

Name of the Project

23 April Double Feast

The Motto of the Project

Bin Düş Bir Gülüş (Thousand Dream Thousand Smile) #bindüşbirgülüş

The Subject of the Project

We have experienced several disasters in this region not in a row but at the same. All of us, without exception, have been directly or indirectly damaged and destroyed, just like our buildings. But it was our children who suffered even more than us. Not only their families and friends, but also their past, including their birds, fish, and cats were in ruins. They have been injured and bruised, both physically and emotionally.

Now is the time to fasten the wounds and heal while they all heal together. It's time to save hopes, dreams and children's futures from the rubble.

The strongest balm we have for all of this is surely love. We will show our love to them by doing our best for them making them feel that they are cared for and thought of.

As the 100th anniversary of April 23rd which is a milestone in our country's history, we want to start the process of recovery and healing by celebrating their holidays with the children.

We are...

We are a civil initiative that calls itself the KARDEŞ PLATFORMU (Fellow Platform), gathered around a volunteer team that provided search and rescue and aid organization in the 17 August 1999 earthquake, and then a volunteer team that provided coordination support during the 6 February 2023 earthquake process.

Our Story

From the first hours of the 17 August 1999 earthquake, we were in the region with search and rescue efforts. Not only to save, but also to heal wounds for the next two years, we voluntarily continued charity organizations and support activities for children in Adapazarı and the surrounding regions, under the name of "Ağ-17 Yardım Gönüllüleri (Net-17 Aid Volunteers)".

As members of this group, we continued our active duties with new companions, which we have undertaken as "Search and Rescue Coordination" and then "Aid Support Activities" since the first day in the earthquake of February 6, 2023. It was a hope for us to see today's bright and young people walk in a much stronger and more organized way than we were. It was a hope for us to see that today's bright young people walk in a much stronger and more organized way than we do, on the path we started as young volunteers 24 years ago.

We want to re-live the project “Hearts Have Become a Letter to Hope”, which we realized in 1999 for earthquake-affected children and made a great impression with great participation, by adapting it to the present day. When we have shared this idea we have witnessed that the affiliated people and some other groups such as NGO's (Non-governmental Organizations) and sports clubs followers have the same excitement as us.

Our Platform ,with it's own mean, allows individuals and groups that are trying to help to come together and join forces, to gather in a more coordinated, effective aid organization integrity, to increase participation and expand the communication network even more.

The fact that 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day, one of the most important of our national holidays, coincided with the Ramadan Feast this year, gave us a good opportunity. It has given us the excitement of having a double holiday, not only for our children, but also for our people of all ages who have experienced this great pain. Thus, the “23 April Double Feast” project was born.

We realized that we can celebrate 23 April in its 100th year with a great organization, to make you forget all these pains even for a while and to raise hope for a beautiful future in young hearts who have experienced darkness.

Justification for the Project

Although it is not on the agenda enough, unfortunately, it is always our children who are the most affected and victimized by disasters.

We are able to see with the help of social media or directly with the groups we are in contact there are many volunteers at any age who willing to strive for the children. We are aware that if we gather all these people together with a good organization and forget about the "me, you " and so we can accomplish a greater task than ever.

We saw that our evaluation of the "Double Feast" that we mentioned above for this joint organization, for this very purpose, will have a strong impact, and it will be PROMISING and UNIFYING for all of us.

Although it may seem like a big dream at the moment, we know that reaching this goal can be achieved with a little effort and good coordination. We, as Kardeş Platform, are willing to work hard for this purpose. We are ready to walk hand in hand with educators and sensitive citizens who will support us in this matter.

Purposes of the Project

- We act with the desire to contribute as much as we can to the process of reducing the low morale and psychological trauma experienced by children in the region after the earthquake, **and to the process of re-normalizing their lives.**
- In the light of this project, our ultimate goal is to establish a **“sustainable support bridge”**, taking into account that the healing of wounds may take a long time.To achieve this ultimate

goal we want to gather volunteers such as teacher, psychologists etc from all around of Turkey and take them to disaster area and make them see the degree of the disaster. Thus, we aim to enable these volunteer teams to touch and bond with children and families in the region, thus creating a permanent bridge for the future. It aims to create **one of the most important pillars of this bridge in no time. the "Permanent Family Brotherhood"**.

- This April 23 is a very special date and a double holiday. To take a unifying step in society while celebrating two religious and national holidays together. On this occasion, we aim to bring together different segments of society and, based on what we did 24 years ago, to experience the feeling of unity and solidarity created by the "Double Feast" for everyone, big and small, with the experience and guidance of those days.
- One of the primary goals of this platform is to gather these unaware works under one roof in order to heal the wounds of the disaster, combine power and capability, and to ensure common communication. Thanks to this cooperation, we can establish both the coordination and the addressee before the official authorities.
- To ensure that the works to be carried out in the region in line with these purposes are **carried out by conscious volunteers who have been trained and properly guided by experts in their fields.**
- In order to achieve all these goals, we aim to provide support to express the needs by organizing teams that want to take part in the earthquake site with this goal.

