

2024

Activity Report



yeryüzü
cocukları
children of earth



A Child Builds A World

A child is seen from the back, wearing a blue backpack. The backpack has a logo that reads 'yeryüzü çocukları' and 'children of earth' in English, and 'اطفال العالم' and 'طفل واحدٌ ينمى عالماً' in Arabic. The child is standing in front of a stone building with a red-framed window. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal circle.

A CHILD BUILDS A WORLD!

As the Children of Earth Association, since 2016, we have been working for children whose rights are at risk, especially those affected by crises such as war, conflict, displacement, and natural disasters.

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About Us

The Children of Earth Association (YEÇED) is a civil society organization that prioritizes the well-being of children affected by crises; it addresses psychosocial support, education, humanitarian aid, protection and child rights advocacy in a holistic manner.

Founded in Istanbul in 2016, YEÇED aims to reach children affected by humanitarian crises such as war, conflict and natural disasters and to rebuild their hope and confidence. Taking into account not only academic needs but also emotional and social needs, YEÇED provides multi-faceted support through education, psychosocial support, humanitarian aid and sponsorship programs.

YEÇED is committed to defending children's rights on every platform and has an approach based on child-centered studies. At the same time, it includes family members, especially mothers, in the process for the sustainable well-being of children.

The activities of the association are carried out by an expert management team and professional staff from different disciplines. With hundreds of volunteers all over Turkey, YEÇED continues to stand by children wherever they are in need.

In 2024, a total of \$2,264,305.84 donation to YEÇED enabled more widespread and effective implementation of projects for children in crisis regions.

Our Story

For years, Turkey has been home to thousands of children displaced by war, conflict, and hardship. Among them was Mohammed—a child whose story would inspire a transformation.

Having once been a student in his own country, Mohammed had to drop out of school when his family sought refuge in Turkey. To support them, he worked in a textile workshop, his childhood prematurely consumed by heavy responsibilities. Until, in 2016, everything began to change.

An activist journalist, driven by an unwavering passion for justice, met Mohammed. In their conversation, the boy shared a dream that had never left his heart: to return to school.

That encounter was more than a news story—it was a call to conscience, a spark that stirred the community. It revealed the urgent need to open new paths for children denied their right to education.

From that moment, the journalist and her companions began to mobilize. Their efforts helped countless children like Mohammed return to school, supporting their educational journeys while also strengthening their families with financial and moral assistance.

Thus, Mohammed's story—one child's dream of becoming a student again—became a beacon of hope for thousands of others. It was the beginning of a greater journey: one of resilience, empowerment, and solidarity.

Today, YEÇED continues this journey with the same commitment: standing by children wherever they are in need, creating opportunities for them to learn, grow, and thrive. Mohammed's story reminds us that a single spark can ignite a transformation touching 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 improvement.

Our Sectors



Education & Psychosocial Support



Emergency and Disaster Response



Child Protection & Advocacy



Social Assistance

Organizational Chart



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Administrative
and Financial
Affairs
Department

