



yeryüzü
cocukları
children of earth

CHILDREN OF EARTH
ASSOCIATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

SYRIA





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 22 staff members and works with over 1300 active volunteers. YEÇED's 2024 budget is \$2,328,866, which enables the organization to effectively implement its projects in crisis-affected areas.

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.

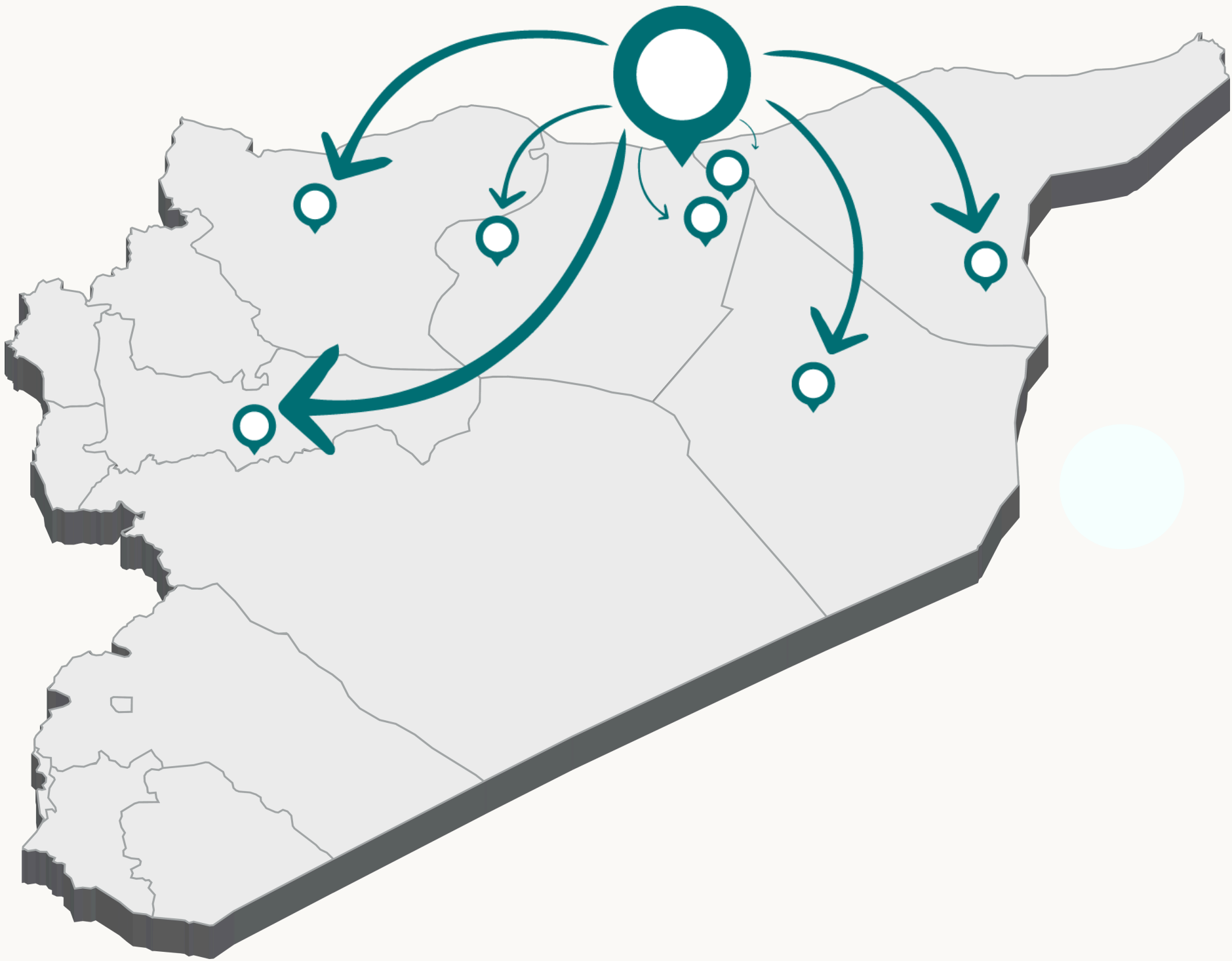
In 2019, we undertook the construction of a 2000-capacity school in Syria and distributed 4500 school preparation kits to children in both Syria and Turkey. Social support was offered to thousands of children and their families, ensuring a holistic approach to their educational well-being.

