

# 2013

## ANNUAL REPORT



supporttolife  
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AID



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2013, Syria was struck with violence and was confronted with a humanitarian disaster. It is estimated that by the end of the year, 125.000 people lost their lives and 6,5 million are displaced within Syria. About 2,5 million Syrians were able to migrate to neighboring countries where they have been receiving the necessities essential for their survival. We, at Support to Life, continue to provide aid and protection for thousands of Syrians that have found refuge in Turkey.

This year we came up with an innovative approach to relief aid in which we have been providing conditional cash assistance as opposed to in-kind distribution of relief goods. We set up an electronic card system with which refugees are able to cover their needs for basic food and hygiene materials. With this card system, we have provided ongoing support to over 3.500 Syrian households in critical condition, reaching out to the vulnerable non-camp Syrian population in Hatay, Kilis and Şanlıurfa.

We received positive feedback from the recipients of our assistance who reported their satisfaction with the ability to customize the aid provided, deciding on how to meet the specific needs of themselves and their families. With the success of this cash based intervention, Support to Life will look for ways of further improving this new approach.

STL's community based psychosocial support program, run in two Community Centers in different districts of Hatay, have created the space for social protection activities targeting children, youth, women and adults. In these Community Centers, Syrian refugees have found a safe environment that has helped them normalize life, re-establish social connections and provide psychological relief. We hope to continue our community based psychosocial care activities in Hatay and Şanlıurfa.

Moreover, we are excited about an awareness campaign we started this summer on the scale and conditions of child workers in seasonal migratory agriculture. While working with at-risk children in campsites of seasonal agricultural workers, we hope to become a voice to protect the rights of child workers.

*Suzanne*







## PROJECTS

**Relief Aid and Protection to Syrian Refugees;** In 2012, as the number of refugees in Turkey increased and vulnerabilities became more visible, Support to Life started its relief aid and protection activities in the border area.

**Child Labor in Seasonal Agricultural Work;** Support to Life has been working with at-risk children, sensitizing farmers and raising awareness among the public in an effort to contribute to eliminating child labor in seasonal migratory agricultural work in Turkey.

**Civil Society Disaster Platform;** In collaboration with partners, Support to Life has launched a platform that will bring together civil society actors in sharing information and coordinating projects related to disaster management in Turkey.





Every new day,  
125 Syrian babies are  
born as refugees.

## Assistance to Syrian Refugees

Support to Life continued its relief aid projects in 2013 with the launch of an innovative cash based intervention for urban refugees while providing protection services to children, youth and adults.

With the worsening of the conflict in Syria, the flow of refugees into Turkey has been increasing. Access to basic goods and services has become harder every day for the Syrian refugees settling outside the camps. In 2013, Support to Life field team in Hatay continued to provide relief aid to urban refugees in Hatay, Kilis and Şanlıurfa. Unlike the in-kind assistance supplied the year earlier, Support to Life adapted a cash based intervention in early 2013. From February onwards, food and non-food assistance was provided through conditional cash in the form of electronic cards.

In the districts of Hatay and Kilis, food and hygiene aid was delivered on a monthly basis through the distribution of electronic cards to 3.500 most vulnerable Syrian households. Through this voucher

program, households were provided between 190 TL to 280 TL monthly to cover their most urgent needs from nearby markets. While cutting logistical costs, Support to Life has been supporting the local economy and empowering the affected population in making their own choices in the purchase of basic goods.

Support to Life reached out to over 12.000 Syrians in Şanlıurfa and its districts through activities organized for Syrian refugees outside the camps. Physiotherapy support for disabled individuals was an additional activity within Support to Life response to the refugee crisis. Various protection activities were conducted for Syrian children, youth and women through the community based psychosocial support program carried out in "Support to Life Houses" in Hatay.

