, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to engage through impact-based communication. Organizes digital and in-person events and prioritizes the creation of communication channels where girls can express themselves freely.

Runs Campaigns and Conducts Advocacy: Aims to highlight child safety, child participation, and gender equality in communication campaigns. Carries out advocacy efforts to promote the dissemination of best practices for systemic change.

Builds Networks: Works to mobilize investors, donors, and experts to ensure circle stakeholders are supported with the most effective resources. Focuses on developing impact-oriented national and international connections not only among civil society organizations but also between civil society and the private sector.

Makes Scaling Investments: Works to expand the reach of proven solutions to drive permanent and systemic change. Provides consultancy and funding support to strengthen the capacities of practitioners.



OUR VALUES

Rights-Based

We base our actions on the universal standards of human rights, women's rights, and children's rights, aiming to support and protect these rights in practice. We prioritize the needs of marginalized groups by recognizing their specific circumstances and work to develop inclusive and fair policies and services through participatory processes.

Sustainability

We strive to make responsible and proactive decisions that maintain the balance between ecological resilience, economic prosperity, and social equity while minimizing our negative impact. We aim to develop innovative and lasting solutions.

Equality

We work to ensure fairness and justice by systematically identifying and addressing inequalities in access to opportunities, outcomes achieved, and representation.

Equity

We believe all individuals have equal value regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, title, experience, or ability. We aim to create spaces where they can express themselves, be heard, and be considered in decision-making processes.

Transparency and Accountability

We are committed to sharing our decisions, criteria, processes, plans, and activities in a timely, accessible, and understandable manner, together with all relevant information and data. This ensures the effective and purposeful use of resources and supports accountability at every stage.

Suna'nın Kızları in 2024

Continuing its work with 31 civil society and university-based circles within its Solution and Support Circles, Suna'nın Kızları pursued its collective impact efforts throughout 2024. The highlights of the year are summarized below:

As part of its collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services, Suna'nın Kızları expanded the number of Children's Hubs to five by opening two new hubs in Hatay Antakya and Şanlıurfa Harran, with the goal of creating safe and supportive learning environments for children. A total of 438 girls and 233 boys registered at five Children's Hubs in Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Şanlıurfa, completing the Well-Being Program. Over the course of the year, the hubs hosted 913 workshops and activities for children. In container cities and schools near the hubs, 9,634 children and 3,221 adults participated in seminars held under the theme of eliminating child, early, and forced marriage.

Suna'nın Kızları staff working at the Children's Hubs received a total of 50 hours of training of trainers and 250 hours of supervision from the Suna'nın Kızları Programs Team and circle participants. Psychologists at the hubs participated in 19 sessions throughout the year, receiving a total of 28 hours of supervision. To promote safe and enriching social environments at the

neighborhood level, an introductory meeting for public stakeholders of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children was held in March in collaboration with the Şanlıurfa Governorship, covering five neighborhoods across the province.

Under the umbrella of school-based programs, the Social-Emotional Learning Program and the School-Based Child Protection Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), both initiated in 2023, were finalized and delivered through teacher training. A Teachers Community was formed, and regular meetings were held. For neighborhood-based programming in Şanlıurfa, meetings were held with public institutions and civil society organizations to assess children's needs and take stock of existing public services. As a result, the Şanlıurfa Local Community was established and started to convene regularly.

Efforts were also made to expand the Neighborhoods Supporting Children to the province of Hatay in collaboration with the Hatay Governorship. Girl-Centered Design Workshops were held with the participation of the public sector, local government, and civil society representatives. Work began on the Hatay Child-Centered City Map, including stakeholder consultations and data collection, to help support evidence-based decision-making among institutions.

The second cycle of the Summer Institute Program was held in June and July in partnership with the Şanlıurfa Governorship and Koç School. Designed to help girls access safe learning opportunities, support one another as learning companions, collaborate on creative solutions to the challenges they face, and build life-long skills for empowerment, the program brought together 39 girls from the villages of Sugeldi and Giyimli in Harran Şanlıurfa as well as from Koç High School in İstanbul.

The 2023 Summer Institute alumni joined the program planning and implementation process to share their experiences and skills with their younger peers.

The 2023 and 2024 Summer Institute graduates came together in December to participate in a planning workshop for the third Summer Institute, contributing ideas for the new program content.

To address the information needs of practitioners and policymakers, research was conducted and published, accompanied by policy and information briefs. Communication and advocacy campaigns were carried out to raise public awareness regarding children's rights, child safety, child participation, and girl-centered design.

Websites were launched for both the Girl-Centered Design and the Child-Centered City initiatives to monitor girls' specific needs and children's access to public services. The exhibition "Child-Centered City: A Search for Equality" was opened to the public. In collaboration with girls, the social media account Hey Hey We Are Here was launched to produce safe content that is empowering and engaging for girls.

In 2024, the total budget of Suna'nın Kızları amounted to 107,195,396 TL. In addition to core funding, 36,598,419 TL in financial and in-kind contributions were received. Of this, 7,839,820 TL was granted to the circles. All financial and in-kind contributions received were used to establish shared implementation sites for the models and programs developed by the Solution Circles, to ensure their high-quality execution, and to support the development of tools created by the Support Circles.



SOLUTION AND SUPPORT CIRCLES

Neighborhood-Centered Solution Circle

Girl-Centered Solution Circle

Girls Advisory Team

School-Centered Solution Circle

Research Support Circle

Girl-Centered Design Support Circle



The Solution and Support Circles of Suna'nın Kızları are multi-stakeholder groups formed around a shared agenda and common purpose. They combine different areas of expertise and experience, transforming the core strategy into tangible actions and projects. While the Girl-Centered Solution Circle, School-Centered Solution Circle, and Neighborhood-Centered Solution Circle focus on model development, the Girl-Centered Design Support Circle and the Research Support Circle work to address common needs identified in the field.

In 2024, 31 civil society organizations participating in the Suna'nın Kızları Community came together for two in-person meetings. The first meeting in January brought together 35 participants representing 31 organizations. They presented their activities from 2023 and shared their work plans for 2024. The second meeting, in September, welcomed 62 participants who contributed to the development of the Suna'nın Kızları 2025-2027 Strategic Plan.

Possible
Together

Neighborhood-Centered Solution Circle

FOCUS

To develop a community hub model that addresses the holistic developmental needs of girls.

CIRCLE PARTICIPANTS



Independent Experts

Gökçe Baltacı



Summary of Activities by the Neighborhood-Centered Solution Circle in 2024

- Circle participants came together for 16 meetings throughout 2024. Experts dedicated a total of 207 hours to community activities.
- The circle developed a model aimed at mobilizing local resources and relevant stakeholders based on the needs of neighborhood residents, especially girls. This model facilitates and coordinates access to various services and programs and is designed to be adaptable to spaces of different sizes and forms. The proposal was shared with the Ministry of Family and Social Services to support the development of regulations for the Children's Hubs.
- As part of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children, an inventory of existing public services was completed for five neighborhoods in Şanlıurfa to strengthen the link between available services and children in the neighborhood.
- Child Safety meetings were held at the Children's Hubs to enhance child safety practices in neighborhood-based efforts and establish a child participation model. In addition, the Child Safety Policy Document was revised.

Budget Allocated for 2024: 400,000 TL



Girl-Centered Solution Circle

FOCUS

To create physical and digital spaces where girls can support one another.

