KOMELEYA BERÎ HER TIŞTÎ ZAROK
ÖNCE ÇOCUKLAR DERNEĞİ



CHILDREN FIRST ASSOCIATION

2026–2028 Work Programme

DİYARBAKIR

KOMELEYA BERÎ HER TIŞTÎ ZAROK
ÖNCE ÇOCUKLAR DERNEĞİ



CHILDREN FIRST ASSOCIATION

Children First Association

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Children First Association 2026-2028 work programme



Nurturing the seeds of the future together

The world is like a vast garden shaped by children's hands. However, not every corner of this garden is warmed by the same sun, nor does every soil drink the same water. In some regions, being a child is not just a stage of life, but also a heavy responsibility, a silent resistance, and a miracle in need of protection. The Children First Association was founded precisely to be a voice of this miracle, to carry the laughter of children rising from the ancient streets of Diyarbakır to the farthest corners of the world as a rights-based echo.

We believe that a world in which children cannot dream in their mother tongue, face labour exploitation instead of play, and suffer stunted development due to malnutrition represents a collective failure for us all. Our association has set out not merely as a "charity" but as a rights advocate, a hub of science, and a bridge through art to address this failure.
Our 2026-2028 Strategic Work Plan, a deliberate expression of this belief and struggle, is not merely a technical document consisting of numbers and projects. It is a "roadmap" that connects the millennia-old multilingual and multicultural heritage of the lands we live on with the digital and technological possibilities of the future. As the Children First Association, we consider it our duty to equip our children not only with the fairy tales of yesterday but also with the coding languages of tomorrow, robotics laboratories, and the aesthetics of art production that extends from the local to the global.

Who are we and what do we aim for?
We are the desk of the child who is away from school due to seasonal agricultural migration. We are the touch of the hands of a disabled child who cannot access art. We are the warm meal for the child who cannot say "I'm hungry," and the first syllable that comes out of the mouth of the child who says "my mother tongue."

In our strategic plan covering the period 2026-2028, we are localising technology with the "Digital Mother Tongue Academy", bringing art to the most remote villages with the "Mobile Art Truck" and monitoring the safety of every child with "Child Protection Networks". Our goal is ambitious, our burden is heavy, but our belief in a future where children play freely, receive education in their mother tongue, and are not exploited is stronger than anything else.

Dear friends reading this document, whether you are a volunteer, a supporter, or someone hearing our name for the first time... Know that every activity of this association aims to prevent the light in a child's eyes from fading. Because we know that children are children by right, and the world only truly turns when children smile.
Let us build this child-centred future rising from the land we live on together. Because above all else, always and under all circumstances: Children First!

Children First Association Board of Directors

1- Introduction and strategic framework

The 2024-2026 period has been a process of “memory and identification” for our association. While combating the traumatic effects of the 6 February 2023 earthquakes, we also systematically recorded chronic problems faced by children in the region, such as access to their mother tongue, malnutrition and child labour, using scientific data.

The 2026-2028 period, in accordance with our charter’s principle of “supporting the physical, mental and social development of children,” represents the threshold for transforming this data into sustainable solution models. During this period, our association will evolve from a reactive structure into a proactive and policy-shaping actor.

Our strategic framework, developed in line with this orientation, draws its strength from three fundamental directives in our charter and international conventions:

• **Right to Life and Development (Statute Art. 2):** Defends children’s right to healthy nutrition, shelter and protection from disasters. This article forms the “Nutrition and Disaster Health” pillar of our strategy.

• **Cultural Identity and Mother Tongue (Statute Art. 4):** Protects the child’s right to education and access to art in their own language. This is the basis of our “Digital Mother Tongue and Science Academy” pillar.

• **The Child’s Right to Participation:** The Lundy Participation Model, which lies at the heart of our strategy, is the methodological counterpart of our statute’s “child-centred” approach.

In line with this approach, as in previous years, we will design our new projects not “for children” but “with children.” The four fundamental components of the Lundy Model will be integrated into our operational processes as follows:

• **Space:** Expanding physical and digital platforms where children can feel safe and express themselves in their native languages. (Mobile Truck, Zarok-App)

• **Voice:** Establishing a “Child Monitors” system that will enable children to report their own problems in their own words.

• **Audience:** Ensuring that children’s voices are not confined within the walls of the association; they will be directly conveyed to local authorities, bar associations, and international mechanisms (UNICEF, UN).