Support to Life provides relief aid based on the humanitarian principles, without relying on a single source when identifying people in need of assistance. An in-depth analysis of the context and the identification of the most vulnerable refugees are continuously carried out. The affected population, local charities, local authorities, international aid agencies and multilateral actors are all stakeholders with which Support to Life is in contact and coordination.

### RELIEF ITEMS DELIVERED TO THE REGION ARE AS FOLLOWS:



**9.632**  
food packages



Education support to  
**1.000** students



**5.503**  
blankets, beds  
and carpets.



**466**  
mother-and-child  
nutrition trainings



Psychosocial support to  
**7.196** people



Physiotherapy support to  
**32** people



**97** equipment  
support for the  
disabled



Monthly cash assistance  
to **18.000** people



Risk training to  
**4.500** people



**9.632**  
hygiene packages



**12.423**  
winter clothes



## PROJECTS PLANNED FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN 2014

**Winter Preparedness Support to Syrian Schools and Disabled Individuals**

📍 All Districts of Şanlıurfa

**Cash Based Voucher Program for Food and Hygiene Assistance**

📍 All Districts of Hatay

**Community Based Psychosocial Support Program in Hatay**

📍 Narlıca District of Hatay

**Community Based Psychosocial Support Program in Şanlıurfa**

📍 Şanlıurfa City Center



## Kirikhan Community Center

The protection program at Kirikhan Community Center provides psychosocial support services and skills development trainings, aiming at personal development and enhancement of communal and social skills.

Kirikhan Community Center, which was opened in August in Kirikhan district of Hatay, has organized various psycho-social support activities for Syrian refugees and host community members by adopting a community based approach in order to ensure personal and skills development. Hundreds of people - children, youth and adults - attended the events organized at Kirikhan Community Center. Within the scope of the project, house visits were carried out for psychological first aid for the individuals affected by the conflict in Syria. Since September,

a comprehensive life skills program has been implemented, reaching out to children of different age groups coupled with recreational activities. For adults, awareness raising sessions, skills development trainings, and intercultural dialogue events continue to be organized.



All the events organized  
at the Community Center are  
free of charge.



## Altınözü Community Center

The primary objective of the community based psychosocial support program is to reverse the negative psychological effects of the violence and to create a safe space for the Syrian refugees and the local community to come closer together. Support to Life has been reaching out to Syrian refugees and local community members in Altınözü since early 2013.

The planning and management of the protection activities at Altınözü Community Center is carried out by local volunteers and field workers, facilitated by instructors, specialists and advisors. Psychosocial care is provided through activities designed for individual and family support as well as group sessions. Altınözü project and field teams have implemented self-expression activities through games, role plays, intercultural events, life skills sessions, art, theater, painting, music and photography workshops along with skills

development such as computer trainings, Arabic, English and Turkish language courses, handicrafts and hairdressing courses. Awareness raising activities have included group sessions on child care, health, nutrition, parenting, pregnancy care and domestic accidents. All activities at Altınözü Community Center were designed to establish and maintain mutual understanding and tolerance between Syrian refugees and the local community.



## Children of One World Park

“Children of One World” Ecological Park project was designed by Support to Life to bring together Syrian and local children in a safe environment for social healing and interaction.

The park, which can be utilized also by children with disabilities, was designed based on criteria of sustainability. Located between the refugee camp area and Altınözü center, the park is an example of an ecological park built with limited resources and community involvement. Support to Life worked

closely with Altınözü Municipality in bringing to life the ecological park, which is now being maintained by the Municipality.



### There are some reuse examples

Wooden frame house in the park was established with second-hand used pallettes collected from Antakya. In order to build playground surrounded with stone-wall, stones remains from a demolished park and converted from beton were re-used.



## Risk Education

With risk awareness education to the Syrian civilian population residing in Turkey, Support to Life team informed and raised awareness on the risks related to explosive war residuals that the affected population will be potentially exposed to. Thousands of Syrian refugees in Turkey now know how to recognize contaminated areas and the precautions to be taken upon encounter of suspicious substances.