Resource
Development
and
Communication
Department

Program
Department

Advocacy
and
Research
Department

Volunteer
Management
Department

Social Assistance
Projects

Education
and PSS Projects

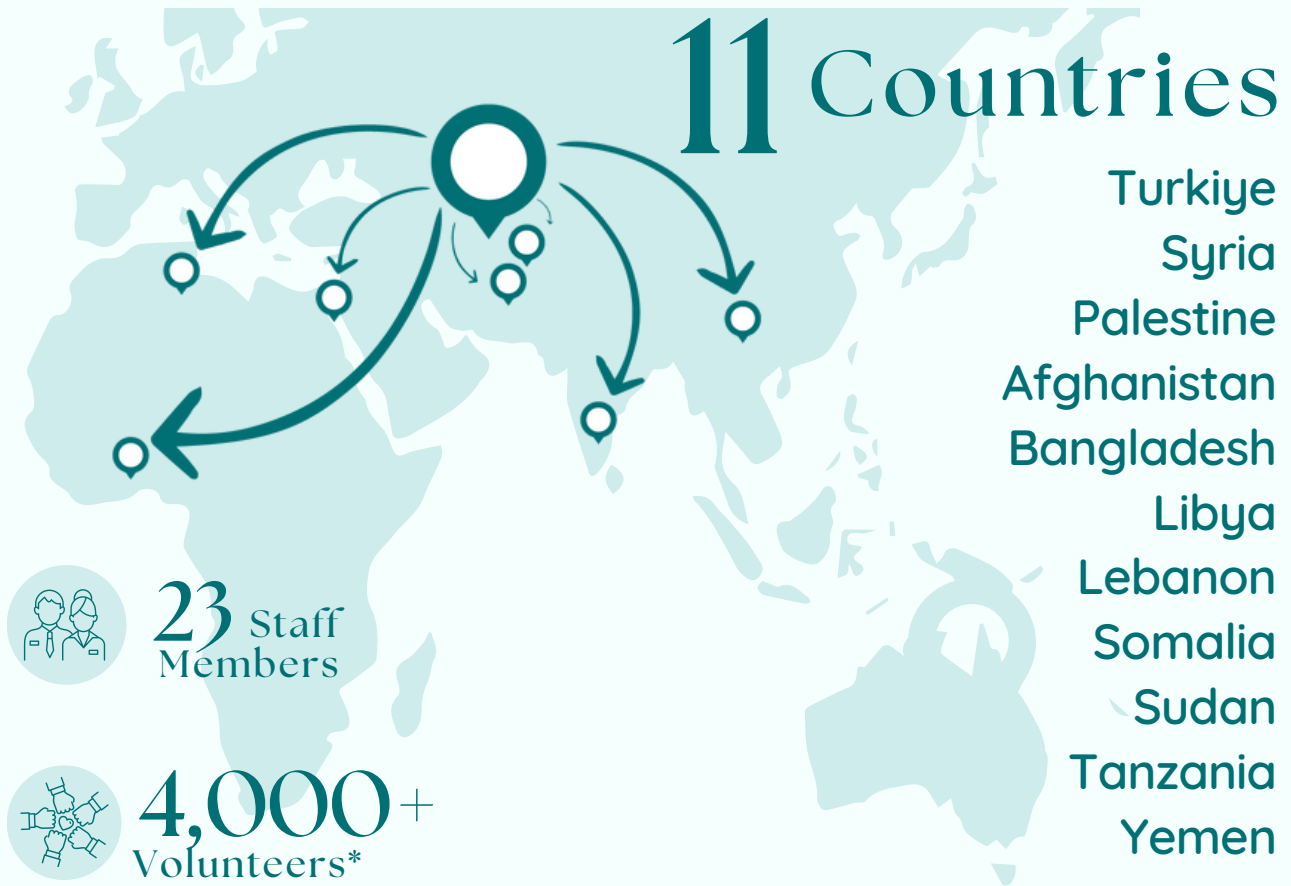
Field
Coordination

MEAL

Public
Relations &
Media

Resource
Development

YEÇED 2024 with Numbers



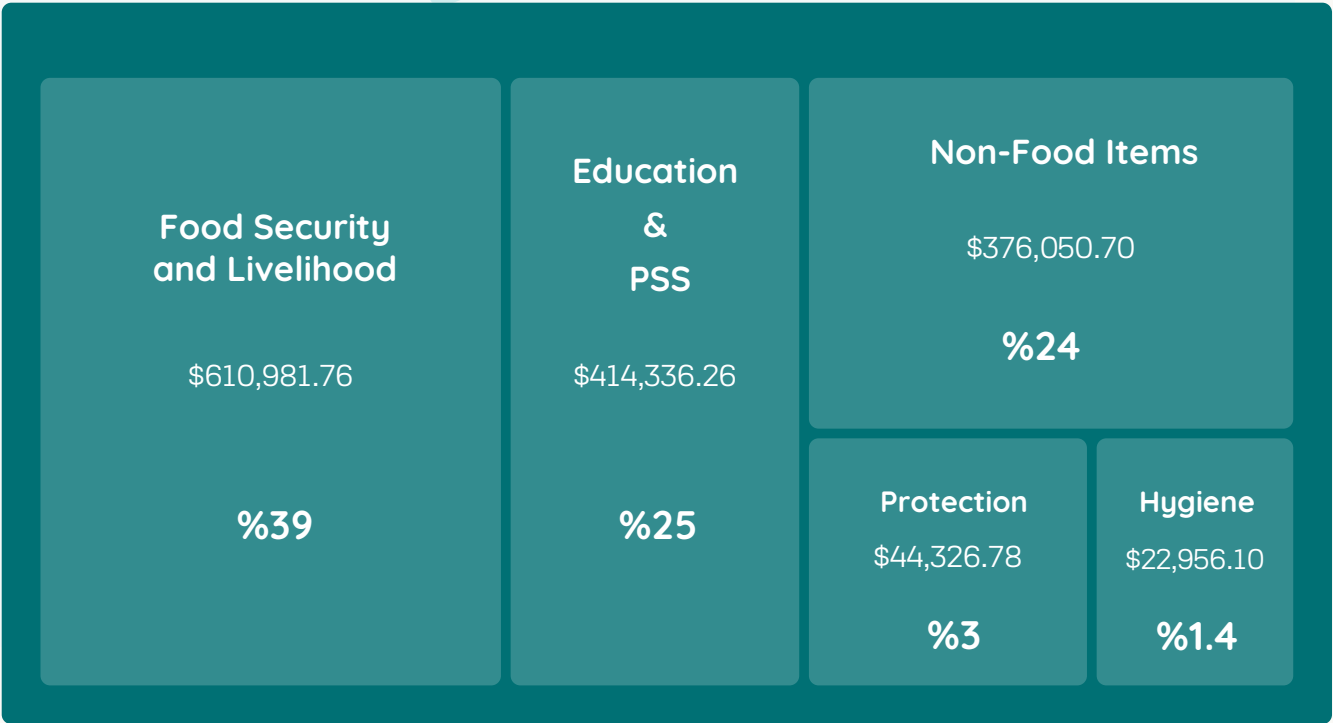
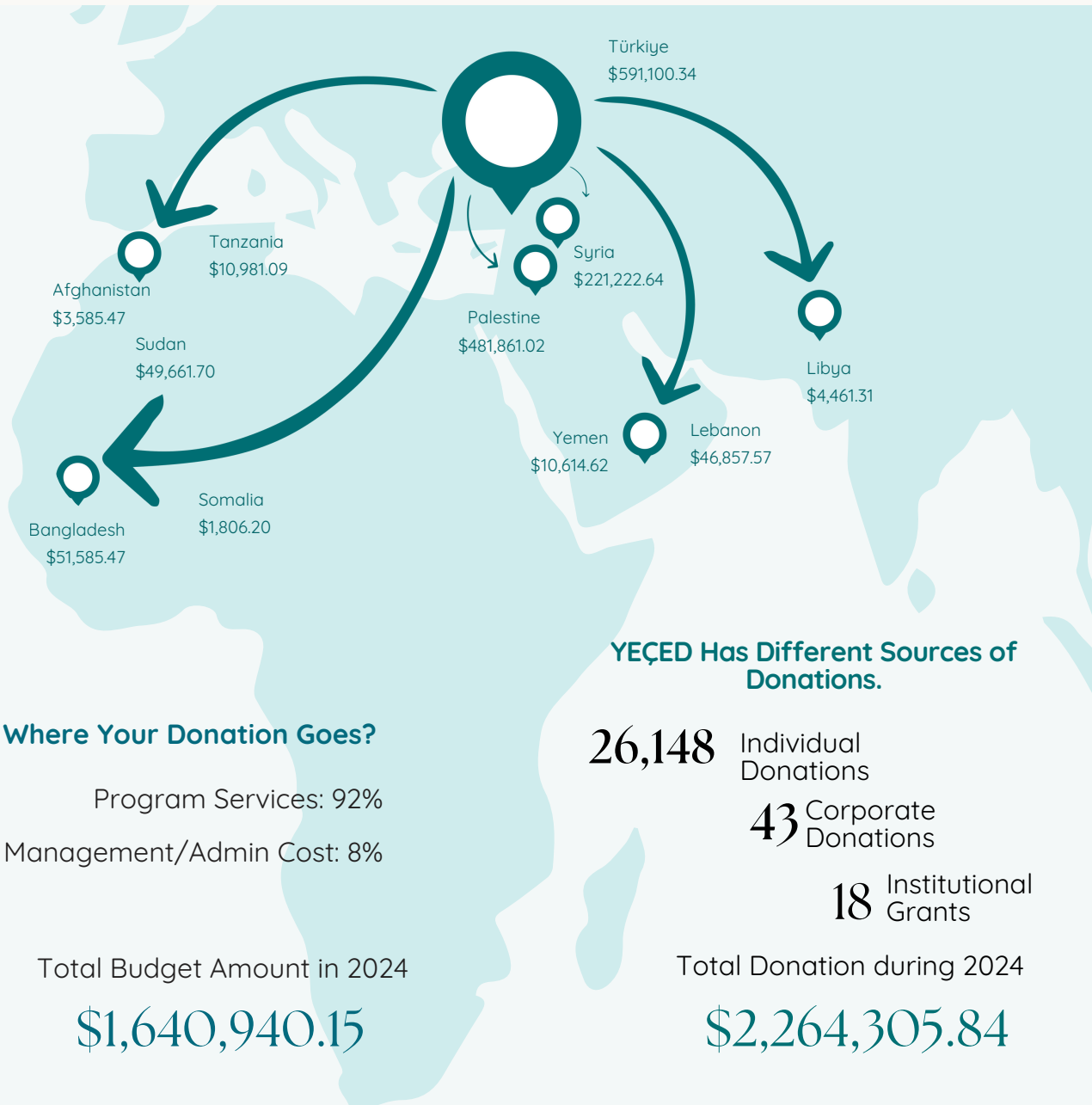
Total Beneficiaries

660,023



Total Budget Amount

\$1,640,940.00



EDUCATION & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



Countries

7



Projects

32



Total Beneficiaries

33,808



EDUCATION

Through our education projects, we aim to provide quality and sustainable education opportunities for children who cannot access the right to education. We care not only about children entering school buildings, but also about their development in safe, supportive and inclusive learning environments. With this goal, we carry out our projects in cooperation with local governments as well as local and international non-governmental organizations.

