

Impact of Yeçed's Child- Focused Interventions

2025



**yeryüzü
çocukları**
children of earth

Introduction

Since its foundation to this day, YEÇED's focal priority is children as the target group and producing sustainable solutions for their psychological, physical, educational, and economic well-being. To provide holistic support to children, YEÇED's activities also cover the well-being of their families, especially their mothers. As an organization that is working in children-specific projects with the organization's dedicated team, YEÇED advocates for children's rights in every action it takes and every platform it involves without any exception.

This report presents a concise impact assessment of projects implemented by Children of Earth Association. The primary aim of this report is to evaluate the effectiveness, outcomes, and broader social impact of these initiatives, while highlighting key learnings and areas for improvement. Data was collected through a combination of participant feedback, activity records, and observational insights.

Our General Activities

● Child Protection and Advocacy

- ☒ Legal Support
- ☒ Child Sponsorship
- ☒ Awareness Raising
- ☒ Counseling

● Education

- ☒ School Registration
- ☒ Building Schools and covering the cost of operation
- ☒ Education Counseling
- ☒ School Heating- Kit
- ☒ Academic Support

● Psychosocial Support Programme

- ☒ Art and Sport Activities
- ☒ Psychological First Aid
- ☒ Child Friendly Space Psychosocial Support
- ☒ Social Cohesion Focused Group Works
- ☒ Trauma Focused Group Works

● Social Assistance

- ☒ Outreach
- ☒ Food
- ☒ Non-Food Items
- ☒ Cash Support

Our Project

Earthquake Response Projects in Türkiye

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- The projects aim to provide psychosocial support activities to contribute to **the well-being of earthquake-affected children** in Türkiye.
- It also aims to organize **psychosocial support and psychoeducation programs for caregivers** to strengthen the holistic family concept.

Project Title	Location	Duration	Total Beneficiaries	Nationalities of Beneficiaries
Child- friendly Spce for Educational Support and PSS.	Kahramanmaraş	9 months	1332 children, 172 parent, 92 teachers 1596 beneficiaries	Turkish
	Hatay	12 months	4696	Syrian refugee
	Hatay	18 months	2397	Turkish
	Hatay	9 months	651 children, 36 parents	Turkish

GENERAL OUTPUTS

- Psychosocial Support Session for Children
- Psychoeducation Activities for Parents
- Psychoeducation Programme Contents
- Social Work
- Academic Support Programs
- Homework clubs for children
- Livelihood skills training for mother
- Capacity Development for staff

OVERALL IMPACT OF THE PROJECTS

YEÇED implemented **the Child-Friendly Space (CFS)** model as a core component of its psychosocial and educational response. This model served as a foundational approach across **four different projects**, all designed to support the emotional well-being, safety, learning, and development of children affected by the disaster.

The CFS model provided children with a **safe, nurturing, and structured environment** where they could engage in age-appropriate activities, express their feelings, and regain a sense of normalcy.

The **Child-Friendly Space** model proved to be a highly effective and adaptable intervention in post-disaster settings. It contributed significantly to **children's emotional resilience**, supported their **academic motivation**, and **strengthened community bonds**.

- ✦ In the *pre-post test* conducted at the end of the projects, the average pre-test score was **3.6**, while the post-test average rose to **4.12** indicating a measurable **improvement in children's psychological resilience**. This suggests that the intervention had a positive impact on their emotional well-being and coping capacity.
- ✦ Following the multisessional PSS intervention conducted with Syrian children in Hatay, the *pre- and post-test* results showed a **16% improvement**. This indicates enhanced **emotional awareness, coping skills, problem-solving, and communication** among participating children.
- ✦ At the end of the project, results from the *Child-Friendly Participatory Method* revealed noticeable improvements in children's social skills. They showed better **adaptation to rules**, collaborated more effectively in group activities, and engaged in **more harmonious peer interactions**.
- ✦ The *focus group discussions* conducted with students after the project revealed that YEÇED's homework and science workshops filled a significant gap in the container city. Students expressed appreciation for having a space where they could **learn, socialize, and feel motivated**.
- ✦ After *Evaluation Survey* for Stem and Homework, many children expressed that their **problem-solving skills improved (84%)**.
- ✦ The *telephone interviews* with parents revealed strong and consistent support for their children's education. The majority of parents expressed a deep belief in the power of education to transform lives, emphasizing its importance in their children's future success.

Psychosocial Support Projects in –War Affected Areas

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- The projects aim to enhance the psychosocial well-being and resilience of children in crisis affected areas.
- They also aim to improve the ability of children to express their feelings, develop their personal and social skills, and build their abilities to understand and deal with problems.

Project Title	Location	Duration	Total Beneficiaries	Nationalities of Beneficiaries
Trauma Sensitive Counseling Services	Syria	11 months	1000	Syrian
PSS Project in Lebanon	Lebanon	3 months	50	Palestinian
Gazze Education Center	Palestne, Northern Gaza	3 months	75	75 Gazan children

GENERAL OUTPUTS

- Psychosocial support for chidren
- Capacity building for school counselors
- Psychoeducation Programme Contents
- Conducting group counselings, classroom guidance sessions and social activities in schools

OVERALL IMPACT OF THE PROJECTS

1 Trauma Sensitive Counseling Services in Syria

As a result of PSS Specialist's Observation;

- Children demonstrated improved teamwork and self-expression skills.
- An increase in children's self-esteem was observed throughout the program.
- Both students and their families developed more positive attitudes toward school.
- Participants expressed a renewed sense of hope for the future.