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.

SYRIA 2023-2025 SUMMARY



İdlib
Aleppo
Hama
Lattikiye
Damascus



5
Staff



87
Teachers
& Counselors



58
Projects



Total Beneficiaries
241.287



Total Budget Amount
\$485.111,80

Current Situation In Syria

Hope for Peace and Stability

After 14 years of conflict, recent developments in Syria bring hope for peace and stability. However, approximately 7.2 million people remain internally displaced, while 6.2 million people have sought refuge in neighboring countries. Although hundreds of Syrians have returned from Türkiye, Lebanon, and Jordan, millions still face uncertainty.

Rebuilding Syria as a livable country is a shared responsibility for all states and civil society organizations. Concrete steps toward stability and basic living conditions could enable millions to return to their homes and contribute to regional peace.

Humanitarian Crisis Overview

The destruction and displacement caused by years of conflict have severely limited access to basic needs for millions of people in Syria. Restoring essential services such as security, healthcare, education, and shelter remains a top priority. Active international support for peace, stability, and reconstruction efforts in this new phase is crucial for the region's future. Ensuring the participation of local communities and supporting new governance structures will be key to achieving lasting peace.

Challenges Aggravating the Crisis

The ongoing economic crisis, compounded by global inflation, the war in Ukraine, and the earthquakes that struck southeastern Türkiye and northern Syria, has further deepened the challenges faced by Syrians. Over 90 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, struggling to access essential resources such as food, clean water, and medical care.

Syrian Refugees in Host Countries

The situation for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries remains dire. In Lebanon, approximately 89% of displaced Syrians live on less than \$3 per day, highlighting extreme poverty levels. In Jordan, as of 2022, the poverty rate among Syrian refugees was over 75%, with the majority depending on humanitarian aid and nearly two-thirds accumulating debt to cover basic expenses. In Türkiye, many Syrian refugees still face precarious living conditions, with a significant proportion unable to meet their essential needs due to limited economic opportunities and rising living costs.

Protection Risks for Refugees

Millions of refugees have lost their livelihoods and are increasingly unable to meet their basic needs, such as accessing clean water, electricity, food, medicine, and rent. This economic downturn has exposed them to various protection risks, including child labor, gender-based violence, early marriage, and other forms of exploitation.

Today, over **45 percent** of Syrian refugees in the region are **under 18 years** old, and more than **36 percent of them lack access to education**. Inside Syria, over **3.2 million children are out of school**, and another **1.9 million are at risk of dropping out**.

How are Syrian children impacted by this crisis?

Thirteen years of crisis have had a profound impact on Syrian children. They have been exposed to violence and indiscriminate attacks, losing their loved ones, their homes, their possessions and everything they once knew. They have grown up knowing nothing but the crisis.

However, with the promise of a more stable and free Syria, there is hope for these children to reclaim their future. Efforts to rebuild education systems, restore access to healthcare, and foster psychosocial support are vital to helping Syrian children heal and thrive. Investing in these initiatives and prioritizing children's needs will not only ensure their recovery but also lay the foundation for a brighter, more resilient generation that can contribute to Syria's renewal and growth.

YEÇED's Vision for Syria: Empowering Women and Children for a Sustainable Future

YEÇED is committed to providing sustainable solutions in the fields of humanitarian aid, education, and development, prioritizing women and children in its efforts for Syria. In response to the country's ongoing challenges, YEÇED has outlined strategic approaches with short, medium, and long-term goals:

Short-Term Goals (0-1 Year)

1. Meeting Emergency Needs:

- Delivering food, hygiene, and shelter aid, especially to orphaned families, women, and children.

