

2023

Activity Report



**yeryüzü
çocukları**
children of earth



A Child Builds A World

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About Us

The Children of Earth Association (YEÇED), founded in Istanbul in 2016, focuses on supporting children affected by crises such as conflict and natural disasters. The organization works in the areas of education, psychosocial support, humanitarian aid, financial sponsorship, and advocacy for children's rights. YEÇED also supports families, particularly mothers, to ensure the well-being of children.

As an organization dedicated to child-specific projects, YEÇED is committed to advocating for children's rights on every platform and through all necessary actions, without exception.

YEÇED's executive team oversees key departments, including Program Management, Resource Development, Volunteer Management, and MEAL. The organization has a team of 17 staff members and works with over 725 active volunteers. YEÇED's 2023 budget is \$1,141,476.35, which enables the organization to effectively implement its projects in crisis-affected areas.

Our Story

During the wake of the Syrian Crisis, Türkiye opened its arms to thousands of displaced children seeking refuge. Among them was a boy named Muhammed, a child whose story would ignite a profound transformation.

Muhammed, much like his fellow Syrian children, found himself laboring in a garment factory to help provide for his family. Despite having attended school prior to their migration, Muhammed was forced to drop out upon their arrival in Turkey. It was 2016 when the winds of change began to stir.

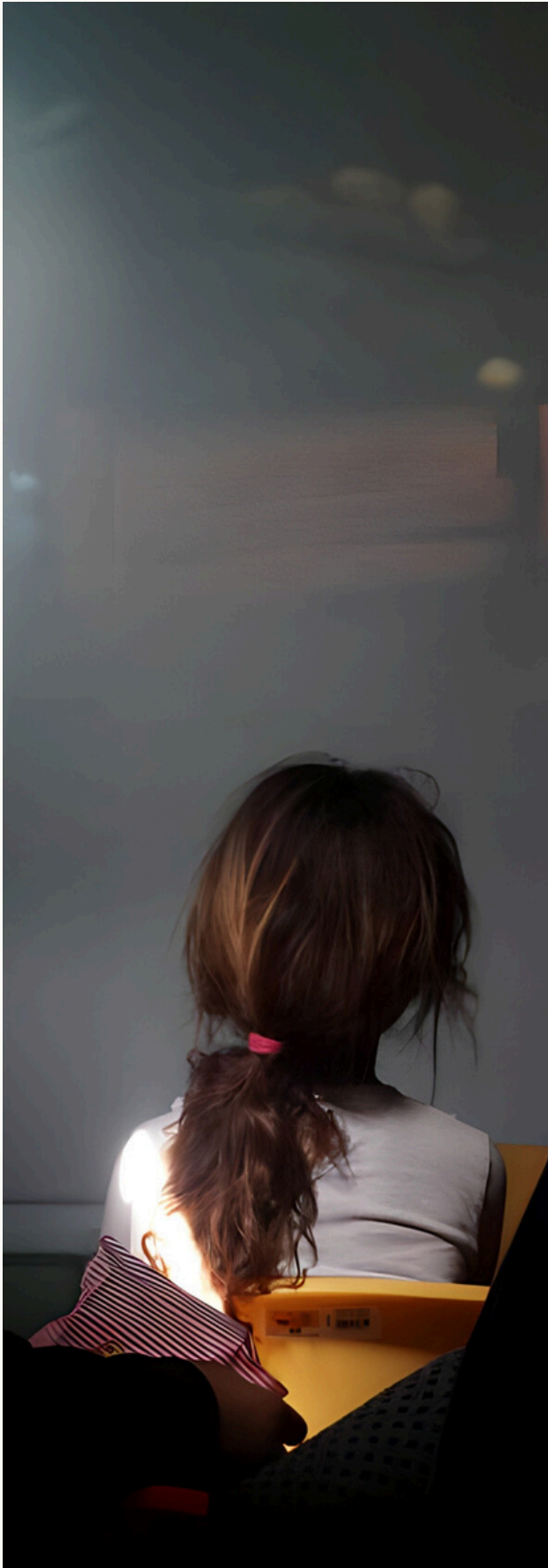
An activist journalist, driven by an unwavering passion for social justice, crossed paths with Muhammed. The young boy shared his poignant story, revealing a singular dream within his heart: the dream of becoming a student once more.

With unwavering determination, the activist journalist, a remarkable woman of action, ignited a spark that would set ablaze the collective conscience of society. She not only inspired her team but also the wider community to rally behind the cause of Syrian refugee children and their right to education. This passionate team came together to embark on a journey of hope, inclusion, and transformation.