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
- **Academic Support for School Subjects**
 - Core Subjects
 - Catch-Up Program
 - Distribution of books and stationery items
- **Science and Technology Workshops**
- **Teacher Training Program**
- **Internship Programs**

CULTURAL
SENSITIVITY

SOCIAL
COHESION

EMPOWERMENT



EDUCATION

Children's Stories

Eslem is 11 years old from Kahramanmaş. She 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 couldn'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. However, we had lost everything in the earthquake.

Then YEÇED visited our tent and teachers spoke with my mother. With the support of YEÇED, my mother was able to buy me new school supplies.

Thanks to YEÇED, I can now return to school, and with every step back to learning, I feel my hope and happiness growing again.



EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Al- Quds Kindergarten Project

The Al-Quds Kindergarten Project was launched to improve access to early childhood education for Palestinian children near Al-Masjid al-Aqsa. In the Bab Hutta neighborhood, a kindergarten provided free pre-school education to 40 children over nine months. Weekly plans supported cognitive and language skills, while close family engagement reinforced learning at home. The psychosocial program helped children cope with trauma and supported their well-being.

By investing in education, the project nurtures children's future and strengthens families' resolve to remain on their land.



Children of Earth School in Idlib

YEÇED began its educational activities in Idlib in April 2021 and established YEÇED School, now the largest tuition-free school in the region, located near the Atme Camp. As of 2024, the school continues to serve 2,527 students and employs 86 teachers. Aiming to provide quality education and psychosocial support to children living under difficult conditions, the school contributes to the overall development of children living in tents or informal housing in the area. In the 2024–2025 academic year, a kindergarten class and two psychosocial support rooms were opened to help children cope with trauma and support their emotional well-being.



EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Gazza Education Center

In response to the destruction of schools in Gaza, we created safe temporary learning spaces for children whose education had been severely disrupted. Our teachers provided lessons in Arabic, English, Mathematics, Art, Religion, and Physical Education to 140 students. They also offered psychosocial support and organized social activities to help children cope with the trauma of war. Through this initiative, we addressed the urgent educational and emotional needs of children by giving them a stable and protective learning environment amidst conflict.



Syria Trainer ToT and Internship Program

The project played a key role in building local capacity in the field of psychosocial support. A total of 54 university students received practical training in a group counseling program designed to enhance the psychological resilience of children aged 7-13. They successfully implemented the program in schools across Azaz, reaching 180 children. This initiative not only supported the professional development of university students but also contributed to the sustainability of local psychosocial services. By strengthening children's resilience, the project also played a part in the broader community recovery process.



EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Back to School Program

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

More than 244 million children worldwide lack access to education. Those out of school face serious risks such as domestic violence, child marriage, and child labor. As YEÇED, we work to make education accessible, inclusive, and sustainable for all. We build schools, cover their operational costs, and provide support for enrollment, attendance, and counseling. We also assist with materials, heating, hygiene, and nutrition. So far, we reached over 10,000 children in Istanbul, Kahramanmaraş, and Idlib.



School Heating Project

The School Heating Project aims to heat schools so that children in disadvantaged areas can continue their education in cold weather. In eastern Turkey and Syria, temperatures drop to -14°C in winter, causing children to fall ill and miss school. As part of the project, schools were provided with heating or fuel support for 3 months. Thus, 6,472 children had the opportunity to receive education in a healthy and warm environment. This work aims to both protect children's health and ensure the continuity of their education.



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (PSS)

Through psychosocial support (PSS), 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 (PSS) programs include the following activities to address all 4 stages of crisis management:

AREAS OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT:

- **Child Friendly Space**
- **Trauma Informed Counseling and Guidance System**
- **Psychosocial Support (PSS) Programs**
 - 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 PROJECTS

Trauma Informed Counseling and Guidance System

Total Beneficiaries



Child-friendly spaces were created for 650 children at Rahmat School in the Idlib region, offering safe environments where children can play, interact with peers, and continue learning despite ongoing crises.