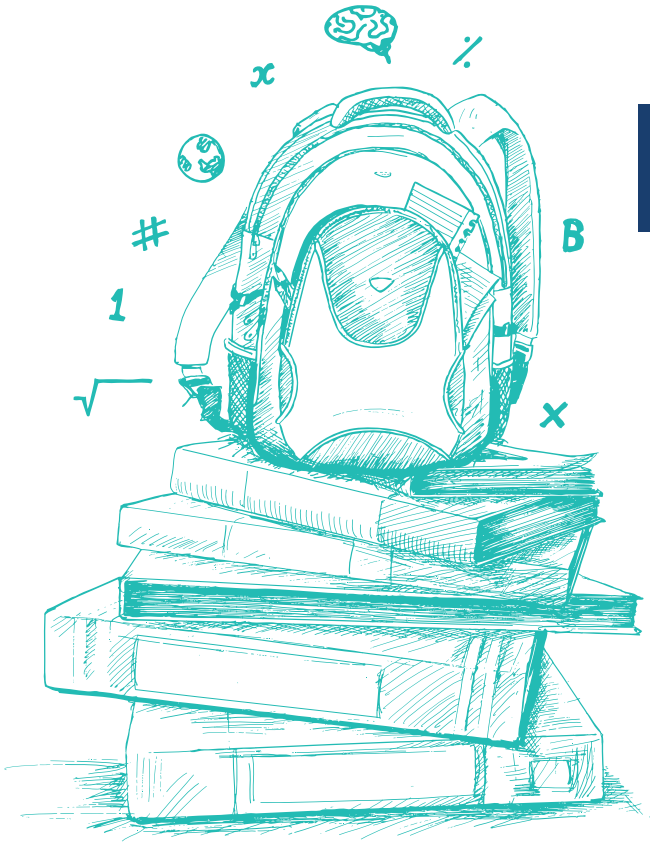
• **Influence:** Ensuring that children’s suggestions are incorporated as concrete items into local government strategic plans and the association’s advocacy files.

Our association will focus all its energy and resources on the following three main axes in accordance with its statutes until 2028:

Strategic Axis	Statutory Correspondence	Core Objective
Urban Rights and Nutrition	Right to physical development, health and social space	Pilot project: Implement the “School Kitchen” model in at least one disadvantaged neighbourhood in collaboration with the local administration. Urban access: Ensure that free, clean drinking water is available through fountains in 30% of existing children’s parks. Accessible food: Meet the daily protein needs of the poorest thousand children through the “Pay-it-Forward Food” or “Nutrition Voucher” systems using the local merchant network.
Digital and Cultural Heritage	Cultural identity and education	Produce science, art and technology content in native languages and make it accessible to all children through global digital platforms.
Protection and Advocacy	Preventing neglect and abuse and protecting the right to life	Neighbourhood protection network: Standardising the “Early Warning System” consisting of neighbourhood leaders and shopkeepers in pilot neighbourhoods. Legal monitoring: Launching a “Rights Monitoring Panel” that monitors and reports on child rights violations in the region on a monthly basis. Emergency response: Maintain an active network of volunteer experts to provide psychosocial and legal first aid within 24 hours of neglect cases.

The 2026-2028 strategy outlined above will transform the Children First Association into a social innovation mechanism that produces, monitors and transforms, freeing it from grant dependency. Our aim is to present this model we have created in Diyarbakır to the world as a “local to global” children’s rights prototype.

2- Priority work themes and objectives



a) Education, mother tongue and cultural life

In the field of education, Diyarbakır and the surrounding provinces face unique problems in addition to those experienced nationwide. According to data available from various sources, the secondary school enrolment rate in Diyarbakır and the surrounding region is critically low at 81.46%. School dropout and child labour are also significant problems in education. Along with enrolment rates, school dropout and child labour, another major problem in education in Diyarbakır and the region is mother tongue education. Although 86.2% of families prioritise mother tongue education, a system that would enable children and young people to receive education in their own mother tongue has not yet been established. Our association addresses the psychosocial and mental development of children holistically, in accordance with Article 2 of its charter, using the formula “Mother Tongue + Technology + Art” to close this gap. The projects we plan to implement in the areas of education, mother tongue, and cultural life during the 2026-2028 period are as follows:

Project I: Digital Mother Tongue and Science Academy

Field research conducted in the region and our association's observations show that there is a "semantic gap" between children's mother tongues and the official language of instruction they encounter at school.