2. Psychosocial Support:

- Establishing programs that support the healing of children affected by war trauma, focusing on restoring order and stability.
- Until permanent facilities are established, mobile or temporary psychosocial support (PSS) child-friendly spaces will be set up to provide immediate support.

3. Immediate Support for Out-of-School Children:

- Supporting access to education for Syrian children who are out of school, especially those displaced within Syria or living as refugees in other countries.
- Providing Arabic language courses to help refugee children adapt to Syrian society upon their return.

Medium-Term Goals (1-3 Years)

1. Development of Educational and Psychosocial Infrastructure:

- Launching scholarship programs to reintegrate out-of-school children into formal education and cover their educational costs.
- Supporting the construction and repair of community centers, schools, and child-friendly hospitals to strengthen local infrastructure.

2. Empowering Widowed Women:

- Supporting women's economic independence through vocational training, income-generating activities, and microcredit programs.

3. Strengthening Local Capacity:

- Training local skilled professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills.
- Establishing YEÇED community centers to provide ongoing support and services to women, children, and vulnerable families.

YEÇED's Vision for Syria: Empowering Women and Children for a Sustainable Future

Long-Term Goals (3+ Years)

1. Community Rehabilitation:

- Building schools, clinics, and pediatric hospitals to improve education and healthcare infrastructure.

2. Sustainable Solutions for Children and Widowed Mothers:

- Implementing long-term projects to support the education, social integration, livelihood and independence of mothers of orphaned families.
- Collaborating with schools, orphanages, local NGOs to implement scalable and sustainable initiatives.
- Establishing partnerships with government ministries and local organizations to ensure the widespread impact and longevity of these efforts.

YEÇED envisions a Syria where immediate needs are met, and the groundwork is laid for long-term societal rehabilitation. This vision emphasizes building resilience among women and children, equipping them for a stronger future, and paving the way for sustainable development in Syria. By focusing on both immediate and strategic long-term interventions, YEÇED aims to not only address the current humanitarian crisis but also empower a generation capable of rebuilding Syria.



Sectors



Social Assistance



Education



Psychosocial Support



Child Protection

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
 - Cash-Based Assistance
- **Hygiene Items**