Their concerted efforts bore fruit, making it possible for countless children, just like Muhammed, to rekindle their educational aspirations. The very essence of these refugee children's lives was uplifted, with their families receiving vital financial support. The YEÇED team took on the crucial role of overseeing their registration processes and guiding them through their academic journeys.

The story of Muhammed, who dreamed of returning to school, became a beacon of hope for thousands of children like him. It marked the beginning of a beautiful narrative, one of resilience, empowerment, and solidarity. Today, our journey continues as we strive to uphold our commitment to children, creating opportunities for their growth and well-being. The story of Muhammed reminds us that a single spark of change can ignite a blaze of transformation that touches countless lives.

Our Principles



Our work is guided by a set of core principles that define our approach and commitment to making a positive impact.

Child-Centric

We put children first, regardless of their circumstances.

Priority of Dignity

We uphold human dignity with respect and compassion.

Responsibility & Trust

We act accountably, preserving trust and integrity.

Participation

We involve communities in decision-making and actions.

Sustainability

We focus on lasting, sustainable solutions.

Continuous Improvement

We remain open to learning and betterment.

Sectors



Emergency and Disaster Response



Psychosocial Support



Child Protection & Advocacy



Education



Social Assistance

Organizational Chart



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Administrative
and Financial
Affairs
Department