CIRCLE PARTICIPANTS



Summary of Activities by the Girl-Centered Solution Circle in 2024

- Circle participants came together for 18 meetings throughout 2024. Experts dedicated a total of 264 hours to community activities.
- With guidance from the Girls Advisory Team, the circle launched the Hey Hey We Are Here Instagram account and began creating content to establish a safe and supportive digital space for girls.
- The circle implemented a joint training of trainers program to ensure that the Empowerment Through Movement program developed by BoMoVu, the ToGether program developed by the Bağ Association, and the Child Rights Program developed by ÇOÇA could be delivered in shared implementation areas as complementary activities.
- In partnership with AÇEV, Girl Power training sessions were launched with the participation of 25 girls from Sugeldi village, graduates of the 2024 Summer Institute.
- In preparation for the launch of girl communities planned for 2025, the community worked with the Girls Advisory Team to develop community-building processes, shared principles of collaboration, and strategies for sustainability and inclusion. It facilitated the annual in-person meeting of the Girls Advisory Team as well as coordinated the regular online meetings and the ongoing work of the Motivation, Social Media and Podcast Working Groups, ensuring all sessions were documented and reported.

Budget Allocated in 2024: 3,427,320 TL



Girls Advisory Team

The Girls Advisory Team was established with the support of Bilgi ÇOÇA to hear directly from girls about their needs and experiences and to implement a meaningful and sustainable child participation process within Suna'nın Kızları.

The aim is to utilize the insights gained from the Girls Advisory Team and the contributions of the participating girls to develop a model for girl communities that will be employed across all implementation sites.

The Girls Advisory Team, made up of 24 girls from nine different cities, including Adıyaman, Ankara, Giresun, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Şanlıurfa, and Van, contributes to the work of Suna'nın Kızları through their ideas and creative input.

Scan the QR code to watch the Girls' Advisory Team Ankara meeting film.



Scan the QR code for the Hey Hey We Are Here Instagram account.



School-Centered Solution Circle

FOCUS

To develop a model that supports girls in realizing their full potential at school and removes the barriers they face.

CIRCLE PARTICIPANTS



Independent Experts

Barış Sarısoy

Sanem Bülbül Hüner



Summary of Activities by the School-Centered Solution Circle in 2024

- Circle participants came together for 16 meetings throughout 2024. Experts dedicated a total of 168 hours to community activities.
- As part of the Şanlıurfa Neighborhoods Supporting Children, a training of trainers session for the Social-Emotional Learning Program was held with volunteer teachers.
- In coordination with the Şanlıurfa Governorship and with facilitation provided by the Nirengi Association, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was finalized to strengthen the school-based child protection system and promote a preventative and protective approach against abuse. Training sessions were offered to teachers and school administrators.
- With facilitation by KODA, the first Teachers Community was established under the Şanlıurfa Neighborhoods Supporting Children, and circle meetings began.
- Play-Based Education, Creative Drama, and Nonviolent Communication workshops were held with the participation of the Teachers Community.
- A pilot training for the Preventive and Protective Support Program developed by the Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation (TAPV) was conducted.

Budget Allocated in 2024: 456,000 TL



Research Support Circle

FOCUS

To generate knowledge regarding the needs of girls, the barriers they face, and potential solutions, and to develop research methods that empower children.

CIRCLE PARTICIPANTS



Summary of Activities by the Research Support Circle in 2024

- Circle participants came together for 22 meetings throughout 2024. Experts dedicated a total of 268 hours to community activities.
- In partnership with the FİSA Children's Rights Center, the Guide to Ethical Principles in Research Involving Children was published.
- In collaboration with Needs Map for technical support and TESEV for data analysis expertise, the community developed and launched the Child-Centered City digital platform, which enables neighborhood-level mapping of educational institutions and out-of-school support services for children in Istanbul.
- Together with TESEV, the Child-Centered City Map: Mapping and Analysis Process and Case Examples Report was published.
- To initiate the mapping of public services in Hatay, field visits were carried out and data collection activities were launched.
- At the Istanbul Research Institute, the exhibition Child-Centered City: A Search for Equality was opened, featuring maps from the platform alongside workshop outputs reflecting children's perspectives on their neighborhoods.



Scan the QR code to access the Child-Centered City digital platform.



Budget Allocated in 2024: 2,356,500 TRY

Girl-Centered Design Support Circle

FOCUS

To explore how spaces, programs, and activities can be developed with girls for girls based on principles of child safety and child participation.

CIRCLE PARTICIPANTS



Independent Experts

Selen Yüksel



Summary of Activities by the Girl-Centered Design Support Circle in 2024

- Circle participants came together 17 times throughout 2024. Experts dedicated a total of 186 hours to community activities.
- With support from EMpower, the community developed and launched the Girl-Centered Design digital platform to guide the Girl-Centered Design approach, which prioritizes girls' unique needs and expectations in the design of spaces, institutional policies, programs, and content. The guide's content was developed by the Urban Detectives Initiative, Flying Broom Women's Communication and Research Association, and independent expert Selen Yüksel.
- Translations of international resources and publications aimed at strengthening girls' skills were completed and made publicly accessible to support the field.
- As part of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children, Girl-Centered Design Workshops were held in Hatay with representatives from civil society, public institutions, and local governments to contribute to the inclusive and equitable reconstruction of the city.
- The circle contributed to and participated in the Girl-Centered Program Design for Resilient and Inclusive Circles workshop, led by Judith Bruce from the Population Council and Fatima Khaddour from Basmeh & Zeitooneh.
- A training of trainers session for PERGEL 2.0 was held with the participation of middle school counselors from Şanlıurfa and instructors from İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Neighborhood Houses. A total of 59 children benefited from the program implemented in Harran, Şanlıurfa.



Scan the QR code to access the Girl-Centered Skills Development report.

Budget Allocated in 2024: 1,200,000 TL



IMPLEMENTATION INVESTMENTS

Neighborhoods Supporting Children

Children's Hubs

Summer Institute

Hey Hey We Are Here



Neighborhoods Supporting Children

In 2022, Suna'nın Kızları selected Şanlıurfa as a pilot region to help build ecosystems that ensure girls can access educational opportunities that meet their developmental needs and complete their learning journeys with the highest possible gains.

In collaboration with the Governorship of Şanlıurfa, the Neighborhoods Supporting Children was launched in the Onikiler, Selçuklu, Türk Meydanı, and Yenice neighborhoods of the Eyyübiye district, as well as in the Süleymaniye neighborhood of the Haliliye district.

Following an introductory meeting held in March for the Neighborhoods Supporting Children, a comprehensive mapping of services and needs assessment was conducted through collaboration between public institutions, local government, and civil society organizations. Based on the findings, school-based and neighborhood-based programs were launched to address identified issues using community-centered approaches.

As part of the school-based programs, teacher training sessions were held for the Social-Emotional Learning Program developed by KODA, ÖRAV, and TEGV. In partnership with the Nirengi Association, the School-Based Child Protection Support System - Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was finalized, and teacher training was completed.

A Teachers Community was established with the support of KODA, and regular meetings began. Within the scope of school-based programs, the community aims to train 30 teachers as facilitators and build the capacity of 300 teachers to identify and respond to child protection risks in a timely manner.

As part of the neighborhood-based programs, the Şanlıurfa

Local Community was formed with the voluntary participation of public institutions, civil society, and local government representatives familiar with the region's dynamics. With the facilitation and support of InCommon, the circle began holding regular meetings.

Work began to implement the Neighborhoods Supporting Children in the province of Hatay, in collaboration with the Governorship of Hatay and with support from Turkish Philanthropy Funds. Girl-Centered Design Workshops were held with the participation of the public sector, local government, and civil society representatives. Consultations began for the development of the Child-Centered City Map in Hatay, which aims to support data-informed decision-making by institutions.