The project provides structured interventions at the school, classroom, and individual levels, ensuring support is tailored to each child's specific needs. These spaces help children develop coping skills after trauma, manage daily challenges, and gradually return to a sense of normalcy.

In addition to individual counseling, local professionals are trained, and community resilience is strengthened by incorporating cultural and spiritual values.

This initiative supports not only children's psychosocial recovery, but also contributes to rebuilding a resilient and connected community—laying the foundation for long-term, sustainable solutions.

PSS PROJECTS

Orphanage Activities

Jarabulus Orphanage-Child Friendly Space

YEÇED continues to support children affected by war through its activities at the Jarabulus Orphanage. The organization works to ensure that children living in the orphanage have access to a safe, nurturing environment that meets their psychological, emotional, and educational needs.

A dedicated psychosocial support room established within the orphanage currently serves 31 children. This space helps children cope with trauma and fosters their healthy development by offering a sense of safety and stability.



Child Site Psychosocial Support Program

Since 2016, the Children of Earth Association has been working to protect and support children whose rights are at risk due to war, migration, and natural disasters. In line with this mission, the BİLGE Project (Goodness and Development Together) was launched to promote coexistence and support the social-emotional development of children under state protection.

Implemented over an eight-week period with 59 children, the program focused on strengthening peer relationships, fostering a sense of hope, trust, and belonging, and supporting the healthy development of each child's identity.

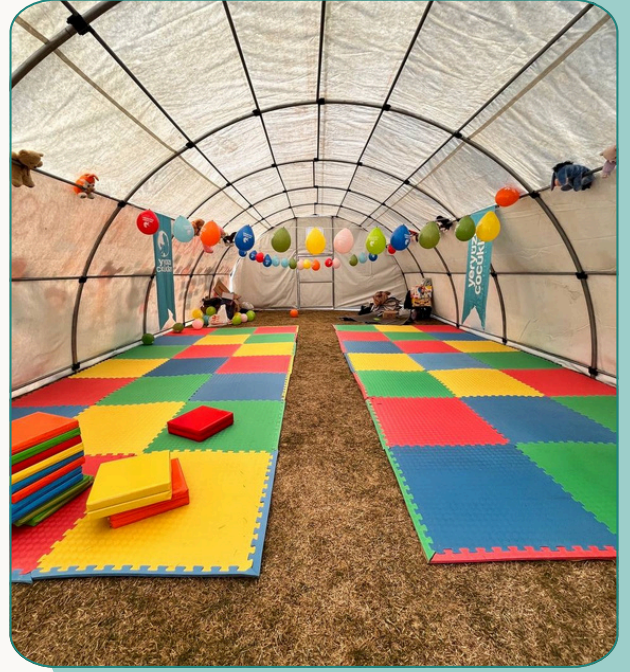


PSS PROJECTS

Psychosocial Support After Crisis

Child Friendly Spaces in Earthquake Zone

YEÇED provides safe, structured, and inclusive environments for children in disaster and crisis situations through its Child-Friendly Spaces. Focusing on essential needs such as play, learning, and socialization, these spaces help children cope with trauma and regain a sense of trust. Established in response to the 2023 earthquakes, the initiative evolved into a sustainable program in 2024 and continued its activities across four regions in Kahramanmaraş and Hatay.



Lebanon Mobile Child Friendly Space

During 2024 , mobile psychosocial support activities were carried out for children displaced by escalating attacks in Lebanon. A total of 400 children across different regions received support. Additionally, a structured 8-week coping program was implemented with 50 children. These group-based activities aimed to reduce the impact of trauma, rebuild trust, and foster healthy social relationships.

PSS PROJECTS

Psychosocial Support After Crisis

Psychosocial Support Practices for Refugee Children from Gaza



Psychosocial support activities for children arriving from Gaza to Turkey began in 2023 and have continued into 2024. Carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Family and Social Services, these efforts aim to help children cope with trauma and support their emotional development. Our volunteers contributed through culturally sensitive activities such as creative drama, emotion recognition games, and painting.



Women's Livelihood Empowerment



YEÇED organized skill development workshops for women in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş as part of post-disaster recovery efforts, aiming to provide psychosocial support and encourage participation in productive activities. Knitting courses were held in container units in cooperation with the Public Education Center of the Ministry of National Education. These workshops not only helped women develop craft skills but also created safe spaces where they could come together, share experiences, and build social support networks. Over time, participants took active roles in these gatherings—leading conversations and offering peer support. The process was closely monitored by YEÇED's psychosocial support team.



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Children's Stories

When Selahattin (6) first started coming to the child-friendly space we established in Adiyaman, 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.



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

In 2024, legal counseling support was provided to 5 individuals; 3 legal cases were followed up, 6 administrative proceedings were monitored, and case management services were offered for 1 individual.