Resource
Development
and
Communication
Department

Public
Relations &
Media

Resource
Development

Program
Department
|
Social Assistance
Projects

Education
and PSS Projects

Field
Coordination

Advocacy
and
Research
Department

Volunteer
Management
Department

Monitoring
and
Evaluation
Department

YEÇED With Numbers



17 Staff
Members



725
Volunteers



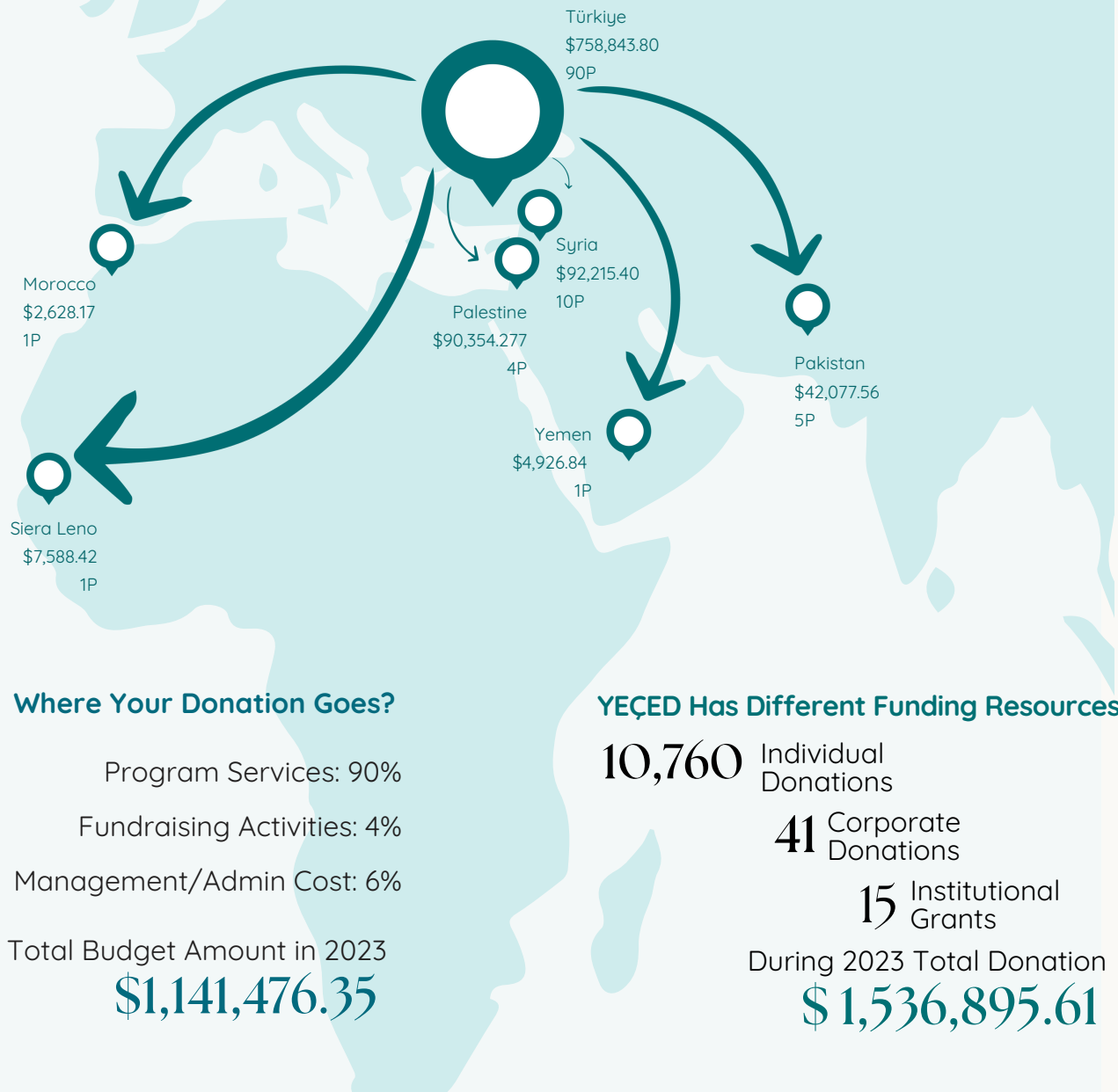
125
Projects



Total Beneficiaries
282.248



Total Budget Amount
\$1,141,476.35



Food Security
and Livelihood
\$350,063.02
34%

Non-Food Items
\$329,188.98
32%

Psychosocial Support
\$144,473.86
14%

Education
\$123,799.40
12%

Hygiene
\$54,407....
5%

Protection
\$29,231....
3%

EDUCATION

Through our education projects, we aim to provide quality and sustainable education opportunities for children who cannot access the right to education. In project regions, we work directly with local governments, NGO's and INGO's to help improve our work.

Areas:

- Back To School
 - Building or Restoring Schools
 - Covering the Operating Costs of Schools
 - School Registration, Follow-up and Intervention Support
 - Educational Counseling
 - School Kit
- Mentorship Program
- Academic Support for School Subjects
 - Core Subjects
 - Cath-Up Program
 - Distribution of books and stationery items
- Science and Technology Workshops
- Teacher Training Program

**CULTURAL
SENSITIVITY**

**SOCIAL
COHESION**

EMPOWERMENT



EDUCATION



Countries

5



Projects

24



Total Beneficiaries

29,659



EDUCATION

Children Stories

Eslem is 11 years old from Kahramanmaş, who lost her father and her home in the recent earthquake in Türkiye.

"When I was rescued from the rubble, I couldn't feel my body because of the cold.

I thought I would never be warm again.

When I didn't hear from my father for days after the earthquake, I thought my sadness would never end. Then we settled

in a tent city. There I saw YEÇED's library tent where I started to study and forget

my sadness. I really wanted to start school again and have my life as it was before,

but we had lost everything in the

earthquake. Teachers from the

association came our tent and talked to

my mother. Then my mother bought me

new school supplies.

I am very happy that I can go to school now."



EDUCATION

Back To School Programme

A hope for the present and future of the children at risk

More than 244 million children worldwide do not have access to education.* A significant number of out-of-school children are at greater risk of domestic violence, child marriage and child labor.

As YEÇED, we make education available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable so that all children have quality and equal learning chances. To make this possible, we build schools and cover their operating costs; provide financial support, educational counseling, school enrollment and attendance follow-up support; distribute school kits; provide in-school heating, nutrition and hygiene support.

In 2023, we carried out educational activities with more than 10,000 children, including refugee children in Istanbul, earthquake-affected children in Türkiye and children living in Idlib, Syria.



EDUCATION

Mentorship Programme

The Mentorship Model is based on the perspective that "every child has the right to at least one person who believes in them". With mentorship support, it is aimed to provide equal opportunities to disadvantaged children between the ages of 7-17 and to prevent them from dropping out of education due to loss of academic years, inadequacy and low motivation.

In the mentorship program, mentors meet with students regularly every week for a year to support their school lessons and prepare for exams. In addition to academic support, mentors provide motivation to children with a pedagogical approach.



“

A few years ago I couldn't go to school, I was at home taking care of my siblings. One day someone from the association came and talked to my family. Since that day, my whole life has changed. I started going to school on weekdays and to the association on weekends. I am grateful to all the teachers at the association. I thank them very much for contributing to our future, teaching us lessons and walking this path with us. Without them, me and all my friends would not have come this far.

Ramaa (12)

”

EDUCATION

School Heating



239

Classroom

13,554

Students

550

Teacher

The School Heating Project aims to heat the schools where school-age children living in disadvantaged areas can attend school continuously in cold weather. In eastern Türkiye and Syria, temperatures in winter reach -14 degrees Celsius. For this reason, many students get sick and cannot go to school.

