

childrenofconflicts.org



CHILDREN OF CONFLICTS

Protection - Rehabilitation - Education

PROGRAM



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National Defence and Security Institute

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PROGRAM

CHILDREN OF CONFLICTS | Protection - Rehab - Education Program

SUBJECT

Regardless from its scope, parties, location and duration, to raise awareness concerning situation, protection, rehabilitation and educational needs of children who, as a result of a conflict, bodily or psychologically suffer in our country, in the region or anywhere in the world, lost parents, siblings and friends, had to leave their hometown, and organizing several academic and social events in order to mobilize official and civil actors.

OBJECTIVE

Conflicts leave behind, in any case, wounded, crippled, harmed, orphaned children of all ages. A part of those who could survive have to struggle with difficulties and hard conditions. From the birth, all children in these conditions are in need of food, healthcare, special attendance and education.

As in all countries, education of children, who are the insurance of future, in the best way and their preparation for the future is a right and commitment in Turkey. As in the other parts of the world, victims of conflicts are dominantly children in Turkey. Priority of the project is to draw attention to the issue and encourage authorities to take cover these children, emphasize the importance of education and rehabilitation for children of conflicts as well as urging public to approach the issue from this point of view.

LOCATION

Turkey and the region

DATE

2016 - 2017

COORDINATOR

National Defense and Security Institute, a subsidiary of TASAM, undertakes the coordination of the program. Founded 12 years ago and operates as an impartial and independent NGO, TASAM focuses on the continents “Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America- Caribbean and North America and regions “Balkans, Middle East, Black Sea, Caucasia and Mediterranean, and identities Turkic World and Islamic World.

TASAM activities, which are developed to provide strategic contributions to Turkey’s national institutional capacity building, together with its institutional networks have reached a level of global importance. Around hundreds of leading experts and academics contribute to TASAM’s institutes, platforms, projects and other **activities which span nearly 100 countries**. So far, TASAM has founded institutions such as **Institute of Development and Cooperation, Africa Institute, Islamic Countries Institute, Public Diplomacy Institute, Political Communication Institute of Energy, Water and Food, Institute of Environment and Brand Cities, National Defense and Security Institute and Turkey Tourism Institute**. Besides, it runs the coordination of World Islamic Forum, International Think Tanks Development and Cooperation Platform, Turkey Nuclear Technology Forum, Think Tanks Turkey Dialogue, Balkan Communication Network, OIC Countries Think Tanks Platform. With projects such as **“Turkey’s Strategic Vision 2023 (TSV2023)”**, which was initiated under the patronage of Presidency of Republic of Turkey, and its current version in the 2053 **Power and Justice Project** and national and international platforms it pioneered TASAM works for enhancing peace, welfare and development of humanity in Turkey, in the region and the world with utmost feedback and participation.

SCOPE

Individuals keep their child status until the age of 18 according to internationally accepted definition. The 2.2 billion of the world's population, which has expanded to about 7.4 billion, composed of the children. Unfortunately, the vast majority of them are living now under-developed/conflict regions.

It's undeniable that the most developed countries, to ensure the continuity of their own growth, has made certain investments for children. Through the education, to make available the knowledge and experience, as prerequisites for sustainable development, to the children, the countries seek to attain their regional and global targets. In the emerging and developing countries as well as the countries-at-risk, which are faced with security, financial, social and political problems, not only the countries but also their regions eventually change into troubled areas because of both these problems and their persistency. The majority of these countries are not be able to make long-term plans to overcome the difficulties but they only have short-term plans, which makes no mention of children's policies as frequent as they should be. Poverty and conflict are often concomitant facts and there is some sort of cause-effect relationship between these two concepts.