Why Şanlıurfa?

According to the Ministry of National Education's Formal Education Statistics 2023-2024, the Southeastern Anatolia Region has the lowest female secondary school enrollment rate among all regions, at 80.2%. Şanlıurfa has the second lowest rate within this region, with only 71.3% of girls enrolled in secondary education. Şanlıurfa is also among the provinces with the highest rates of child, early, and forced marriage. According to the Marriage and Divorce Statistics published by TURKSTAT, in 2024, the provinces with the highest number of child marriages were Gaziantep, where 979 girls were married, and Şanlıurfa, where 800 girls were married. Also, in 2024, Şanlıurfa had the highest rate of consanguineous marriage among all marriages, at 16.9%.



Children's Hubs

Children's Hubs were established in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services as well as civil society organizations participating in the Suna'nın Kızları Community. Their purpose is to create safe and supportive spaces for children in earthquake-affected areas and to ensure that the specific needs of girls, along with the needs of all children, are prioritized during the reconstruction process.

Thanks to the five Children's Hubs established in Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Şanlıurfa, civil society organizations were able to work collaboratively and in coordination with the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

At the Children's Hubs, children take part in Suna'nın Kızları's ten-session Well-Being Program, where they explore the question "How do we want to live and learn together?" and collaborate to create a community agreement. This agreement is shaped through an inclusive decision-making process in which every child's voice is heard.

Children who complete the Well-Being Program and register at the hubs can then participate in additional programs carried out by the Suna'nın Kızları Community, including workshops led by trainers or peer facilitators based on the children's interests. They spend time in safe spaces such as the cafeteria, quiet room, and workshop room and can meet with the hub psychologist if needed.

In 2024, a total of 438 girls and 233 boys registered at the Children's Hubs. Over the course of the year, 913 programs, workshops, and activities were organized for children at the hubs.

With support from UNICEF, outreach efforts were carried out around the Children's Hubs, reaching 9,743 children and 3,244 adults through awareness and informational seminars on the prevention of child, early, and forced marriage.



Through the Eyes of Children: Children's Hubs

“

I used to be a very quiet person and didn't like to talk at all. Here, we're always encouraged to share our feelings and thoughts. Over time, I became someone who enjoys speaking up. It changed me.” ☺☺

Hülya A., age 14

“

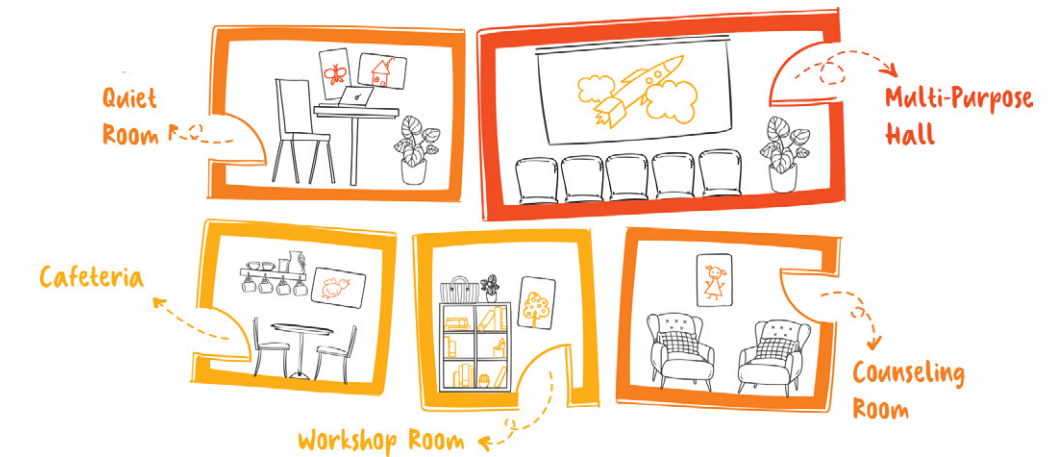
I'm excited to come here when I wake up in the morning. My favorite is the quiet room because I get to talk with my friends. We can study together. There are tablets in the quiet room, and we can play games on them.” ☺☺

Necdet Kaan B., age 13

“

I think it has really helped me psychologically. This place makes me feel valued. To me, it represents freedom.” ☺☺

Girl, age 12



Summer Institute

The Summer Institute is designed to help girls access safe learning opportunities, become learning companions to one another, work together to solve the challenges they face, and build lifelong skills that support their empowerment. Organized in partnership with Koç High School and the Governorship of Şanlıurfa, the program brings together girls aged 14 to 18 who lack access to formal education in villages of Şanlıurfa and those currently attending Koç High School in İstanbul. This three-week program, implemented in both Şanlıurfa and İstanbul, includes empowering educational sessions that support girls' holistic development, as well as cultural outings and conversations with female role models under the title "Inspiring Encounters."

The 2024 cycle of the Summer Institute was structured around the Well-Being Program and the Girl-Centered Design Program. It was delivered with the contributions of BoMoVu, AÇEV, TEGV, Pera Museum, Zemberek, and the Urban Detectives Initiative, all participants of the Suna'nın Kızları Solution and Support Circles.

The Summer Institute does not end with the summer. Girls who participate in the program continue throughout the year with Girl Power training, receive ongoing support through regular mentoring sessions, and participate in the annual alumni gathering in Şanlıurfa in December, where they contribute to the design of the next Summer Institute.

The 2024 Summer Institute was held in Şanlıurfa from 8 to 13 June and in İstanbul from 1 to 14 July. A total of 39 girls from the villages of Giyimli and Sugeldi in Şanlıurfa and from Koç High School in İstanbul participated in the second cycle of the program. The 2023 Summer Institute graduates also joined to share their experiences and skills with their younger peers.



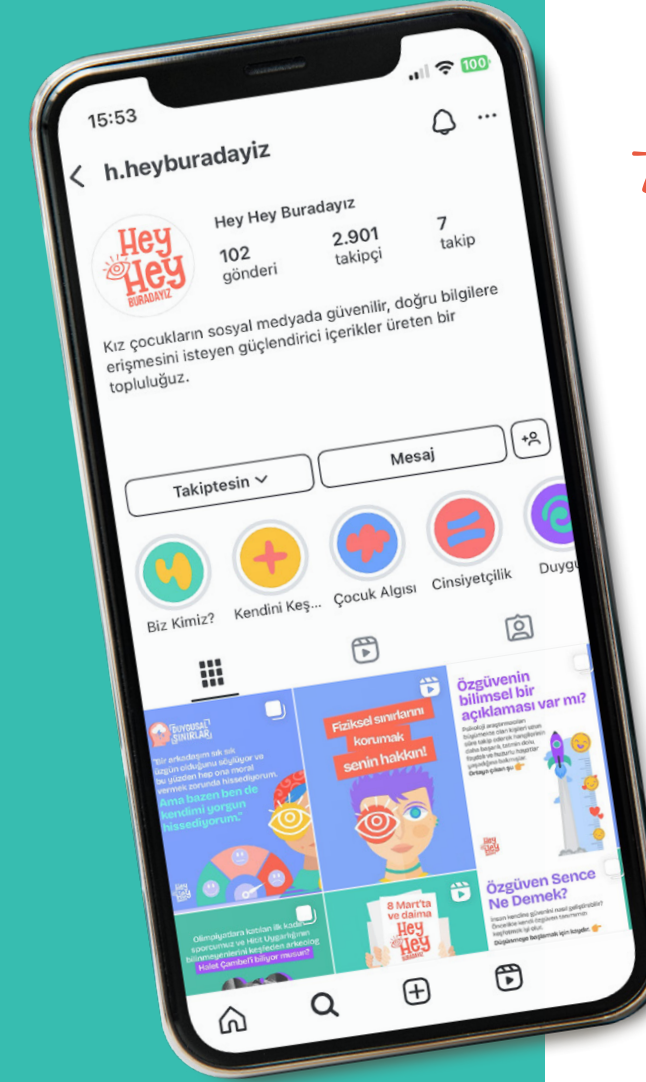
Hey Hey We Are Here

In 2024, the Girl-Centered Solution Circle of Suna'nın Kızları expanded its implementation investments and launched the Hey Hey We Are Here Instagram account to provide girls aged 13 to 18 with access to reliable, empowering, and engaging information as well as content and to contribute resources to the digital space.