The prolonged conflict in Syria has lead to a massive movement inside Syria as well as across the border into Turkey, and has resulted in widespread contamination of explosive remnants of war. With fighting in Syria ongoing for almost three years, there has been an increase in the use of explosive devices in the conflict, with landmines also reportedly present at Syria's border to Turkey. In early 2013, Support to Life put together a gender balanced Risk

Education team and has delivered a high number of trainings to at-risk Syrian children, youth, and adults. Working in close collaboration with the local authorities and community leaders, sessions have taken place in community centers, schools and other public venues as well as private homes in Hatay and Kilis provinces.



## Mother and Child Nutrition Program

The aim of the Mother and Child Nutrition Program is to improve child care practices and reinforce the psychosocial well-being of Syrian mothers. Sensitization is being provided to mothers about uninterrupted breastfeeding during the first months of motherhood and timely and proper infant feeding under two years of age. Through psychosocial support, the importance of strengthening the psychological connection between mother and child is emphasized.

The Mother and Child Nutrition program targeted pregnant Syrian women, women with infants and young children, and babies under two years of age. The reason for focusing on infants of 0 to 24 months is that the initial two years are particularly critical in terms of identifying, preventing and treating growth of retardation in children. Untreated malnutrition and growth retardation affect every stage of adult life. Untreated cases can result in negative impacts on cognitive skills and underperformance in school

and career. Through development controls, Support to Life identifies Syrian infants and young children with malnutrition and guides mothers to the related healthcare services. Support to Life project teams also offers psychological support for pre- and post-pregnancy periods.

In 2013, the Mother and Child Nutrition program reached out to 333 lactating and 133 pregnant Syrian women in Hatay province.



All the events organised at the Kırıkhan Community Center are free of charge



## What the War Left Behind

Leila, 28 years old and mother of two children.

After their home was bombed, like thousands of other Syrian families that had to leave everything behind and flee from Syria, Leila and her two children settled in a village house in Turkey. They started to live in a shelter that was provided by the villagers who expected nothing in return.

Leila, with whom we met for the first time during our house visits, is unable to hold back her tears as she recites her story. Leila started to have problems with her husband, the owner of a coffee shop in Aleppo, as their financial situation started to worsen because of the war. When her aunt's son was killed, she left her husband and her country behind and came to Hatay, Altınözü with her children, aunt and brother-in-law, living the same fate as many other Syrians affected by the ongoing violence and conflict.

Leila wanted to find a job as soon as she arrived in Turkey in order to support her children. But to find a job she had to learn Turkish. With the news of a community center opening near her home, Leila has been taking Turkish reading and writing classes at Altınözü Community Center for the past year.

Life stories and journeys of migration of Syrian refugees involved in relief projects of Support to Life have been compiled by journalist Serdar Korucu with the professional photographs of Kerem Yücel. The publication, written in four languages, can be reached from Support to Life website.

\* For the purpose of protecting personal rights, name of the beneficiary is changed to Leila.



## Child Labor Awareness Campaign

Aiming at combating child labor in seasonal migratory agriculture in Turkey, a nation-wide awareness campaign was one of the highlights in 2013.

In 2013, Support to Life field teams implemented two summer camp activities for at-risk and working children in the western and eastern Black Sea region. Through life skills workshops, over 700 children were reached during the course of the hazelnut picking season in two camp sites where migrant workers are settled.

Through its team of social workers, Support to Life conducted field research in the camp areas focusing on children, women and the migration route of the workers, along with surveys of hazelnut farmers on their perception of the problem and proposed solutions.