The « disaster » conditions in other areas, where the countries are defined as countries-at-risk by the United Nation, depending on the perpetual conflicts, such as Syria, Afghanistan, Somali, North Soudan, Congo, Central Africa, Iraq, Eritrea, Yemen and Myanmar as well as Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia, have profoundly deleterious effects on children's lives in particular. Many children have died, become permanently disabled, not been kept medical observation or care, been left orphans, been recruited by army or companies, immigrated, left homeless, had to give up the education since the schools were damaged or destroyed. It's clear that this situation will continue in the short-term and lead some other problems in the long-term.

Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Soudan and Somali not only the countries that Turkey mainly allows immigrants but they are in a closer sphere of influence of Turkey due to geographic and political reasons. Furthermore, the previous problems, which conflict area countries' children had experienced, follow them out of their countries, even within the territorial borders of Turkey.

It's already known that the terror acts, which Turkey had experienced, had some negative effects on children. Given that the children affected by conflicts are adults now and the majority of the individuals, who had involved in terror acts or felt sympathy for these kinds of acts, are

composed of them, it can be concluded that there is a system amplifying the conflict's effects. It's a question of mental threshold what today's children may potentially change into during next one or two decades.

There is a consensus on children of conflicts area must be protected, rehabilitated and educated. Specifically education, as the most powerful weapon, as an opportunity to change the world, is of great importance not only for the countries devastated by wars but also for Turkey affected negatively by regional conflicts. This should be one of the essential focal points of ongoing educational programs and policies.

Conflict, lack of education and poverty turn into some kind of persistent vicious circle, when it comes to bedeviled, neglected and uneducated children. We've observed that the attacks against educational institutions have gradually increased in some countries such as Nigeria, Syria and Kenya. Terrorist acts started to paralyze the education in Turkey too and in certain cities and counties children have not been able to go to school as a result of these kinds of activities. This problem may lead to social instability even if it currently concerns only a small part of the society. Possible reasons for all of these educational problems are as follows:

1st The schools in the conflict zones may be harmed or devastated and the teachers may be killed or forced to join the war or to leave the zone.

2nd Diseases may prevent to attend the classes (Some diseases, which can easily be treated, such as diarrhea and malaria may spread due to lack of basic health services.)

3rd Children may be forced to leave their home and already be in the immigration camps where there is no school at all.

4th Conflict possibly caused to separate the family member from each other or a loss to their sources of income. (Children may have to work instead of going to school or to stay at home for looking after the little by age or sick relatives so the others can make some money.)

5th School and birth certificates are often disappeared or destroyed and this prevents the children to enroll in other schools.

6th Some societies doesn't much care about formal education -particularly about education of girls. This mostly happens in conflict zones where the short-term basic survival needs more important than the investment for future.

The level of fidelity for social sensibility and belief to find solutions as well as the efforts will negatively be affected, if the current conflicts and the violation of children's rights based on these conflicts have become normal. Education is essential for children in order to sustain their

rights of life, protection and housing, and to have opportunities for a better future. It's obvious that if education is neglected then huge problems eventually come up. It's not possible to access the educational opportunities in a universal scale unless we really make some efforts about the schooling of the children who are affected by conflicts. For this reason, the acts of violence targeted to schools and students needed to be seen as war crimes. Violation of children's rights must be finished and taken Children of Conflicts under more protection and care of educational institutions that prepare them for the future.

POTENTIAL CO-OPERATIONS/PARTNERS

Ministry of Family and Social Policies

Governorships

Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Policies

Directorate General of Migration Management

Municipalities

The Red Crescent

The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD)

The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

World Health Organization (WHO)

General Directorate of Children Services

Private-Public Dormitories for Children

Darüßsafaka Foundation and High School

Women and Democracy Association (KADEM)

Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV)

Children Foundation

Turkey Women Associations Federation

Education Volunteers

Universities

Social Assistance and Solidarity Associations and Foundations

PROGRAM ACTIVITY PERSPECTIVE

Workshops

Choosing Pilot Area and Case Study

Research Projects

Conferences

Congress/Symposium

Suggestion/Policy Presentations

Reports and Publications

TV Media Activities