EQUITY

ACCESIBILITY

EMPOWERMENT



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

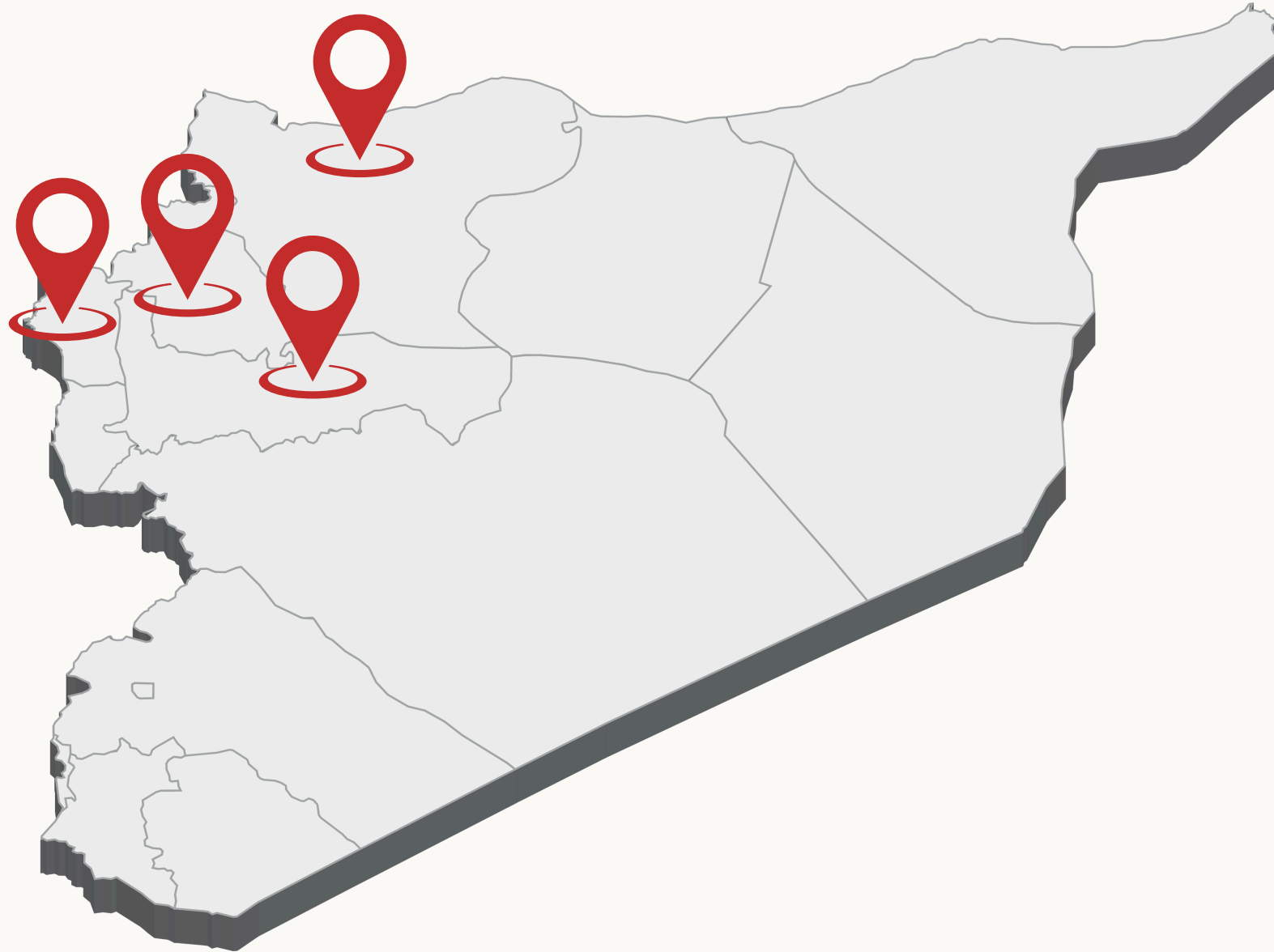
FSL (Food Security and Livelihood)

2023-2025

 **Regions**
5

 **Projects**
17

 **Beneficiaries**
146.645



YEÇED has spent
\$113.757,25
for FSL projects
in Syria

Non Food Item (NFI)- Clothing, Hygiene and Heating

2023-2025

YEÇED has spent
\$248.605,88
for NFI projects
in Syria

 **Regions**
4

 **Projects**
19

 **Beneficiaries**
31.041

EDUCATION

2023-2025

We are implementing education projects to ensure the continuity of education and increase children's access to free education in Syria. In the project areas (Northwest Syria), we directly work to complement and support local governance.

Areas:

- Schooling Program
 - Building or Restoring Schools
 - Covering the Operating Costs of Schools
 - Educational Counseling
 - School Kit
 - School Heating
- Training of Trainers (ToT)
 - Teachers and university students

CULTURAL
SENSITIVITY

COLLECTIVE
HEALING

EMPOWERMENT

YEÇED has spent
\$137.199,59
for Education Projects

 **Regions**
2

 **Projects**
8

 **Beneficiaries**
49.703

EDUCATION

CHILDREN OF EARTH(YECED) SCHOOL



41

Rooms
(Including
classrooms &
administrative
rooms)

2,547

Students

84

School
Staff
(Including
Teachers)

YEÇED started educational activities in Idlib, April 2021 and established the YECED School, the largest public school in the region. The school serves 2,527 students (1,237 boys and 1,290 girls) and employs 86 teachers. Operating with the mission of providing quality education and psychosocial support to children living under challenging conditions, the school aims to foster their holistic development and prepare them for the future.

Located near the Atme Camp and the surrounding tent and brick houses where over 1 million displaced Syrians reside, the school's strategic position addresses the educational needs of this vast population.