Türkiye & Syria

YEÇED has spent

\$44,326.78

for child protection and advocacy projects in 2 countries.

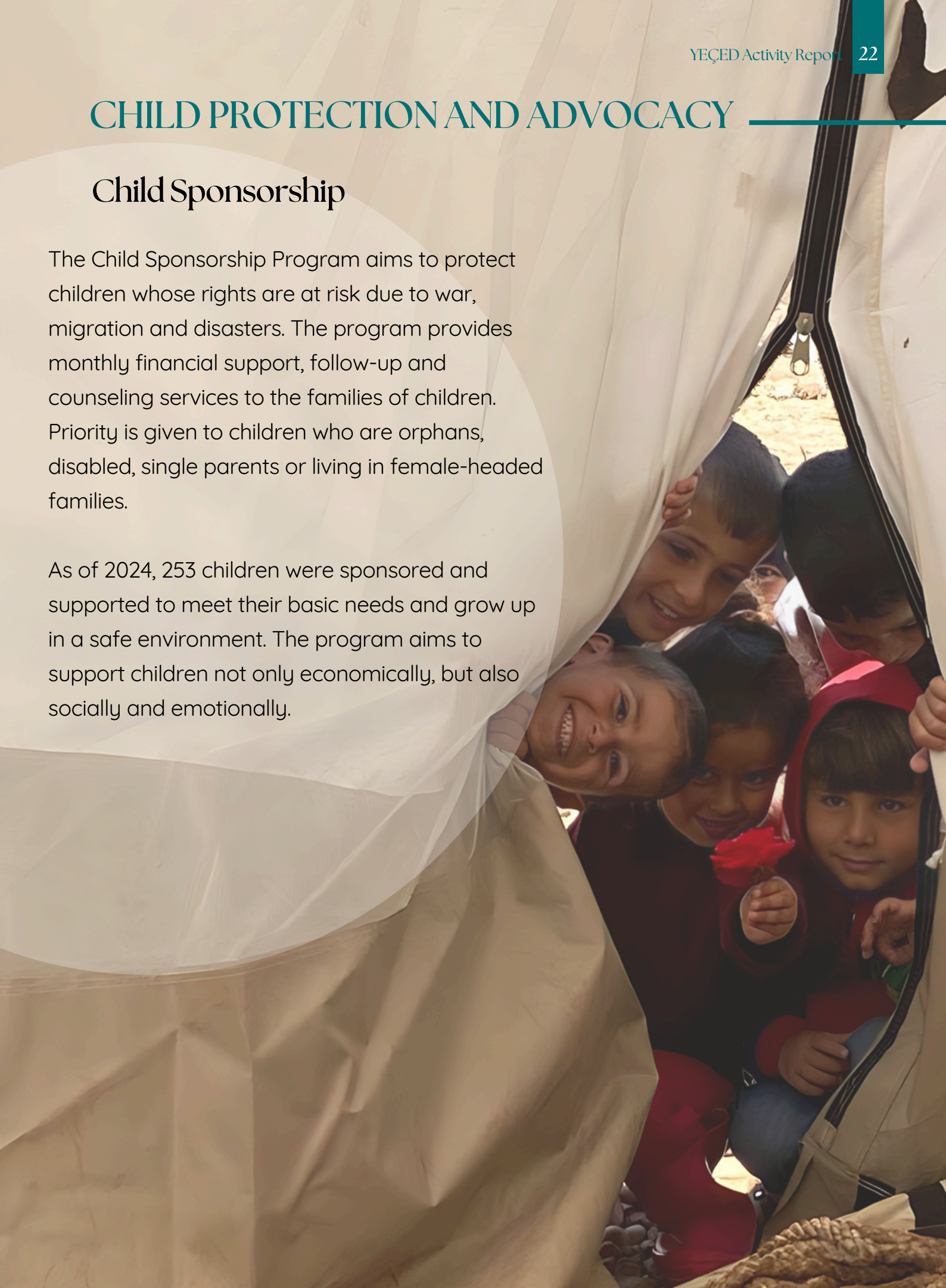


CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

Child Sponsorship

The Child Sponsorship Program aims to protect children whose rights are at risk due to war, migration and disasters. The program provides monthly financial support, follow-up and counseling services to the families of children. Priority is given to children who are orphans, disabled, single parents or living in female-headed families.

As of 2024, 253 children were sponsored and supported to meet their basic needs and grow up in a safe environment. The program aims to support children not only economically, but also socially and emotionally.



CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

Children Councils

One of the key child rights-focused initiatives of the Children of Earth Association is the Children of Earth Assembly.