The content for Hey Hey We Are Here is developed collectively by experts from AÇEV, Bağ Association, Bilgi ÇOÇA, BoMoVu, and PERGEL (Positive Youth Development). The Suna'nın Kızları Girls Advisory Team chose the account name and regularly provided feedback on its operation, content, and design, contributing to the development of new materials.

In addition to empowering content that girls can use in both digital and physical environments, Hey Hey We Are Here offers posts that support girls' access to reliable and accurate information on social media. Within just five months of its launch, the account had already gained 2,500 followers.

Communication efforts to expand the reach of Hey Hey We Are Here to more girls are ongoing. In the new term, all Suna'nın Kızları community groups are expected to contribute to the content development process.



Scan the QR code to access the Hey Hey We Are Here Instagram account.



PROGRAMS

Child Empowerment Programs

Empowerment Through Movement Program - BoMoVu

Girl Power Program - AÇEV

Well-Being Program

Positive Youth Development Intervention Program - PERGEL

Child Rights Program - Bilgi ÇOÇA

Post-Traumatic Positive Youth Development Intervention Program - PERGEL-T

ToGether Program - Bağ Association

Child Empowerment Workshops

School-Based Programs

Social-Emotional Learning Program - TEGV, KODA, ÖRAV

Preventive and Protective Support Program - TAP Foundation

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Protection Against Abuse - Nirengi Association

Teachers Community Program - KODA

Programs Targeting Neighborhoods, Caregivers and Public Institutions

Local Community Program

Positive Youth Development Intervention Program for Parents - PERGEL-E

Elimination of Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) Program - UNICEF

Girl-Centered Design Workshop

Which Program, Under What Scope?

Neighborhood – Public Sector	Community Hub Model	Local Communities		
School	School-Based Standard Operating Procedure	Social Emotional Learning Program for Teachers	Physical Development in Adolescence	Teachers Community
Household	Positive Youth Development Intervention Program for Parents	Awareness Seminars on the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage	Parent Meetings	Child Advisory Boards and Child Communities
Child	Positive Youth Development Intervention Program (PERGEL)	Post-Traumatic Positive Youth Development Intervention Program (PERGEL-T)	Well Being Program	ToGether Program
	Child Rights Program and Media Workshops	Empowerment Through Movement Program	Girl Power Program	Digital Citizenship
	Peer-to-Peer Learning Program	Our Environment	Girl Centered Design Workshops	Girl Power Program



Child Empowerment Programs

One of the main goals of Suna'nın Kızları is to ensure that girls develop self-efficacy and self-awareness, know their rights, can easily access the mechanisms that protect these rights when needed, and actively participate in decisions concerning their lives. Together with the Girl-Centered Solution Circle, Suna'nın Kızları invests in programs that support girls' empowerment both individually and as a community.

Empowerment Through Movement Program Girl Power Program

BoMoVu

Developed as part of the Girl-Centered Solution Circle, the Empowerment Through Movement Program aims to support facilitators working with girls in civil society organizations regarding the use of movement- and play-based exercises from an empowerment perspective.

Designed by the Association for Body Movement and Sport for Social Empowerment (BoMoVu), the program targets girls aged 15 to 18. It consists of three modules of six sessions each, focusing on topics such as health, boundaries, violence, and discrimination.

In 2024, the training-of-trainers sessions for the program were held with the participation of program facilitators from the Children's Hubs. The program was delivered by BoMoVu trainers at the Children's Hubs and the Summer Institute implementation sites.

AÇEV

The Girl Power Program was developed for girls aged 14 to 18 living in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas with limited access to resources who had dropped out of school or are continuing their education under challenging circumstances. Created by the Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV), the program provides an active, participatory, and collaborative learning environment where girls experience an inclusive educational process. Covering 14 different themes, the program offers training in a wide range of empowerment areas, from mathematics, effective communication, human rights, women's rights, and children's rights to technology use, adolescence, women's health, and resource awareness.

In 2024, 19 girls who graduated from the second cycle of Summer Institute joined the Girl Power Program starting in September and completed all 14 sessions.

Child Empowerment Programs

Well-Being Program

The Well-Being Program was developed as an introductory program for community-based activities as part of Suna'nın Kızları's field implementation. Designed to support the well-being of all children, especially girls aged 12 to 18, and to help them strengthen their connection to the world around them, the program consists of 10 sessions. Thanks to its needs and interaction-based structure, the program can easily be adapted to different groups. It was developed with inspiration from the nonviolent communication approach. Throughout the 10 sessions, children participating in the program learn to express their feelings and needs freely, resolve conflict, and understand conflict as an opportunity for learning. They experience building a learning community that respects the individual boundaries of those participating in the group and the boundaries of those they interact with.

The Well-Being Program is implemented at Children's Hubs and within the Summer Institute. In 2024, 273 girls and 114 boys completed the program at the Children's Hubs, and 39 girls completed it through the Summer Institute.

“

What I love most about the Well-Being Program is that we truly listen to each other. After participating, I became more aware of others and realized that everyone has a different perspective.”

Girl, age 17

What is Well-Being?
Scan the QR code to watch the full video.



CHILD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

Positive Youth Development Intervention Program

PERGEL

PERGEL is an intervention program designed to support social-emotional development in early adolescence. It aims to strengthen children's individual life skills such as self-worth, self-esteem, positivity, and optimism, as well as relational life skills such as autonomous-related self, empathy, social competence, intergroup attitudes, and conflict resolution approaches.

In 2024, the program was implemented in schools in Harran by program facilitators from the Şanlıurfa Children's Hubs, who had completed the training of trainers, and in Neighborhood Houses by instructors from İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality. A total of 73 children benefited from the program.

Child Rights Program

Bilgi ÇOÇA

Initially introduced as Media Literacy Workshops in the Children's Hubs and implemented with 105 children in 2024, the content was later expanded and redesigned as the Child Rights Program. Developed to help children recognize and advocate for their rights and actively participate in society, the program consists of six sessions, each lasting 90 to 120 minutes. It includes activities on themes such as child rights, discrimination, the digital world, and media and aims to enhance children's critical thinking and collaboration skills.

Post-Traumatic Positive Youth Development Intervention Program

PERGEL-T

The PERGEL-T Program is a 15-session intervention designed to provide essential psychosocial support following trauma while also addressing the specific developmental needs of adolescents. The program begins with building individual skills and gradually progresses toward strengthening relational skills. The sessions start with understanding emotions and grief and then move on to explore the concepts of identity and change. They continue with skills such as coping with difficult emotions and stress and also address empathy, communication, strengthening relationships, conflict resolution, recognizing bullying, and strategies for dealing with bullying. Following the training of trainers for PERGEL-T conducted in 2024 by Suna'nın Kızları in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS), the program started to be implemented by MoFSS personnel in Adıyaman, Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, and Hatay, reaching a total of 116 children.