In this context, to ensure children's health and continuity of education, 12 schools were provided with the heating or fuel they need in winter for 3 months. 239 classrooms, 13,554 students and 550 teachers benefited from the school heating support.



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Through psychosocial support, we aim to improve the holistic well-being of individuals in their personal and social lives. We work to help individuals recover more quickly after a crisis and to increase their psychological resilience.

YEÇED builds its PSS projects on a child-centered perspective and social emotional learning approach. It carries out activities to support children's social, emotional and identity development.

Psychosocial support programs include the following activities to address all 4 stages of crisis management:

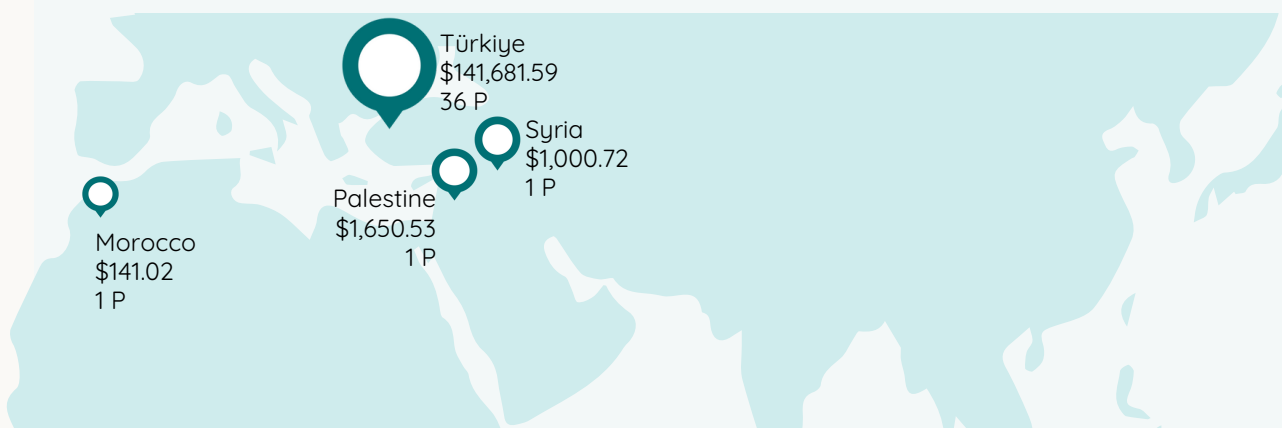
 **Countries**
4

 **Projects**
39

 **Total Beneficiaries**
30.000+

Areas of PSS:

- Child Friendly Space
- Psychosocial Support (PSS)
 - Psychological First Aid
 - Social Emotional Development Focused Group Works
 - Trauma Focused Group Works
 - Social Cohesion Focused Group Works
- Art and Sport Activities
- Play to Heal
 - Toy Distribution
 - Hope Backpack
 - Festivals



PSS SUPPORT

Child Friendly Space

 **4** Provinces,
10 Locations in Türkiye

 **Projects**
10

 **Total Beneficiaries**
5.000+

 **Volunteers**
500+



The Child Friendly Space was one of the first responses of YEÇED following crisis situations. The Child Friendly Space aims to provide children with a safe environment where they can play, socialize and continue their learning process. Child Friendly Space activities are initially designed to improve children's coping capacities after trauma and support them to return to their daily lives in a healthy and facilitated way.

After the devastating earthquake in Türkiye on February 6, 2023, we immediately established Child Friendly Spaces in 4 provinces and 10 locations.

PSS SUPPORT

Children Stories

When Selahattin (6) first started coming to the child-friendly space we established in Adıyaman, he was a child who had problems communicating with his peers, was excluded because of his cultural habits and often resorted to violence.

Selahattin was a Romani. In the region, Romanies were often exposed to exclusion. In order to make Romani children equal participants in the child-friendly space like their peers, the content was revised to include elements of Romani culture. Turkish and Romani children had plenty of team games and problem solving activities.

At the end of one month, a great improvement was observed in the behavior of both Selahattin and his peers. When he opened up to the playgroup for the first time he told the story of being rescued from under the rubble. Thus, after a regular effort, the child-friendly space was able to become a safe and supportive space for Selahattin and his peers at the same time.,



PSS SUPPORT

PFA For Mothers



Total Beneficiaries

1,000+

Türkiye Kahramanmaraş, Psychological First Aid (PFA) Example

Children and women are the most vulnerable group in crisis situations. The psychological well-being of their caregivers is as important as that of children. Psychological first aid and awareness-raising activities for women include first individual processes and then topics such as communication with children after trauma, psychological resilience after disasters, grief and loss.