Designed for children aged 8 to 14, the Assembly provides a space where participants learn about their rights through workshops, draft statements, and advocate for the rights of both themselves and children worldwide. To date, the Assembly has been held seven times in three provinces, bringing together 200 children from six different nationalities.

Through this process, children strengthen their skills in critical thinking, empathy, communication, and democratic decision-making. They also learn how to develop constructive responses to rights violations.



“ NOTES FROM THE CHILDREN

“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.”

”

CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

Fil (Lemonade for Palestine) Project

Through the “Lemonade for Palestine” project, children in various cities across Türkiye organized lemonade stands to raise funds for their peers in Gaza. By taking initiative and actively contributing, they became part of a broader act of solidarity. This initiative showed that children are aware of what is happening and are willing to take action. All proceeds supported humanitarian aid efforts in Gaza.



Street Action for Gaza

On April 23, 2024, members of the Children’s Assembly of the Children of Earth Association became reporters in the Üsküdar district of Istanbul, inspired by Lama — the youngest journalist in Gaza. They extended their microphones to the public, asking questions about Gaza and amplifying the voices of children. This street action raised awareness and allowed children to take an active role in solidarity.



‘Being a Child in Crisis Regions’ Seminar

The seminar focused on the effects of war, displacement, and disasters on children. Experts from fields such as activism, journalism, academia, and psychology shared their observations and field experience. The program, enriched with panels, a children’s assembly, and workshops, emphasized rights-based and solidarity-oriented approaches.



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

As YEÇED, we aim to meet the basic needs of all individuals in need of social assistance. Before delivering aid, we analyze the needs of the regions on the ground. In particular, we visit the homes of families who will receive cash support and conduct social assessments.

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



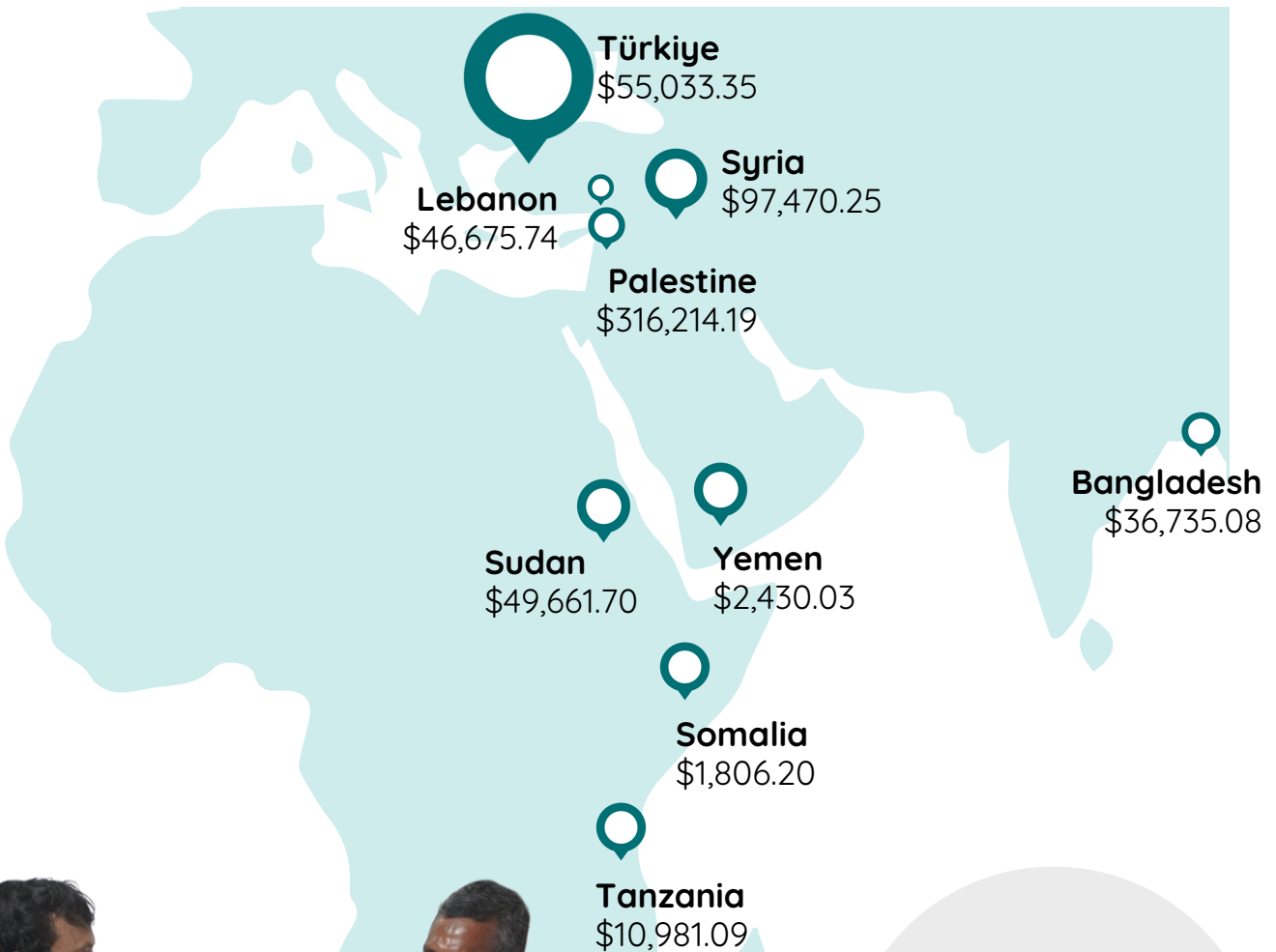
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