WHEN

Our project will take place on 22-23 April 2023. Then, we plan to organize support organizations at various times.

WHERE

Our project aims to cover other earthquake provinces, especially Hatay. Primarily village schools, central tent cities and squares will be the application points of our project.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO

- KARDEŞ PLATFORMU is completely voluntary. The project will be carried out with our volunteers under the roof of this platform
- .By keeping human dignity at the top of our platform, donations will be made in the form of transferring/sharing from one hand to another.
- All the works that our platform will carry out will be carried out in accordance with the law, by obtaining the necessary permissions, and in coordination with government institutions and organizations.

- No financial aid will be received from any institution or person for any reason related to this project. When necessary, invoices for the purchase of goods and services will be issued and payments will be made at the source of the work.
- The standard packages to be distributed to the children in the region will be collected primarily from the supporters in the schools and secondarily from the individual participants we reached through our communication campaign. In case of a sponsorship agreement with a cargo company, individual packages sent from every corner of Turkey will be able to reach the region.
- Relevant units of our Kardeş Platform will organize gift packages collected at schools and the schools' departure to the region with volunteer staff who will support us. Individual and corporate packages arriving in the region will be collected in a warehouse in Hatay.
- Every transaction and step will be carefully recorded.
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- The Board of Directors of the Kardeş Platform and the relevant institutions will determine the children in advance to whom the packages will be distributed, and will plan and coordinate the delivery of the packages to the children by whom, by which methods and tools, in line with the supervision and guidance of the psychologists within.
- After the distribution of the gifts, the second part of the Double Feast will be started. Support will be provided for the realization of the great 23 April celebrations, which will be held with the motto #bindüşbirgüş, which will include concerts, theater and various stage performances.

Project Detailed Activity Plan

Although the Kardeş Platform is a new formation, we are moving forward by transferring our experiences from the 1999 earthquake to our platform and to our new friends who joined us.

In the light of our experience, we anticipate that we will find a significant amount of support for such a comprehensive project, which includes children who are victims of the earthquake, after a proper publicity and public communication work.

We are also aware that volunteers and supports are gradually withdrawing from the region, and our people's familiarity with the situation has increased and their interest has decreased. As the core staff of the platform, we have taken into account the possibility of not finding enough support in this project, being aware of the impossibility of telling the exact size of the support.

So we decided to configure the project according to 2 different possibilities:

1. **Ideal Scenario:** If large-scale participation and sufficient sponsorship are provided as we hope and wish, the organization will be held on both April 22 and April 23, and will continue to be carried out with different activities afterwards.
2. **Narrow Scoped Scenario:** If the participation and support is not as expected, an organization will only be held on 23 April.

Considering the amount of support and interest provided, we have identified Hatay as our primary objective. If support and continuity are provided, we will continue with the provinces where it is possible to provide logistical support such as Adiyaman and Kahramanmaraş, and we will advance the organization to include other earthquake provinces.

In the ideal situation where the project received sufficient interest and support, we planned the activities in 3 stages.

1. Saturday, April 22
2. Sunday, April 23
3. Long-term support works after the holiday by maintaining the established connections.

As experts have pointed out, we are aware that after this two-day festive atmosphere of celebration, everything will suddenly return to its former darkness, which may cause the benefit we are trying to create in children to disappear, or even worsen the situation. For this reason, while we have drawn the attention and awareness of the society to the children of the earthquake zone, we aim to both keep this alive and expand its field. For this reason, in our search for sponsors and support, we plan to give priority to participation in the project to individuals and institutions that will be in line with this idea in terms of the continuity of the project after April 23. Thus, as a platform that goes to the

villages and schools in the region one by one and reaches those in need, we want to bring together the current and accurate lists of needs we have with people and organizations willing to meet them.

- Sibling family and sister school
- Sibling family and pen pal from abroad
- Providing information to rehabilitation teams that will provide psychological support in the region.