Our psychologist and team introduced knitting and first aid to participants, creating an engaging environment. It quickly gained popularity, becoming a weekly program that continued for three months. Participants not only learned valuable skills but also fostered stronger community connections.

“

For the first time, someone thought about us, the mothers. We used to go to our neighbors and knit. Starting our old habit here with our new neighbors made me hopeful.

- Fatma (34)

”

PSS SUPPORT

Total
Beneficiaries
28.750



2,500
Hope Bags



18,250
Toys



8,000
Holiday Gifts



Adiyaman

Play To Heal

Children remain children regardless of the conditions around them. Among the rights of children is the right to play. It is important for children to rest, play and engage in age-appropriate entertainment activities to support their physical and mental development processes.

Hope Bags

The Hope Bag contains different stationery and hobby materials for ages 3-6, 7-11, 12-15. A child with a Hope Bag can support well-being by using the materials on their own and wherever they are.



Kahramanmaraş

CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

We work to protect children in Türkiye and around the world from violence, exploitation and abuse. We provide legal counseling and psychosocial support to prevent all forms of violence against children. We also report to local authorities to improve policy and legislative frameworks, and provide follow-up and support for action.

In the Child Protection program, our aim is to create child protection opportunities to help children access vital social services from birth to adulthood.

The main components of this program:

- Legal Support
- Child Sponsorship
- The Fight Against Child Labor
- The Fight Against Discrimination
- Awareness Raising and Counseling

2023, legal counseling was provided to 10 child cases, 123 child workers were brought to education, awareness-raising and counseling activities were carried out for 550 students and their parents.