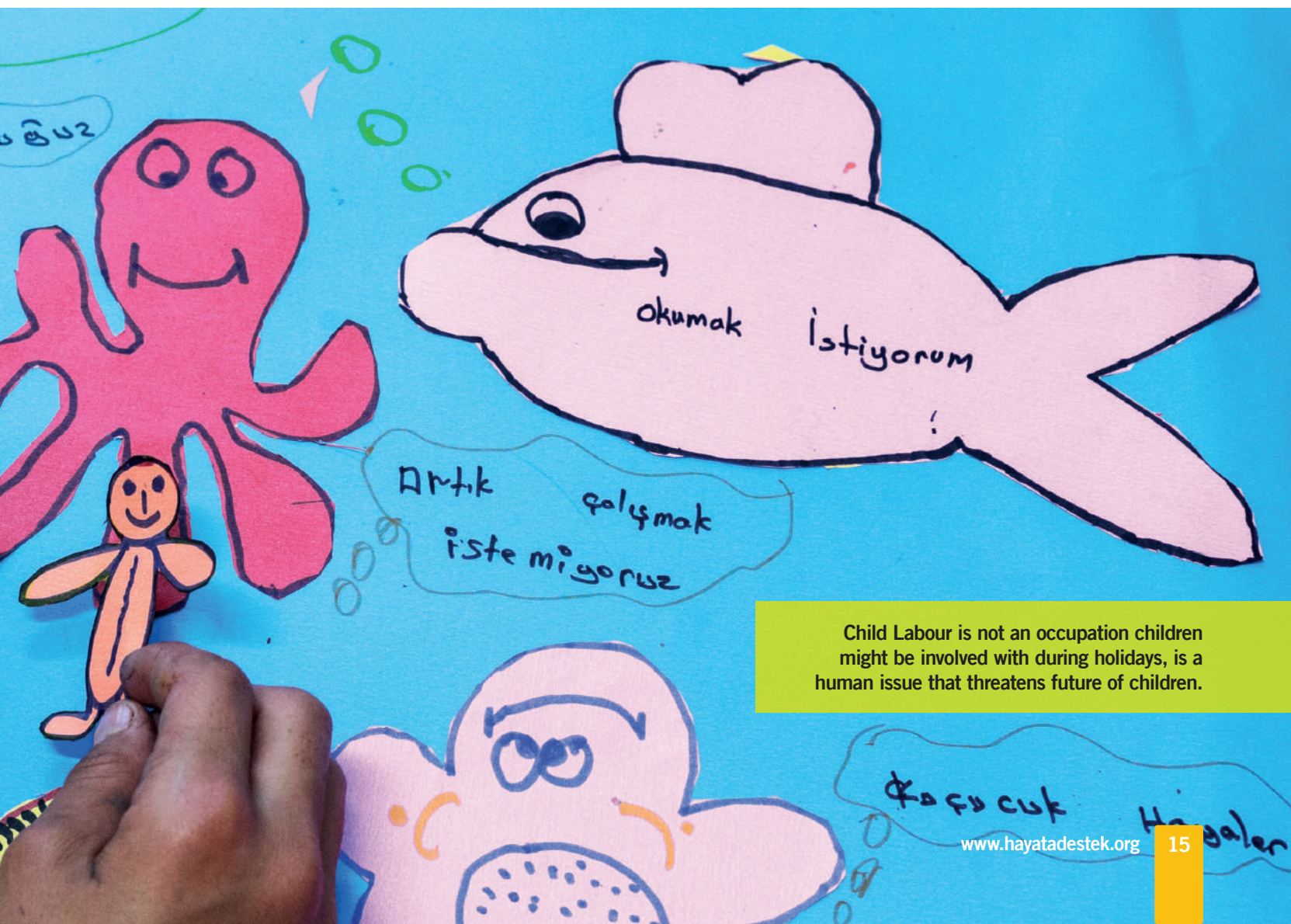




Support to Life held two roundtable events in Istanbul with the participation of representatives of civil society organizations, interest groups, unions, local governments, public institutions including related Ministries, universities and the private sector in order to discuss themes relevant to the elimination of child labor in seasonal agriculture and to come up with common solutions to the problem.