IDEAL SCENARIO ROADMAP

In summary, we aim for the ideal scenario to run as follows, provided adequate support is provided:

1. Obtaining the necessary permissions from the relevant official authorities.
2. Access to current school attendance information about children in the kindergarten and primary school age groups (3-10 years old) in earthquake zones and regions, and information on earthquake zone schools to work with.
3. Within the scope of this project, the launch of the campaign that will initiate the process of including schools and school associations that will act as intermediaries for families willing to prepare April 23 gift packages.
4. To announce our meticulously prepared project to the masses with a strong promotional work. To address the widest possible audience by doing this with people and artists who are known by the society and have an impact on large masses.
5. Emphasis on the standardization of the package content during the campaign (as we mentioned before, so that no child is sad).
6. Distributing the posters and letters we have prepared to convey to the schools and parents who have agreed to participate in this campaign.
7. Enabling the participation of mothers and fathers who watch the events in front of the television with the sadness that they can't do anything. Schools collect this help from parents until the specified date.
8. Sending the packages collected by each school to the region with a few staff who agree to volunteer. As our Kardeş Platdormu, if the off-road vehicles and buses are not enough, we organize a few trucks and collect the collected materials and volunteer participants from certain points on Friday, 21 April, and deliver them to the region on the morning of 22 April after a night journey.
9. Volunteers and packages arriving in the region on the morning of April 22 will reach the schools in the distribution and give their gifts to the children one by one in the presence of the volunteer district teachers. Afterwards, activities will be organized in the garden and there will be festive enthusiasm.
10. In the continuation of the 10th day, meticulous work will be carried out all over Hatay, and photographs will be taken together to create new memory frames for these children, whose photo albums have been destroyed along with their past, and professional photographers will be assisted for these shots. None of these photos will definitely be used in advertising or any commercial medium, it's all about starting the kids' photo albums all over again with frames of good memories.
11. We also undertake the organization of accommodation of our teams and food needs during the day. Considering the regional conditions, it is foreseen that the accommodation will be covered by tents to be set up in the concert venue.
12. Thus, the first phase of the project will be completed when the gifts sent from all over Turkey are delivered to our children on April 22.

13. After this point, the second phase of the project will begin on the morning of April 23. Artistic and sports activities, face painting, various competitions and fun activities will be held with volunteer teachers in the field, concerts and stage shows will be organized with the artists participating in the project.
14. During the event, information regarding the needs of children will also be collected from schools. This information will be used for the continuation of aid in the "Sister School" and "Sister Family" projects that we will create as the Sister Platform.
15. In the evening of 23 April, we will take the buses and return.

Many details on which the project is built will be prepared one by one with meticulous work in the committees we will form as the Kardeş Platform, apart from the main flow here.

At this point, we would like to state that almost all of the volunteers in our teams are teachers or pedagogues, they run development programs with children in their professional lives, and they have the capacity to communicate well with children even in the most critical times. This will constitute one of our key strengths in the field.

However, these volunteers, whom we have identified as professionals, will go through a reminder training to refresh their knowledge about the psychological state of children and families in the region before they go to the field. All volunteers who will go to the region through both our experts in our core staff and the country's most valuable child psychologists (such as Ayşe Bilge Selçuk, Özgür Bolat and Üstün Dökmen) will participate in training programs via ZOOM. This is scheduled for mid-April.

- What is volunteerism?
- How will we approach children and families?
- What will we do and what will we not do?

In addition to these few topics of the trainings to be given, trainings will be given to raise awareness about the sensitivities in the region.

It will also be ensured that all kinds of wrong attitudes that will cause the people of the region to feel that they are in need of help or that they are victims of earthquakes will also be prevented.

What is wanted to be created is to perceive us as friends, acquaintances and even siblings, and to awaken feelings that will enable them to experience a holiday celebrated together.

One of our main priorities is not to experience even the slightest sensitivity in mutual dialogues.

GIFT PACKAGE CONTENT

When we realized this project 24 years ago, schools were determined one by one on site. It was known who the children in these schools were and their needs. This information was presented to the donors. Thus, the supporters were able to act with the knowledge of who they were matched with and what their individual needs were. This allowed us to meet the requirements one-on-one.

However, when we return to today, we see that we have very limited time for the target we have set as "Double Feast". More importantly, the magnitude of this destruction, the unavailability of the targeted schools, make it impossible for us to receive the information of our children one by one and to deliver them exactly what they need.

That's why we decided to deliver standard packages to children in the first place. The individual needs of the children will be met at the stage that will continue after the organization through the lists to be created when they reach the region.

Gift packages to be prepared within the scope of the "Double Feast" project will be created with 2 different contents for children and adults. Gifts for children and adults will include the same products. In this way, we will prevent the disappointment that a child will make by comparing the package given to him and the package given to another child. By addressing the common needs of children between the ages of 3-10 in the 23 April target, we aim to reach 100,000 packages in which age discrimination will not be made. Each child will be presented with a package, while adult holiday gifts for his family will accompany him.

Considering that the support for participation in the project will cover the whole of Turkey, the standardization of the contents of the packages will also reduce the logistical intensity that may occur. The difficulties caused by the distribution according to people and regions will be prevented.

The contents of our joint gift packages delivered to our Kardeş Platformu volunteers in the region to be distributed from both our individual and corporate supporters are as follows:

- Adult gifts
- Children's gifts
- A letter and a picture to be drawn by our children for their siblings in the earthquake area.