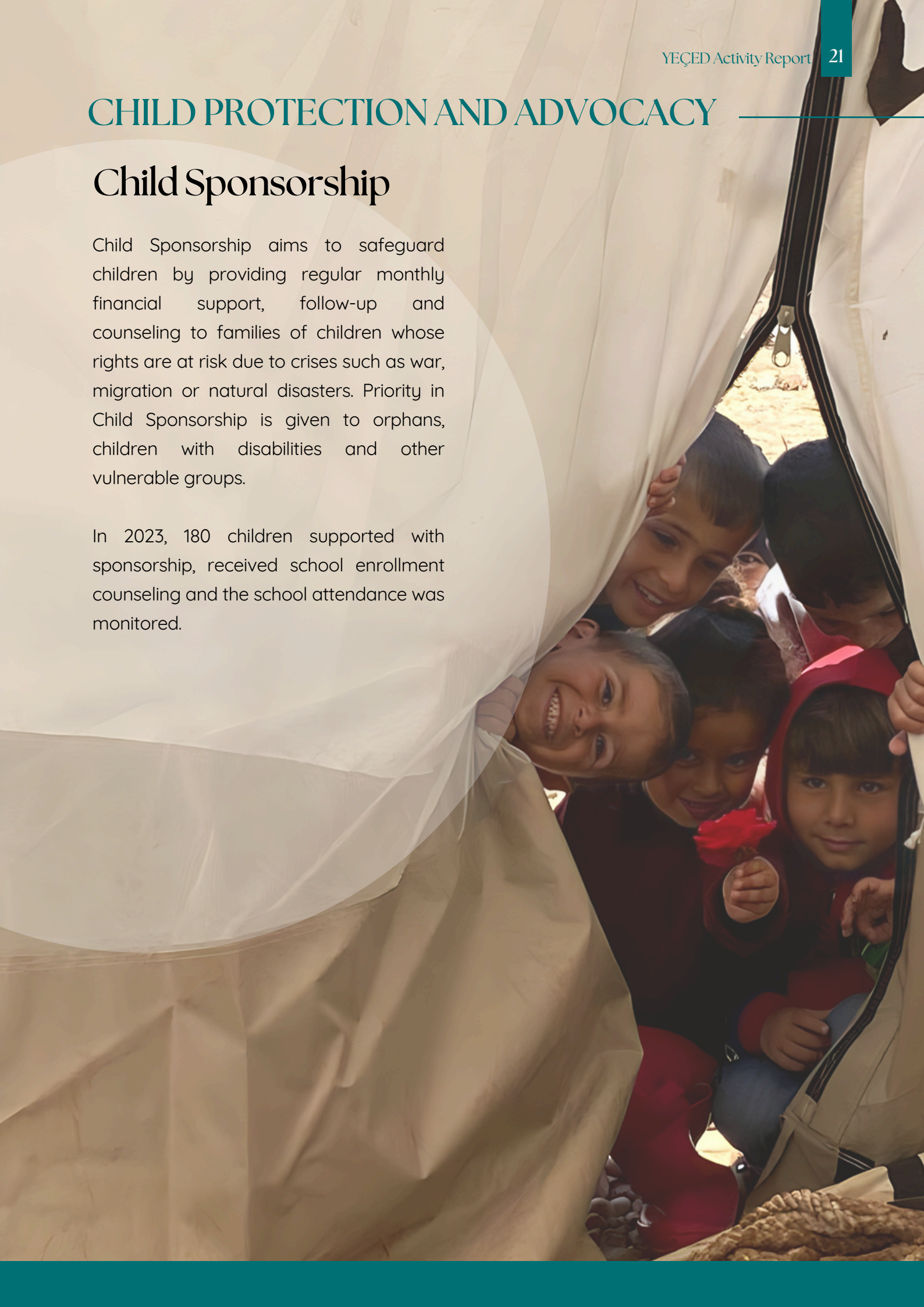


CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

Child Sponsorship

Child Sponsorship aims to safeguard children by providing regular monthly financial support, follow-up and counseling to families of children whose rights are at risk due to crises such as war, migration or natural disasters. Priority in Child Sponsorship is given to orphans, children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

In 2023, 180 children supported with sponsorship, received school enrollment counseling and the school attendance was monitored.



CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

Children Councils

In Kahramanmaraş Türkiye, "Children's Council" was established for children affected by the earthquake.

After two days of training, 50 children achieved the following outcomes:
Became aware of the difficulties faced by their peers living in different parts of the world.

Learned universal children's rights.
Became able to identify violations of rights.
A parliament was established to experience a democratic exchange of ideas and problems were discussed in the parliament.

Children's reflections at the end of the event:

“

* I learned about child laborers in Yemen, they work in dangerous places with sharp tools.

* It was a lot of fun to come out and tell our opinions to everyone.

* It's great that we have rights!

* I felt very sorry for the children who cannot make friends in the country they immigrated to because they do not speak the language.

”



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

As YEÇED, we aim to meet the basic needs of everyone in need of social assistance. Before delivering the aids to the beneficiaries, we analyze the needs of the regions in the field. In particular, we visit the households of the families to be given cash support and conduct social examinations.

Areas of social assistance:

- **Outreach**
 - Household Visit
- **Food Security**
 - Food Voucher
 - Hot Meal
 - Food Parcel
- **Non-Food Items**
 - Clothing
 - Household Items
 - Cash-Based Assistance
- **Hygiene Items**

EQUITY

ACCESSIBILITY

EMPOWERMENT



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

FSL (Food Security and Livelihood)

 **Countries**
6

 **Projects**
27

 **Beneficiaries**
104.063



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Non Food Item (NFI)