The awareness campaign was launched in early summer 2013, which aims to raise public awareness on the scale and conditions of child labor in seasonal agriculture in Turkey by highlighting the message that all stakeholders need to take proactive measures with an emphasis on improving and implementing relevant policy, legal framework and plans.

The campaign makes use of visual and print media, outdoor spaces and social media tools to disseminate its messages. The petition that was initiated during the street activities on 20<sup>th</sup> November Universal Children's Day, continues at the project website [www.buiscocukoyuncagidegil.com](http://www.buiscocukoyuncagidegil.com).



Child Labour is not an occupation children might be involved with during holidays, is a human issue that threatens future of children.



## Good Social Practices Trainings

Support to Life developed and delivered Good Social Practices trainings to 1,800 hazelnut farmers in Sakarya, Düzce, Ordu, Giresun and Trabzon in the Black Sea region. Awareness raising sessions with the local children of hazelnut growers were also conducted in the same provinces on children's rights.

Possibly the greatest challenge to combating child labor in seasonal agriculture is the fact that these children start their seasonal agricultural work journey every year in March and end it in November back in their home towns. Uncertainty of related legislation along with the lack of implementation of the existing laws against child labor in seasonal agriculture creates a big gap between legislation and the practice of preventing child labor.

In order to sensitize farmers and their children on the causes and effects of children's employment in seasonal agriculture, trainings in Good Social Practices (GSP) were realized during the summer of 2013. GSP trainers, being locals of the respective regions, proved

to be a highly valuable asset for Support to Life in gaining the trust of the farmers, thus resulting in the effective conveying of key messages.

As a parallel activity, Support to Life trainers organized numerous workshops on child labor as it relates to children's universal rights. On average around 50 children were present in each activity. The age of the children participating in the event ranged from 7 to 17, with a majority of participants in the 9 to 12 years range. Promotional materials distributed to local children consisted of pencil cases, marbles and puzzles.



## Civil Society Disaster Platform (CSDP)

The aim of the Civil Society Disaster Platform is to promote information sharing and coordination among civil actors and related stakeholders to minimize disaster risks and enhance efficient response to disasters in Turkey.

Together with Neighborhood Disaster Volunteers Foundation and Mavi Kalem Social Assistance and Solidarity Association, Support to Life is one of the Steering Committee members of the Civil Society Disaster Platform (CSDP).

**Starting from May 2013, CSDP has prioritized the following work areas:**

- Developing a functional communication and information-sharing network for civil actors and other stakeholders.
- Strengthening information flow between civil actors and public authorities related to disaster response and disaster risk reduction.
- Building the institutional capacity of civil actors in disaster risk reduction and disaster response.
- Promoting a culture of coordination among civil actors, public authorities and other stakeholders at times of crisis.





## We do independent project work!

Support to Life implements projects in disaster preparedness, emergency relief and recovery in post-disaster situations, and capacity building. Our experienced team has worked on humanitarian projects in different regions of the world and conducts independent needs assessments for the design of relief and recovery operations in accordance with a quality management and accountability framework.

Affected populations receiving aid from Support to Life are identified based on vulnerability criteria.











## Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) REGIONAL OFFICE

Support to Life has been acting as regional representative of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) for the West and Central Asia region for four years. As a strategic partner, Support to Life has been entitled to establish and oversee partnerships in the name of DKH, provide support to local partners in project management and other areas of expertise, and act in response to emergencies in any of the 17 countries in the region.



## Afghanistan



Natural disasters affect more than half a million people in Afghanistan every year

In Afghanistan we supported three local partner organizations in the implementation of Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) projects within a grant program.

Afghanistan frequently experiences disasters such as earthquakes, floods, sandstorms and extreme winter. The low capacities and weak structures in the country due to more than two decades of wars and internal conflicts and also the limited knowledge on how to prepare and battle the hazards make the response and recovery process very difficult. The purpose of the CBDRR projects is to increase local resilience towards these hazardous events.