ToGether Program

Bağ Association

ToGether Program is an educational game included in the P-Gendu workshop content, developed by Bağ Interactive Learning Association (Bağ Association) to promote equality-sensitive learning environments. It aims to help all children, regardless of their differences, feel a sense of belonging at school and to reduce peer bullying and stereotypes. The ToGether game is designed to encourage children to get to know themselves and one another, and to act together in solidarity.

In 2024, the Bağ Association delivered a training of trainers for program facilitators working at Children's Hubs, after which the ToGether game was implemented throughout the year in these hubs.

Child Empowerment Programs

Digital Citizenship

Zemberek

This workshop, developed by Zemberek, introduces children to the concept of digital citizenship and aims to raise awareness about internet safety. The workshop encourages children to develop their own safety strategies by discussing how the internet works, digital footprints, personal data sharing, cyberbullying, and phishing. To promote more meaningful use of screen time, children are guided in creating short, creative videos using stop-motion animation and are introduced to basic coding concepts.

Our Environment

Urban Detectives Initiative

Developed by Urban Detectives, this program helps children explore their relationship with their environment by encouraging them to reflect on their senses, the problems they observe, their capacity to imagine new spaces, and their feelings of safety and well-being. Implemented at the Children's Hubs, the workshop aims to help children analyze the characteristics of their neighborhoods from their own perspectives. Through mapping and walking exercises, it identifies areas where children feel safe moving around and the services they can access. The program also examines the emotional dimension of children's connection with spaces, looking at environmental elements such as the play value of an area and its level of safety. The findings are used to determine priority areas for intervention and inform design outputs that contribute to problem-solving.

Photovoice

Selen Yüksel (Facilitator)

Photovoice is a participatory dialogue method that combines photography and storytelling to help children and youth aged 10 to 18 express themselves creatively. The program consists of two sessions of at least three hours each and uses images and narratives to foster self-awareness, encourage collective thinking, and introduce alternative forms of expression. Introduced to Suna'nın Kızları with support from InCommon Fellows, the workshops can be implemented in any setting by trained facilitators and provide children with artistic and powerful ways to share their voices.

Peer to Peer Workshops

This workshop supports children in learning through dialogue with their peers about the challenges they face in daily life. Using the learning material titled "Shall We Talk?", children discover different perspectives, better understand emotions and needs, and strengthen their empathy skills. The workshop aims to help children identify their inner resources and the support systems around them, enhancing their problem-solving, listening, and self-expression abilities.

School-Based Programs

The school-based programs developed by the School-Centered Solution Circle of Suna'nın Kızları were piloted in 2024 as part of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children in Şanlıurfa. These programs aim to enhance teachers' knowledge and skills regarding protective and preventive services for children, strengthen their social-emotional learning capacities, and equip them to identify risks and take action by accessing supportive services.

Social-Emotional Learning Program

TEGV, KODA, ÖRAV

Developed by experts from the Educational Volunteers Foundation of Türkiye (TEGV), the Rural Schools Transformation Network (KODA), and the Teachers Academy Foundation (ÖRAV) who participate in the School-Centered Solution Circle, the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Program aims to help teachers gain a conceptual understanding of social-emotional learning, raise awareness of its impact on children's learning processes, and experience classroom-based practices.

Implemented under the school-based component of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children, the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Program consists of two stages: teacher training and training of trainers.

The program began in 2024 with the participation of school counselors working in Şanlıurfa. Eighteen volunteer counselors who completed the initial training also took part in the training of trainers phase. In 2025, these school counselors are expected to begin providing teacher training for the Social-Emotional Learning Program at their own schools, helping to strengthen their school ecosystems by raising awareness among their colleagues about the importance of social-emotional learning.

The program also served as an introductory course for joining the Şanlıurfa Teachers Community, which was established in collaboration with KODA. Sixteen teachers who completed the program became circle members and continue to benefit from the Teachers Community Program through regular meetings.

Preventive and Protective Support Program

TAP Foundation

The Preventive and Protective Support Program was created by adapting materials developed by the TAP Foundation. The program aims to support children's physical development, provide accurate information about their bodies, and empower them to assert and protect their bodily autonomy and boundaries to prevent neglect and abuse. A pilot training for teachers was conducted as a component of the School-Based Programs model.

School-Based Programs

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Protection Against Abuse

Nirengi Association

In collaboration with the Şanlıurfa Governorship and with contributions from the Şanlıurfa Provincial and District Directorates of National Education, the Directorate of Family and Social Services, the Gendarmerie Command, the Directorate of Health, and the Child Monitoring Unit of the Şanlıurfa Training and Research Hospital, the Nirengi Association developed the School-Based Child Protection Support System - Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

The SOP outlines the steps that teachers are required to follow under the Child Protection Law when they identify a child who may have been subjected to abuse or violence within a school setting. It aims to support teachers in properly implementing the procedure.

The pilot implementation took place in 17 schools across five neighborhoods under the Şanlıurfa phase of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children, with 41 female and 26 male teachers participating. Efforts are ongoing to deliver training and scale the implementation of the SOP across all schools in the province.



Teachers Community Program

KODA

As part of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children, the Teachers Community was established in Şanlıurfa in collaboration with the Rural Schools Transformation Network (KODA). The community consists of volunteer teachers committed to making schools within children's ecosystems more supportive and nurturing. To join the community, teachers must first complete the Social-Emotional Learning Program. Once enrolled, they participate in shared learning spaces where they exchange experiences and support each other's professional and personal growth.

The first Teachers Community meeting was held in November 2024 with the participation of 16 volunteer teachers. Program themes were determined based on the teachers' needs and included creative drama and play-based learning, nonviolent communication, family engagement, and well-being activities. Programs were launched to strengthen teachers' skills in these areas and help them foster transformative practices within their schools.

“

I believe we'll be able to communicate more effectively with students aware of their emotions.” ”

“

It rekindled the idealism we had when we started teaching. It helped us shake off the inertia and taught us to look to the future with hope.” ”

Programs Targeting Neighborhoods, Caregivers and Public Institutions

According to research, while household income and parental education level are determining factors for child poverty, the presence of an ecosystem in the surrounding environment that can offset these risks plays a crucial role in shaping what children can achieve in life. In addition to their household's socio-economic status, the level of support provided by their environment significantly influences children's opportunities and potential. Suna'nın Kızları adopts a community-based approach at the local level and works in collaboration with key neighborhood stakeholders to ensure that the needs of children in their own communities are taken into account.

Local Community Program

As part of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children, Suna'nın Kızları launched efforts to support the development of local models and programs led by community members to better support children. With the support of the Governorship of Şanlıurfa and in collaboration with InCommon, the Şanlıurfa Local Community was established and held its first meeting in November 2024.

The Şanlıurfa Local Community, composed of representatives from public institutions, local governments, and civil society organizations, began to generate project ideas to address children's most pressing needs in neighborhoods. These ideas emerged from a series of sessions focused on collaboration, needs assessment, root cause analysis, indicator setting, and project management.

The community began designing projects in Şanlıurfa to support children of seasonal agricultural workers in overcoming learning loss; to establish a child office that will actively support children's access to public services; to develop educational programs that promote the psychosocial empowerment of women; to provide parental education and counseling services; and to create workshops that support

mothers and daughters. In 2025, efforts will begin to secure public partnerships and financial resources to implement these projects.