 **Countries**
4

 **Projects**
23

 **Beneficiaries**
27.006



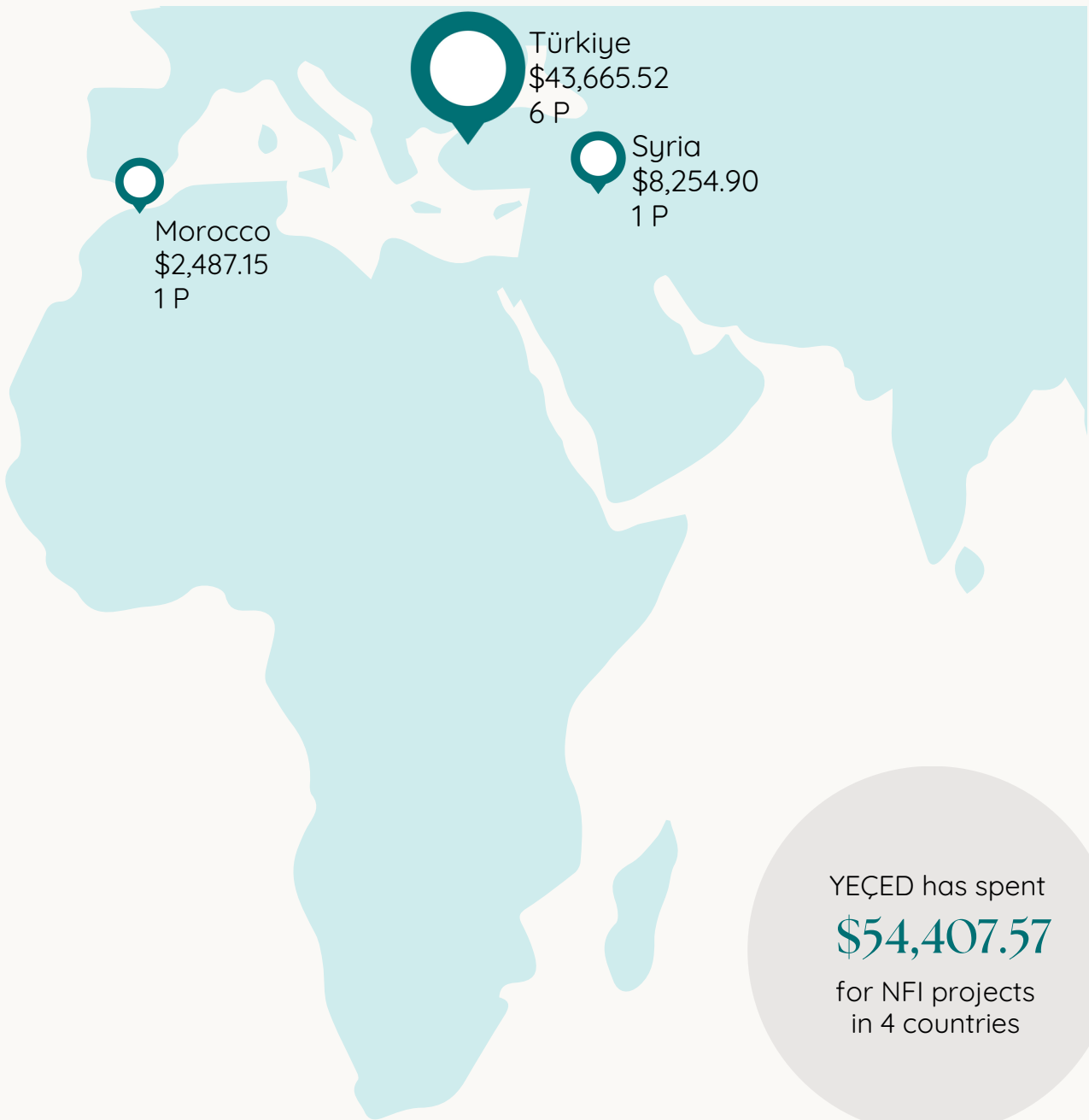
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Hygiene Items

 **Countries**
3

 **Projects**
8

 **Beneficiaries**
28.737



UNTIL 2023

Since 2016, our organization has been dedicated to rekindling hope and education for Syrian immigrant children who were displaced due to the Syrian war. With the motto "Their job is to Study," we've been on a mission to ensure that these children regain access to quality education, supported by over 2000 dedicated volunteers.

Our commitment extends to providing regular financial support for families at risk of losing their children's education, implementing interventions to reduce school dropouts among refugee children. Thanks to our efforts, thousands of refugee children now have consistent access to education.

In 2019, we undertook the construction of a 2000-capacity school in Syria and distributed 4500 school preparation kits to children in both Syria and Turkey. Social support was offered to thousands of children and their families, ensuring a holistic approach to their educational well-being.

We recognize that children who return to school after experiencing traumatic situations may face challenges with adaptation and language. To address this, we have provided psychosocial support, language assistance, and compensatory courses to offer these children equal opportunities. Our mentorship system has been a pivotal part of our work, aiding immigrant children in increasing their academic success, mitigating the effects of trauma, and boosting school attendance rates, all while shaping their future with positive role models. Additionally, our Social Cohesion Academy has equipped our young volunteers, especially mentors working with children, with the skills to foster awareness against discrimination.

Our efforts have transformed the lives of thousands of children for the better. In 2023, a devastating earthquake struck Turkey and Syria, affecting more than 5 million children. This crisis has led us to expand our outreach, as we've begun supporting earthquake-affected children and families in ten different cities in Turkey. Our mission is not confined to a single country, as we are now working in seven different countries to touch the lives of thousands of crisis-affected children.

Our journey continues, and together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of these resilient young souls.

“

Beyan's story summarizes what we are trying to do for children, here it is.

10 year-old Beyan was working in a textile factory, doing hard tasks that should not be done by children. She then wished for one thing: returning back to school. But being the biggest children in the family, Beyan had to work for her siblings and parents. We met with Beyan on one of those days when we visit textile workplaces and detect child workers. Our team took action upon

Beyan's request and provided regular financial support to her family, enabling Beyan to go back to school. Now, Beyan is studying at a high-school and wants to become a doctor.

Mecid's story as well starts as a child worker. However he is soon to become an engineer now as a university student. Thanks to the compensatory courses, Mecid caught up with his peers and now attends classes regularly. Also a mentor in YEÇED, Mecid helps and gives hope to other Syrian children who have academic year-loss.