Our local partners worked with local communities in Kunduz, Herat and Faryab.

All projects started with a risk assessment in each location and included small mitigation measures which, together with participatory planning, aim to reduce the impact of floods, earthquakes and storms on people's daily live and livelihoods in the rural areas.



Projects supported in Afghanistan aim to reduce the risks of flood and drought as well as mitigate their effects.



# Syria

Since the start of the conflict in Syria, more than 2.3 million people have fled to the neighboring countries of Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and others.

There is little room in the crowded refugee camps and so many seek refuge with host communities. Hosts and refugees alike are struggling to find adequate food, water, shelter, clothing, health services, education facilities for their children, and income generating opportunities in a foreign land.

Through DKH funds, Support to Life is supporting internally displaced communities in Syria through local partners and networks.



It is estimated that  
125,000 Syrians have  
died in the violence  
since 2011







The main reasons for drought in Iraq are low rainfall, inefficient management of water resources and population growth.

## Iraq

By the end of the year, nearly 210.000 refugees found shelter in Northern Iraq, either in camps or in urban settlements.

Through partner organizations, we provided life-saving assistance to over 4,000 families living in urban settings, and a further 2,500 new arrival Syrian families residing in Khabat refugee camp, thus all together reaching out to more than 35,000 Syrian refugees.

Through our support, Syrian refugees received monthly food assistance, non-food items such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen utensils, health

and hygiene kits, winterization items (heaters and fuel), and rental support.

Some 50 Syrian households also had the possibility to participate in income-generating activities through a cash-for-work program.



## Palestine

Having responded to those affected by the Gaza-Israel clashes in November 2012, a three-year project was launched in October 2013 addressing the increasing drought related challenges in the Gaza Strip.

In order to support the affected population following the Gaza-Israel clashes in November 2012, our local partner implemented successfully a project targeting the food security and livelihoods of affected farmers by rehabilitating greenhouses and poultry farms.

In a following project on drought resilience in Gaza, our local partner made use of innovative

water management tools, based upon which 240 farmer households will have access to sustainable water resources for irrigation through rainwater harvesting methods.

Furthermore, 350 households will benefit from roof rainwater harvesting for domestic use, resulting in reduced expenses for the purchase of water as well as improving hygiene conditions.



Food insecurity is a reality  
for 1.4 million people  
in Gaza









# We deliver electronic vouchers for our cash based food security projects!

In accordance with our principles and values, we believe in the right to a life with dignity.

Moreover, from the logistics perspective, we know that delivering cash-based assistance is more time-efficient and cost-effective than delivering in-kind relief goods.



**In 2013, 99.69% of our income  
was directed to project work.**



## FINANCE

Support to Life carries out institutional audits on a yearly basis that cover all projects. Our audit reports are open to public and are available on our website. We have set up our institutional systems in a way that we are accountable for all our actions. For more information on our finances, you can visit our office.