The Şanlıurfa Local Community includes representatives from the Şanlıurfa Governorship, Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services, Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports, Şanlıurfa Provincial Mufti's Office, Şanlıurfa Provincial Health Directorate, Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality Department of Youth and Sports Services, the Disability Coordination Center, various municipalities, Harran University, and civil society organizations.



Positive Youth Development Intervention Program for Parents

PERGEL-E

PERGEL-E was designed to help parents and early adolescents develop the required skills to cope with challenges. The program includes nine modules organized under three main themes: Academic Success, Relationships in the Digital World, and Mutual Expectations. Each theme consists of three sessions. In 2024, 24 adults and 24 children participated in the program, which was implemented by Children's Hubs teams who had completed the training of trainers.

Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) Program

UNICEF

Launched in 2023 in collaboration with UNICEF, the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) Program continued in 2024 with awareness-raising and empowerment seminars. These seminars covered topics such as recognizing oneself and the environment, healthy growth and development, future planning, and ways to combat child marriage. Over two years, the program reached a total of 10,504 children, including 5,966 girls and 4,538 boys.

Informational and empowerment seminars for parents addressed topics such as effective communication, sexual and reproductive health, violence against women, and child marriage. These sessions reached 3,102 mothers and 290 fathers.

Programs Targeting Neighborhoods, Caregivers and Public Institutions

Girl-Centered Design Workshop

Suna'nın Kızları believes that access to educational opportunities that meet girls' developmental needs and help them complete the learning process with the highest possible outcomes is only possible through child participation and girl-centered design. With this in mind, Suna'nın Kızları developed the Girl-Centered Design Workshop to support field implementation and to be carried out in partnership with public stakeholders involved in designing services and content for children. The program includes reflection, design, and implementation processes to explore how spaces, programs, and activities can be developed with and for girls, based on the principles of girl-centered design, child safety, and child participation.

In 2024, the workshop was held in Hatay as part of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children and brought together 14 public sector professionals and 20 civil society representatives.



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

A Girl-Centered Perspective on Life in
Container Cities - Report

Guide to Ethical Principles in Research
Involving Children

Toward a Resilient Future: Earthquakes and
Education - Child- and Youth-Centered Work in
Türkiye - Workshop Report

Mapping and Analysis Process Report with
Case Examples

Findings from the Our Environment
Monitoring Workshop

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment Studies
of the Suna'nın Kızları Collective Impact Initiative



A Girl-Centered Perspective on Life in Container Cities - Report

Following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes, Suna'nın Kızları intensified its fieldwork in the cities directly affected by the disaster and published its third earthquake report. This report focuses on the physical and emotional well-being, needs, and living conditions of children residing in temporary accommodation areas from a girl-centered perspective.

As a continuation of the monitoring process initiated in the first two reports, this third edition aims to assess life in temporary shelters through children's eyes, guided by the principles of girl-centered design. Two years after the earthquakes, it gathers girls' perspectives on changes brought about by communal living and the reopening of schools, their level of participation in daily decision-making, and their hopes and plans for the future.



Scan the QR code to read the full report.

Guide to Ethical Principles in Research Involving Children

Although children are often positioned as subjects in civil society research on childhood and children's issues, they are typically included only as data providers from the perspective of adults. However, enabling children to go beyond being a target audience and take part actively and meaningfully in every stage of research, from planning to reporting, not only improves the quality and impact of the research but also contributes to the empowerment of children themselves.

Suna'nın Kızları, together with the Association for Thought and Art Workshops (FİSA), a participant in the Research Support Circle, published the Guide to Ethical Principles in Research Involving Children to promote child participation in research processes and contribute to knowledge production in this area.

The guide is specifically designed for professionals and experts in civil society and public institutions, as well as independent

researchers and students. It outlines the legal framework and participatory approaches for involving children in research, presents key ethical principles for conducting research with and about children, and includes checklists developed to help researchers apply these principles in practice.



Scan the QR code to access the full guide.

TOWARD A RESILIENT FUTURE:

Earthquakes and Education - Child- and Youth-Centered Work in Türkiye - Workshop Report

Prepared based on the outcomes of a workshop organized after the February 6, 2023 earthquakes by Suna'nın Kızları and the Education Reform Initiative (ERG), a participant in the Research Support Circle, in collaboration with civil society organizations active in the region, this report compiles lessons learned and outlines the measures that need to be developed for disaster preparedness, especially in terms of child safety. Intended as a starting point, the report is expected to be expanded in the future with contributions from all relevant civil society organizations.

The key themes identified by civil society organizations participating in the workshop included ensuring the continuity of education after disasters, providing psychosocial support for teachers, creating safe spaces for children and youth, safeguarding children's rights, and promoting their participation in decision-making processes, strengthening public-civil society collaboration, as well as advancing disaster education and public awareness efforts.



Scan the QR code to read the full report.



As a continuation of the monitoring work initiated in the first two reports, this third publication seeks to examine life in temporary shelter areas from the perspective of children, with a focus on girl-centered design. It captures girls' perspectives two years after the earthquakes, exploring the changes they experienced with schools being reopened and communal life, the extent to which they were involved in decision-making, and their hopes and plans for the future.

Child-Centered City: Mapping and Analysis Process Report with Case Examples

The Child-Centered City Map digital platform, launched in 2024 by the Suna'nın Kızları Research Support Circle, provides maps and data sets that analyze how well services for children across İstanbul align with needs at the neighborhood level. The platform is designed to support data-driven decision-making and serves as a key resource for policymakers and practitioners.

The platform's data collection, analysis, and map legend categories were developed with the contribution of the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV), which also took part in its advocacy efforts. TESEV produced a comprehensive report presenting the mapping and analysis process, along with case examples.



Scan the QR code to access the full report.



The report includes an overview of the data featured on the cocukodaklisehir.org website, explains the importance of child-focused data, offers examples of how different stakeholders can use the platform, and opens a discussion on areas for further development.



Findings from the Our Environment Monitoring Workshop

Urban Detectives, a member of the Girl-Centered Design Support Circle within Suna'nın Kızları, implemented the Our Environment Program four times throughout the year with the participation of 49 children who regularly attend the Children's Hubs in Adıyaman, Hatay, and Şanlıurfa.

The program is designed to support both children's learning outcomes and to generate research insights for neighborhood-based work. Through the workshops conducted during the program, data was collected on how children perceive the characteristics of their neighborhoods, the services they can access and use, the areas they can safely reach and move through, and more in-depth elements such as the play value and safety of existing spaces and services. The workshops also identified areas that require urgent intervention.

In 2024, Urban Detectives shared four detailed Program Research Findings Reports with the Suna'nın Kızları team. These reports serve as a resource for Suna'nın Kızları communities to better listen to and understand the needs of children.



Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment Studies of the Suna'nın Kızları Collective Impact Initiative

In 2022, under the guidance of the Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF), Suna'nın Kızları developed monitoring and evaluation frameworks to measure the impact of its Solution and Support Circles and began preparing independent external evaluation reports for each circle.

The 2024 Social Impact Report prepared by KUSIF identified the positive and negative changes experienced within the Suna'nın Kızları Collective Impact Initiative, providing resources for the development of Suna'nın Kızları circle participants through the analysis of qualitative data. The report presents an analysis of stakeholder perspectives on the functioning and communication of the Suna'nın Kızları Collective Impact Initiative, including its transparency, working culture, participatory approach, networking practices, as well as both institutional and individual impact.