”



“

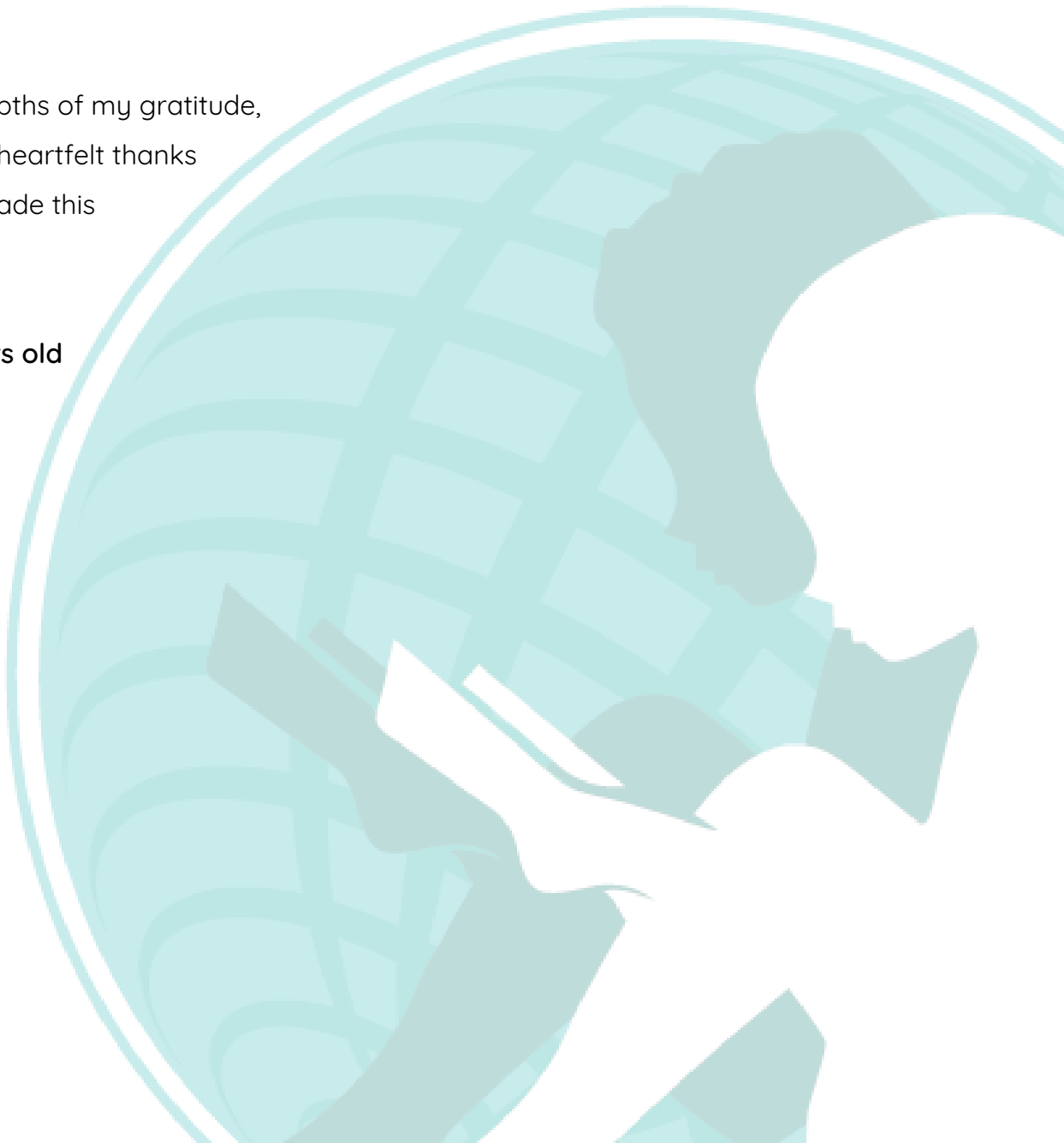
Can you imagine the fear of losing everyone you love?

I know that fear too well, experienced during the devastating earthquake in Turkey. It wasn't just a momentary terror; it lingered in the days that followed until the YEÇED teachers arrived at the tent city I now call home.

They brought a colossal tent filled with toys, books, and an array of activities, more than I had before the earthquake. In that welcoming space, I encountered new friends and embarked on a journey of learning and healing. Those moments were filled with laughter, discovery, and a sense of togetherness that brought warmth to my heart.

From the depths of my gratitude,
I extend my heartfelt thanks
to all who made this
possible.

Ayşe, 9 years old





yeryüzü
cocukları
c h i l d r e n
o f e a r t h

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