## Expenses (TL)

2013			
EXPENSES (TL)			
DONOR	PROJECT	2013	%
DKH	Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) Regional Office Project	491.225,41	5,16%
Arche Nova	Distribution of Relief Items to Syrian Refugees outside the Camps in Turkey	33.090,76	0,35%
Malteser	Winter Relief for Syrian out-of-camp Refugees	104.044,52	1,09%
AAR Japan	Assistance for Syrian Refugees in Southeastern Turkey	737.581,78	7,74%
UNHCR	Profiling of Non-camp Syrian Refugees	45.787,83	0,48%
DKH	Voucher Program for Non-camp Syrian Refugees and Host Communities	4.887.449,39	51,30%
DKH	Gaza Relief Assistance Project	10.182,27	0,11%
DKH-DVV	Restoring Lives through Psychosocial Care and Adult Education	432.105,88	4,54%
Ferrero	Promoting Good Social Practices in the Hazelnut Sector in Turkey	326.998,78	3,43%
REWE	Eliminating Child Labor in Seasonal Agriculture in Turkey	469.416,80	4,93%
EU	Using Photography as a Learning Tool in Disadvantaged Communities	28.622,62	0,30%
DRC	Community based Psychosocial Support for Syrian Refugees in Hatay	228.194,71	2,40%
DKH	Civil Society Disaster Platform	91.494,42	0,96%
DRC-DDG	Risk Education for Syrian Refugees in Turkey, Phase I	93.036,53	0,98%
DRC-ECHO	Community Center for Syrian Refugees in Hatay, Turkey	699.901,61	7,35%
AECID / ACF	Mother and New Born Nutrition Project	207.194,67	2,17%
AAR Japan	Support to Displaced Syrians in Sanliurfa Province, Turkey	329.299,00	3,46%
DRC-ECHO	Risk Education for Syrian Refugees in Turkey, Phase II	63.110,11	0,66%
UNHCR	Cash Assistance to the Non-camp Syrian Refugee population in Hatay	189.659,45	1,99%
DRC-ECHO	NGO Coordination Project	36.882,09	0,39%
STL	Operational Expenses	21.058,79	0,22%
TOTAL		9.526.337,42	100,00%

## Income (TL)

INCOME (TL)		
	2013	RATIO
Project Income	9.505.278,63	99,73%
Donations	25.917,52	0,27%
TOTAL	9.531.196,15	100,00%







# Thank You! So Glad We Have You!

Thank you for your monthly pledges to our project work. Your support is very valuable to us. We are happy that you are a part of our family!



Esin Uyar  
Dinçer Özsoy  
Yeliz Özsoy



Gökçe Alacadağlı  
İlhami Özsoy  
Esin Arsan



Hayriye Özsoy  
Yılmaz Taş  
Serap Yelkenci



Zeynep M. Sanduvaç  
Gökhan Erkutlu  
Diana Gargano



Şeyda Candan Genel  
Salim Çağlar  
Firdevs Tokalak



Madelon Briet  
Süleyman Akkaya  
M.Deniz Çağlar



## Why we need your donations?

We need funds to carry out our projects. Once data is collected from the field, project ideas are generated and designed in our head office in Istanbul. We need a permanent core team to compile our assessment data and to find funds for these project ideas.

Project funds are spent only for project implementation, so to cover the expenses of our head office, we need your donations!

Your donations are very important because they turn our project ideas into reality. Disaster preparedness is an area we wish to focus more on, but for which we are unable to raise funds.

After completing emergency aid work after the Van earthquake, we developed projects for community based disaster preparedness for the same target group, but were unable to carry out any work in this area due to a lack of funds.

Donate today!





## BECOME A MEMBER

If you become a member of Support o Life, you will be informed of the latest developments, meet new people with interest areas similar to yours, and experience the happiness of extending help to those in need in Turkey and beyond.



[www.hayatadestek.org/uye](http://www.hayatadestek.org/uye)



[info@hayatadestek.org](mailto:info@hayatadestek.org)

## IF YOU LIKE IT, SHARE IT!

We want to remain in touch with you. You can follow projects progress by following us on social media, and help us provide aid to a large number of people by publicizing our work.



[www.facebook.com/HayataDestek](http://www.facebook.com/HayataDestek)



[www.twitter.com/Support2Life](http://www.twitter.com/Support2Life)



[www.youtube.com/Support2Life](http://www.youtube.com/Support2Life)

## SUPPORT US!

The increase in funds for Support to Life enhances the organization's impact and guarantees its survival. Each donation, however small, means a great deal to us and to those waiting for your help!

### Turkish Liras Account

**Bank** : Garanti Bankası

**Branch** : Valikonağı (183)

**Account No:** 6297908

**Iban No** : TR06 0006200018300006297908



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