Among Syrian refugee children and adolescents aged 8 to 17, the prevalence rates were reported as – **12.5% for depression,**
– **11.5% for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD),**
– **9.2% for anxiety.**

The trauma-sensitive school model, implemented for **the first time in Syria**, aims to minimize the long-term effects of war on children and provide meaningful support for their mental health.

This model focuses on creating a safe, nurturing, and inclusive educational environment that addresses the emotional and psychological needs of children affected by conflict.

PSS Project in Lebanon 2

As a result of PSS Specialist's Observation;

- The program contributed to improving children's ability to express their emotions clearly and confidently.
- It supported the development of personal and social skills, such as empathy, communication, and cooperation.
- Children enhanced their capacity to understand challenges and apply problem-solving strategies effectively.

3 Gazze Education Center

As a result of Project Report;

- 75% of students successfully transitioned to online education with consistent participation.
- Improvement in literacy and numeracy skills among 85% of participants.
- The names of all students who participated in the project were submitted to the Ministry of Education and approved to move to the next grade.
- Reduction on trauma symptoms reported by 85% of children.
- Increased engagement and confidence in group settings.
- Active participation from parents in support and feedback sessions.

OTHER PROJECTS

1 Children's Assembly Project

OBJECTIVE

Duration:

Location: İstanbul, Hatay

In the Assembly, children aged 8–14 come together to learn about their rights through workshops that support critical thinking and self-expression. They prepare statements and advocate for their own rights and those of children around the world.

Number of beneficiaries

from 6 dif. nationalities
200 children

IMPACT

Through interactive and child-centered activities, children:

- Strengthened their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- Gained awareness of their rights and became more informed about child rights.
- Improved their teamwork and collaboration skills.
- Became more confident in public speaking and expressing their opinions.
- Developed a deeper awareness of global issues and events happening around the world.

2 A step-by-step future

OBJECTIVE

Duration: 9 Months

Location: İstanbul

The project aims to strengthen the educational journey of Syrian children at risk of dropping out, living in İstanbul. Through academic and psychosocial support, the program seeks to enhance their participation in society as educated and empowered individuals.

Number of beneficiaries

125 children,
20 PSS volunteers,
38 Mentors

IMPACT

- Students gained confidence and self-efficacy, with many becoming more expressive through projects and classwork. Academic improvement was noted, especially in English. The program increased motivation and helped close learning gaps.
- Positive behavioral changes were observed, including better peer relationships and respect for personal boundaries after privacy sessions. Students developed communication, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Activities on racism received positive feedback, and one student shared, "I want to be like Alija Izetbegović when I grow up."

3 Psychosocial Support for Gazan Children in Türkiye

Number of beneficiaries

508 children,
91 Parents

OBJECTIVE:

Duration: 8 Months

Location: İstanbul– Ankara

The project aimed to provide psychosocial support to children from Gaza. Through culturally adapted healing games and activities led by Yeğed volunteers, the project created a safe and joyful space for children to express themselves and their emotions. Activities were mainly conducted in the hotels where families were staying, with occasional off-site social events to enhance engagement and well-being.

IMPACT

- An improvement in children's overall well-being was observed.
- Children who recently started living in a new country received valuable social support.
- A child-friendly space was created, providing a safe and supportive environment for participants.
- The sense of unity and togetherness among children was strengthened.
- The project also created opportunities for parents to socialize and connect with others.

4 Orphanage (Together for Well-being and Development) Project

OBJECTIVE:

Duration: 8 Weeks

Location: İstanbul

The project aims to strengthen the sense of togetherness and support the social-emotional development of children living in state care homes.

Number of beneficiaries

59 children

IMPACT

The project resulted in several positive outcomes for children living in state care homes:

- Strengthened group dynamics and improved peer relationships.
- Increased sense of cooperation, mutual support, and solidarity among participants.
- Enhanced self-expression skills, with noticeable improvements in children's ability to share their thoughts and emotions.
- Greater inclusion of children who were previously marginalized or excluded by their peers.

YEÇED'S PERSPECTIVE ON PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Culturally Sensitive Approach “Islamic Psychology”

At YEÇED, we recognize that mental health and emotional well-being are deeply interconnected with spiritual beliefs and cultural values. For this reason, we integrate **Islamic psychology** into our psychosocial support efforts, particularly when working with communities whose worldview is shaped by Islamic teachings.

Why We Use This Perspective

Unlike secular psychology, Islamic psychology promotes a holistic understanding of the human being—emphasizing the balance between the **soul (nafs), body, and mind**.

Core concepts like **sabr** (patience), **tawakkul** (trust in Allah), **dua** (supplication), and **ibadah** (worship) contribute to the development of strong internal coping mechanisms and a deeper sense of purpose.

Foundational texts such as the **Qur'an** and **Hadith** offer timeless guidance on psychological resilience, emotional regulation, and healing.

We believe that integrating Islamic psychology strengthens the impact of our psychosocial interventions and ensures that support is meaningful and sustainable for the communities we serve.

YEÇED adopts this perspective not as an alternative, but as a complementary model that addresses the limitations of modern secular approaches. By blending scientific psychological practices with culturally and religiously grounded principles, we are able to

- Foster trust and relevance among participants.
- Offer culturally resonant strategies for coping with trauma and distress.
- Promote long-term emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being.

We thank you for your
ongoing support of
our projects.

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