“

Children's Hubs fill a critical gap in earthquake-affected regions by providing children with safe spaces, support, and opportunities for socialization.” ”

“

I feel confident that I can express myself equally and share ideas about myself or the project, knowing that what I say will be taken seriously.” ”

The independent external evaluation report assessing the impact of the Children's Hubs, which are the most active implementation sites of Suna'nın Kızları, was prepared by the Core Research Institute. Based on 60 in-depth interviews and six focus group discussions conducted at the hubs, the report aims to monitor and evaluate the impact of the hubs' activities on beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders while also offering recommendations to inform future efforts. The report analyzes the impact of the Children's Hubs on children, hub staff, and families living in container cities, particularly in addressing the needs that emerged in the aftermath of the earthquake in the affected region. In addition, it offers recommendations to enhance the hubs' potential and impact as a neighborhood-based model.

Suna'nın Kızları continued its monitoring and evaluation efforts using both qualitative and quantitative methods to measure the impact of all fieldwork, programs, and initiatives on stakeholders as part of the Suna'nın Kızları Monitoring and Evaluation Framework developed in collaboration with Koç University's Independent Impact Evaluation Laboratory. The findings from the field research conducted in 2023 as part of the Neighborhoods Supporting Children in Şanlıurfa were documented as a situation analysis report. This research is planned to be repeated after the completion of the implementation phase and is also intended to inform the ongoing work of the Şanlıurfa Local Community.

COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

A Search for Equality Exhibition

Girl-Centered Design Digital Platform

Suna'nın Kızları YouTube Channel

Child Perception Framework Note

Children Speak Up Social Media Campaign

Child-Centered City Digital Platform



Child Perception Framework Note

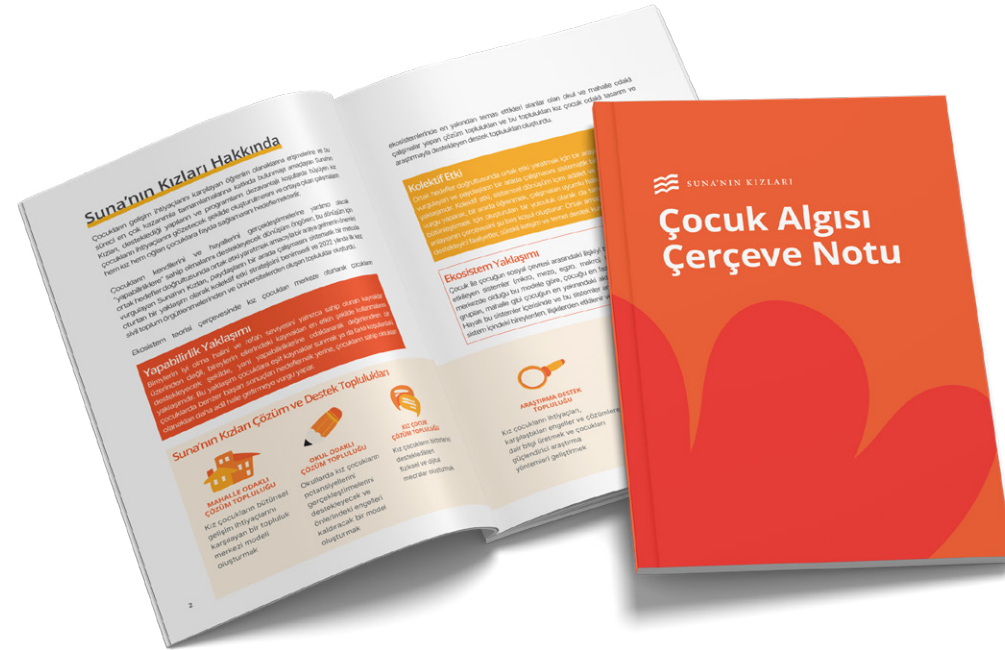
Before moving into the programming and model development phase, the Suna'nın Kızları Community conducted root cause and problem analysis studies using a design-thinking approach to help create a safe and supportive ecosystem for children.

As part of this work, circle participants first identified the barriers present in their areas of focus and then analyzed the possible root causes of these barriers using the six core factors of collective impact systems change: policies, practices, resource flows, relationships and connections, power dynamics, and mental models. In the analyses of power dynamics and mental models, which require systemic change and are the most challenging to transform, adults' prevailing perception of children was a common and recurring root cause identified across all communities.

This framework note on societal perceptions of childhood aims to raise awareness about how children define and perceive childhood, as a necessary step toward fully realizing children's rights.



Scan the QR code to read the full Child Perception Framework Note.



Children Speak Up Social Media Campaign

As part of the Child-Centered Communication Guide, developed for communication professionals to help shift stereotypical narratives that portray children as incomplete, inadequate, or idealized and ignore their diversity and capabilities, a social media campaign titled Children Speak Up was launched. The campaign was created with input from the children themselves. During the preparation phase of the campaign, stock images of children intended for use in the visuals were shown to the girls in the Suna'nın Kızları Girls Advisory Team. Their feedback, questions, and objections were directly incorporated into the campaign content. In doing so, the campaign highlighted the importance of including children in decisions around communication materials and obtaining their consent.

The campaign, which challenges distorted and stereotypical perceptions of children, aimed to shift societal views on childhood and encouraged communication professionals, in particular, to adopt a respectful and supportive approach to children's rights.

The Child-Centered Communication Guide, developed to support this shift in societal perceptions, was shared with advertising agencies and production companies that create commercials for, or featuring children. Workshops targeting communication professionals have also been launched.



Scan the QR code to view the Child-Centered Communication Guide.



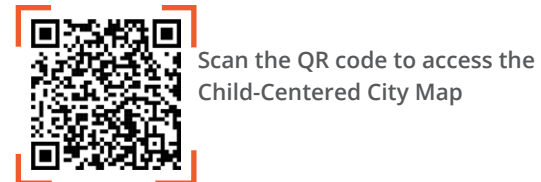
Scan the QR code to watch the campaign launch film.



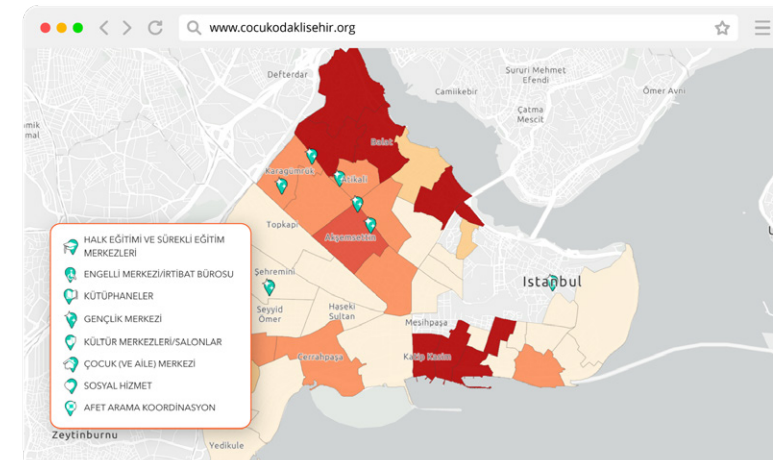
Suna'nın Kızları, Research Support Circle participants Needs Map, and the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) created the digital platform cocukodaklisehir.org to address the requirement for data-informed decision-making that enables the effective design of services and interventions supporting the holistic development of children, especially girls.

Focusing primarily on the Fatih and Sultanbeyli districts, the platform offers maps and data sets that analyze the alignment between services for children and neighborhood-level needs across İstanbul. It combines data produced by different institutions in a meaningful and accessible way, aiming to serve as a powerful tool for policymakers and practitioners.