FSL (Food Security and Livelihood)

 Countries
9

 Projects
36

 Beneficiaries
406,241



YEÇED has spent

\$634,582.70

for FSL projects
in 9 countries



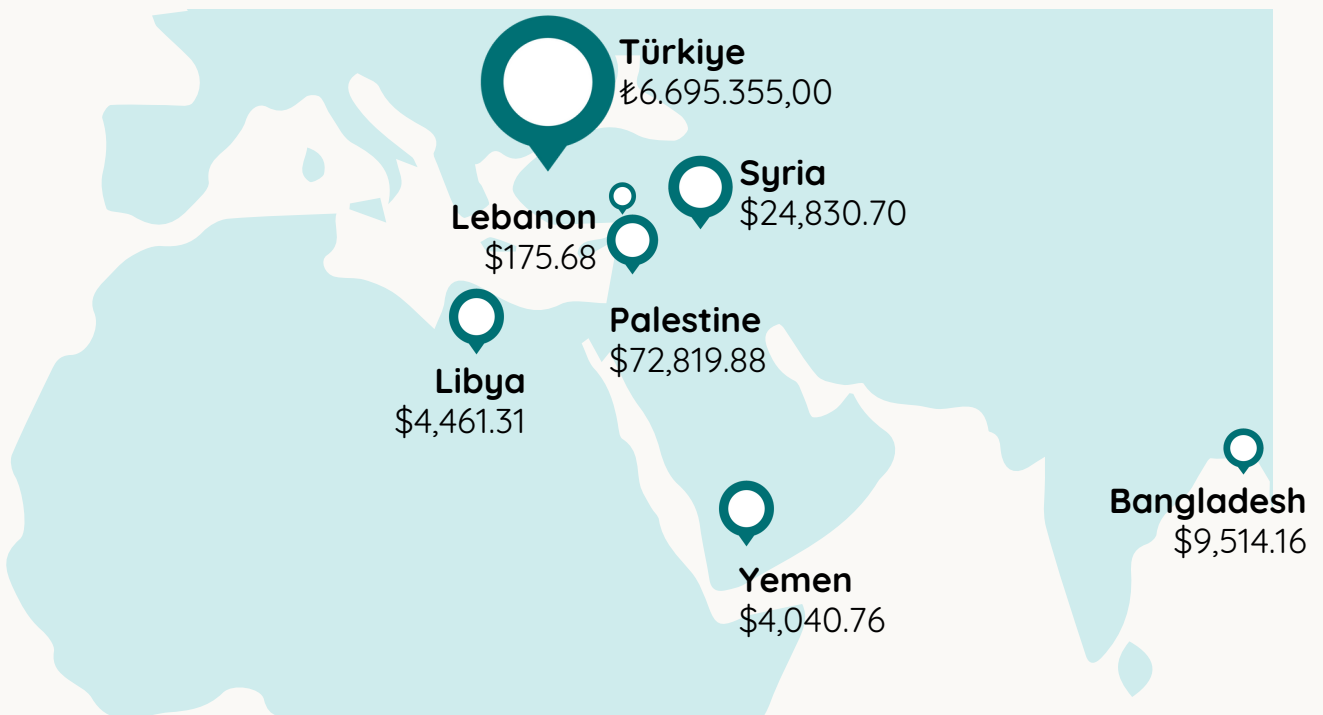
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Non Food Item (NFI)

 Countries
7

 Projects
24

 Beneficiaries
39,699



YEÇED has spent

\$393,687.11

for NFI projects
in 7 countries

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Hygiene Items

 2 Countries

 2 Projects

 Beneficiaries
176,827



“

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



A CHILD BUI



LDS A WORLD!



yeryüzü
çocukları
children of earth

   /yecedorg

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