Along with these packages, the platform volunteers take with them foam, balls, etc. With these objects, children will be able to celebrate their holidays by playing with their peers.

While preparing the contents of the packages, we considered many factors. One of the most important of these is that the packages are economical, so that the budgets of the families that will participate in the campaign are not strained and the participation can be as wide as possible.

The contents of the holiday gift packages are as follows:

Eid Package (Ramadan Gifts for Seniors)

- 👉 100pcs Teapot Tea Bags
- 👉 100 gr x 2 Packs of Turkish Coffee
- 👉 1 kg x 1 Pack of Cube Sugar
- 👉 500 gr Holiday Candy
- 👉 1 Plastic Bottle of Cologne (400-500 ml) Please tape the lid in case of spillage, wrap it in a bag and add it to the package.
- 👉 1 Women's Socks
- 👉 1 Men's Socks
- 👉 1 Nail Clipper

Holiday Package (April 23 Children's Gifts)

- 👉 1 Plush Toy (25-30 cm)

📦 4 Colored Play Dough

📦 1 board game

📦 Jump Rope

In a soft pencil holder:

📦 4 Pencils

📦 2 Erasers

📦 1 Sharpener

📦 1 Large Glue Stick

📦 1 Small Scissors

📦 2 Medium Size Picture Books (25x35)

📦 Coloring Book

📦 Picture Story Book

📦 12 Dry Paints

📦 1 children's toothbrush and toothpaste

📦 3 pocket size Wet Wipes

📦 1 Pack of Soft Candy

📦 1 Pack Sugar Free Gum

📦 A picture that our children will draw for their friends

📦 A letter for our children to write for their friends

There will be no discrimination between boys and girls in the packages. The principle of equality and uniformity will be preserved here as well.

We have an important request from our participants. There is not a single missing or excess product in any of the packages so that our children do not experience any feelings of sadness or sadness. Thus, we will protect the children from the sadness they will feel by seeing their friends who have the full package or better than themselves.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE PROJECT

1. As the Kardeş Platformu, our priority and fundamental issue is the children of this country, so no political discourse will be included in our project.
2. In no way religion, language, race and ethnic origin, etc. segregation will not be allowed.
3. Our target is the children and families who have been victimized by the earthquake disaster. It will not be allowed to take any steps in line with the interests of individuals or groups other than these target persons.
4. Every step taken by our Kardeş Platformu will be carried out in accordance with the law and in coordination with the institutions and organizations of our state.

5. No person or institution will come to the fore within the scope of the project.
6. Absolutely no financial aid will be received from anyone or institution related to this project. If necessary, invoices for purchased goods or services will be issued to individuals and institutions that want to support, and payments will be made to the source of the work.
7. Our project will be carried out without any help to anyone, without harming human dignity, without being treated as victims or earthquake victims. Aid will be graciously transferred from one hand to the other one by one.
8. With the awareness that this holiday is our holiday, we want to keep our project alive and live not as one side helping the other, but as a holiday where everyone shares the same feelings and celebrated together as brothers.

PROJECT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

The fields of activity of the committees that we started to take action during the project phase are as follows:

- Communication Board with Schools and Families: It provides communication and coordination with schools and families who want to support.
- Member Information Board: It carries out the information and guidance of the group members who have newly joined our platform.
- Activity Teams Board: Theatre, library, toy museum, etc. and coordination of activity groups
- Regional Schools Board: Coordination with students, schools and families to be supported
- Partner NGOs Board: Coordination with the groups we will act with
- Sponsorship Board: Coordination with institutions and organizations that will provide the necessary resources and support for the project.
- Communication Board with Official Institutions: Communication, coordination and obtaining necessary permits with official institutions such as the Ministry of National Education, Governorships, and Law Enforcements.
- Education and Consultancy Board: Training and pedagogical guidance of the volunteers who will work within the scope of the project.
- Technology and Support Board: Providing the technological infrastructure that will be needed during the project process and solving possible technical problems to be experienced
- Media and Communication Board: Activities for the project to reach large audiences
- Warehouse and Logistics Board: Coordinating the transportation and storage of materials to be sent to the region
- Transportation and Off-Road Board: Coordination of the transportation of volunteer teams to the region
- Supervisory Board: It monitors that the works to be carried out during the project process are carried out in accordance with the rules.

CONCLUSION

We want to turn the dream of brotherhood and cooperation, which we all only dream of, into a reality by gathering our individual forces in a pot, with a project to be carried out with a professional operation that is designed, organized and with clear targets, and the projects to follow. So we say, on April 23, let's unite both our hearts and our forces for our children. After all, we are all BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

Murat H. Polat

Project General Coordinator