Education is particularly vital for alleviating the future anxieties of children affected by the war and instilling hope in them. Additionally, the establishment of two psychosocial support rooms and one kindergarten in the 2024-25 academic year contributes to mitigating the traumas experienced by these children.



EDUCATION

Empowering Future School Counselors: Practical Training for Community Impact

This project has represented a significant step toward the development and strengthening of local capacity. As part of the initiative, 54 university students received practical training on the psychological resilience group counseling program aimed at children aged 7-13. These students successfully implemented the program, reaching 180 children attending schools in Azaz.



As a result, the professional development of the university students was supported, the sustainability of local psychosocial support efforts was ensured, and the psychological resilience of the children was notably enhanced. Furthermore, this initiative has made a valuable contribution to the community's overall recovery process.

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.



CHILD PROTECTION

We work to protect children in Syria and around the world from violence, abuse, and mistreatment. To prevent any form of harm to children, we provide sponsorship, education, and psychosocial support.

Additionally, we report to local authorities to advocate for improving policies and legal frameworks for Syrian refugee children and their families, ensuring follow-up and support for necessary actions.

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



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

2024-2025

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.



Districts

6



Projects

14



Total Beneficiaries

13.898

Areas of PSS:

- PSS in Orphanages
- Psychosocial Support (PSS)
 - PSS Room Set Up
 - Islamic Psychology Content Development
 - Social Emotional Development Focused Group Works
 - Trauma Focused Islamic PSS Group Works
 - School Psychological Guidance and Counseling
- Play to Heal
 - Toy Distribution
 - Ramadan Bag

YEÇED has spent

\$45.702,68

for PSS projects
in Syria

PSS SUPPORT

Transforming Lives in Orphanages: Trauma-Focused Care by YEÇED

YEÇED is dedicated to creating safe and nurturing environments in orphanages, where children affected by wars and conflicts can heal, learn, and grow.

Recognizing the unique vulnerabilities of children in crisis zones, we establish specially designed spaces within orphanages to address their specific needs.

Our approach focuses on building the capacity of existing staff, employing trauma-focused professionals, and providing tailored psychological support.

These interventions empower children to overcome their trauma and regain a sense of stability, enabling them to return to their daily lives with confidence and resilience.



PSS SUPPORT

Pioneering School-Based Psychological Support in Northwest Syria



YEÇED is proud to introduce the first-ever Psychological Counseling and Guidance system in schools across Northwest Syria. These Child Friendly Spaces are designed to provide children with a secure environment where they can play, socialize, and continue their education amidst ongoing crises.

By improving children's post-trauma coping skills, these centers help them navigate their challenges and transition back to a healthier daily routine. Beyond individual support, the program empowers the local community by training local experts and leveraging Islamic psychological principles and cultural values.

This initiative not only aids children but also strengthens the foundation for rebuilding a resilient and empowered society.

PSS SUPPORT

Islamic Psychology Perspective



This approach to psychosocial support aims not only to alleviate the effects of trauma but also to foster the spiritual and psychological growth of children.

CHILDREN STORIES

“I am Beyan, 13 years old. Due to the war, my family and I sought refuge in camps after fleeing from Maarat al-Numan. When I turned 7, I couldn’t start school like my older sister because there was no school in the camp. But I wanted it so much because there was nothing else to do in the camp. Then one day, a school began to be built in Mashhad Rouhin. My dreams came alive again. For three years, I’ve been walking 15 km to school, but it doesn’t matter. My teachers have always supported me and helped me not lose hope. I thank YEÇED and all my teachers; thanks to them, I can now dream of new possibilities.”

Asiya (8), a child with physical disabilities, began her education in 2023 at the Yeryüzü Çocukları School. With the support of her teachers, she has been able to overcome all the challenges posed by her physical condition, Asiya’s story is an inspiring tale of success for many, with a smiling face, she continues to persevere against all odds.





A Child Builds a World!



yeryüzü cocukları

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

   /yecedorg

Karagömrük, Viran Odaları St. Nu: 15, 34091,
Fatih, İstanbul / TÜRKİYE

www.yeced.org | +90 212 909 20 45