The platform is designed to inform investment-related decision-making processes for all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, public institutions, and local governments.



Suna'nın Kızları, Needs Map, and TESEV led the platform's content development and design processes. Its launch was further supported by the contribution of regular feedback from the Education Reform Initiative (ERG), which provided data on educational institutions and helped define the platform's categories, along with the Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV), the Ideas and Art Workshop Association (FİSA) - Children's Rights Center, Koç University Social Impact Forum, Nirengi Association, and the Association for Social Development and Solidarity.



Scan the QR code to visit cocukodaklisehir.org



The Child-Centered City: A Search for Equality exhibition was organized in coordination with the İstanbul Research Institute, based on the cocukodaklisehir.org website developed by the Suna'nın Kızları Research Support Circle. The exhibition aims to raise awareness about the importance of equitable access to public services, particularly education, and the need for data-informed service policies that support the holistic development of children. It presents qualitative and quantitative research findings through visual displays, offering insights into neighborhood-level access to services.



As part of the exhibition preparations, workshops titled Body Mapping, Fantastic Creatures and Photovoice were held with girls aged 10 and above at the Sulukule Neighborhood House of the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality. These workshops explored how children engage with the services featured on the platform, as well as with those not included due to data limitations but still vital to their holistic development. The drawings, photographs, and stories created during the workshops are displayed in the exhibition.

Visitors can also interact with the cocukodaklisehir.org platform through a large digital screen in the exhibition space. A symposium with relevant stakeholders was also planned as part of the exhibition.



Girl-Centered Design Digital Platform

Urban Detective and Flying Broom Women's Communication and Research Association, two participants of the Girl-Centered Design Support Circle of Suna'nın Kızları, launched the Girl-Centered Design Digital Platform with the aim of creating a model, developing content, conducting research, and implementing monitoring efforts to promote the adoption of girl-centered design.

The Girl-Centered Design Digital Platform, developed with support from EMpower, was launched to serve as a guide for the girl-centered design approach, which prioritizes the unique needs and expectations of girls in the design of spaces, institutional policies, programs, and content.

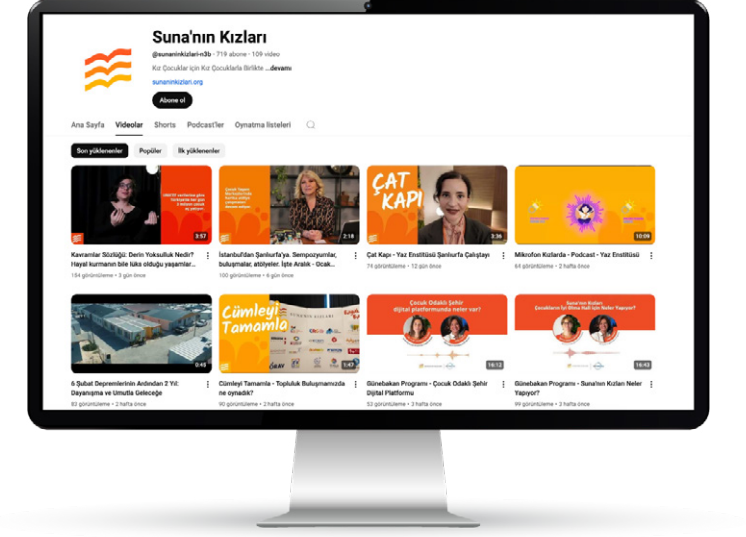


Scan the QR code to explore
kizcocukodaklitasarim.org



Suna'nın Kızları YouTube Channel

The redesign of the Suna'nın Kızları YouTube channel was completed to create more space for civil society and to produce content that highlights children's capabilities. The renewed channel was relaunched in October. It features expert interviews presenting statistics and field findings, conversations on key concepts critical to girls and women's access to rights, videos showcasing the work of civil society organizations, and content created by girls from the Suna'nın Kızları Girls Advisory Team and children from the Children's Hubs.



Scan the QR code to explore the Suna'nın Kızları YouTube channel.



FUNDRAISING AND INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Fundraising and Institutional Collaborations

Suna'nın Kızları continues to deepen its work for children by expanding its field operations from the central to the neighborhood level. To ensure the sustainability of these efforts, it remains focused on diversifying its financial resources.

Relations with International Donors

- Under the Children's Hubs initiative implemented in cooperation with UNICEF and the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the program agreement signed with UNICEF in 2023 remained in effect through the end of 2024. UNICEF provided a grant of \$703,185 for the operation of five Children's Hubs.
- The Turkish Philanthropy Funds provided \$19,830 through a crowdfunding campaign. They contributed an additional \$197,868 to support the continuation of the Hatay Children's Hubs and to implement the Neighborhoods Supporting Children in Hatay.
- Within the scope of its ongoing 2024 partnership with the Emerging Markets Foundation (EMpower), Suna'nın Kızları received a grant of \$87,000 and secured a \$100,000 grant for 2025. This marks the third round of EMpower support for girl-centered programs in Türkiye. The 2025 grant focuses on enabling 31 civil society initiatives within the community to develop and implement new projects.
- Capital Turkish Connections contributed \$9,930 to support the activities of the Children's Hubs.

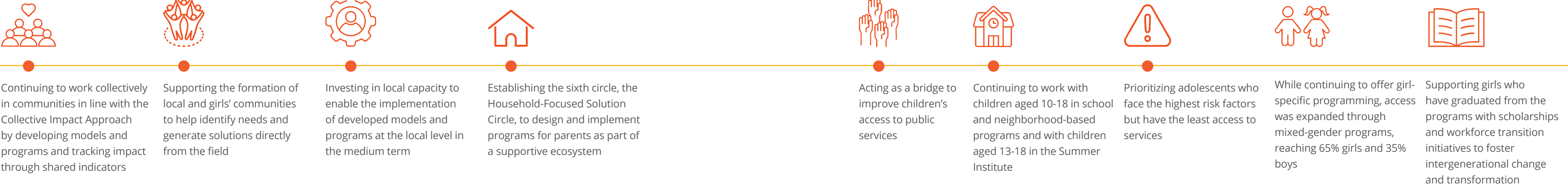
Corporate Partnerships

- Divan Turistik İşletmeleri A.Ş. and Skechers Türkiye contributed to Suna'nın Kızları's 2024 programs with donations of 250,000 TL and 300,000 TL, respectively.
- As part of the Summer Institute, Skechers Türkiye provided an additional in-kind donation worth 70,000 TL, and Stellantis-Citroën supported the program with an in-kind contribution worth 520,000 TL.
- Sixt Rent-A-Car continued its symbolic-fee vehicle rental support during the first quarter of 2024 in the earthquake-affected areas.
- Otokoç donated vehicle rental and fuel support valued at 321,984 TL to Suna'nın Kızları.
- Beko contributed in-kind donations worth 85,954.35 TL to meet the white goods, air conditioning, and small appliance needs of the Children's Hubs established in Antakya (Hatay) and Harran (Şanlıurfa) in 2024.

Suna'nın Kızları 2025-2027 Strategic Plan

By the end of 2024, having achieved its initial program and operational goals under the first three-year strategic plan, Suna'nın Kızları began preparing its 2025-2027 Strategic Plan in the second half of the year.

The new plan was shaped through extensive collaboration with the Steering Committee, field teams, the Solution and Support Circles, and donors. The main focus areas for 2025-2027 are as follows:





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