When the mother tongue is confined to everyday conversations at home, it loses its status as a "living language." When children learn science, mathematics, and technology concepts only in a second language, they perceive these fields as "foreign" and experience conceptual confusion in their cognitive development. Almost all educational digital content on the market is monolingual. There is no professional "mother tongue technology bridge" that would enable children to integrate into the digital age while preserving their cultural identity. Children in disadvantaged neighbourhoods have limited access to quality pre-school and primary education support materials. The Digital Mother Tongue and Science Academy aims to reduce this inequality through digital tools.

Our primary goal with this project is to conceptualise children's native languages not only as "cultural heritage" but also as a modern "language of thought and science" that enables them to comprehend the production tools of the 21st century (coding, science, technology) and to support their cognitive development in harmony with their own identities.

Project Scope:

- **Gamified Literacy (Zarok-App):**

One of our goals is to develop a mobile application aimed at the 6-12 age group, which uses voice recognition to monitor the child's pronunciation and awards points for correct spelling. This application will offer an interactive roadmap for children, starting with basic reading and writing in Kurdish and extending to modules on creative writing and critical thinking. With this project, we will also integrate an "offline" mode for rural areas with limited internet access.

- **"The Native Language of Science" – Science and Mathematics Materials:**

It is essential for children to encounter scientific content in their native language for both their own development and that of the language itself. We aim to achieve this through three pillars:

Firstly, a digital dictionary that explains the native language equivalents of technical concepts such as "Atom", "Galaxy" and "Software" with animations that will stick in children's memories.
Secondly, a "Little Scientist" video series that explains science experiments that can be done at home using simple materials, using scientific terms in the native language.
Thirdly, a synthesis of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics education based on the native language.

As part of this project, volunteer educators will first receive training on the "child rights-based approach" and "multilingual education pedagogy" with the participation of international experts. The creation of a guide for "native language activity plans" that educators can use in the classroom or workshops, compatible with the content of the Digital Mother Tongue and Science Academy, will also make the project more feasible.
Once this project is implemented, children who see that they can do science in their own mother tongue will gain academic confidence, and the risk of dropping out of school will decrease. Language will cease to be merely a memory of the past and become a code for building the future. The printed science kits will be sold through our association's economic enterprise, enabling the project to be self-financing.

Project II: Digital Dengbêj and Story Map

Cultural heritage is not merely a past confined to museums; it is a living organism that nourishes the present. However, socio-political changes and the pace of digitalisation in the region threaten this organism.

Modern life has weakened the traditional practice of storytelling (an oral tradition nourished by the Dengbêj culture). The language of communication between children and their elders (grandparents) is weakening, and the chain of cultural transmission is breaking. This project positions children not as passive listeners but as “culture detectives”.

There is a quantitative shortage of Kurdish-language content for children on the internet. Existing content is mostly modern translations. The inclusion of Mesopotamian fairy tales in the digital world, in the children’s own voices and in an interactive format, will enhance the prestige of the language and create a permanent digital archive. To this end, there is a need for a laboratory that will enable children to use technology not only for playing games but also for sound design, digital mapping and content production.

Our fundamental aim is to combine Mesopotamia’s millennia-old oral storytelling tradition with children’s technological skills, thereby “digitising and preserving” cultural heritage and transforming this process into a pedagogical tool that develops children’s self-confidence, language, and technical skills.



Project Scope:

Oral History Workshops (Cultural Detectives):

In these workshops, children will collect stories from their elders using professional voice recording devices or smartphones provided by our association. During this process, children will receive training in "Interview Techniques" and "Cultural Collection". Thus, not only fairy tales but also rhymes, lullabies (lorî) and traditional children's games that are in danger of being forgotten will become part of these recordings.

Zarok-Dengbêj Podcast and Foley Laboratory:

The collected fairy tales will be narrated by children in the association's studio or mobile studios. Using kitchen utensils or objects found in nature, children will create sound effects such as wind, galloping horses and creaking doors, learning the art of foley and sound design in the process. The resulting "Zarok-Dengbêj" series

will be made available worldwide via Spotify, YouTube Kids, and the association's application.

Interactive Fairy Tale Map (Cultural Atlas):

One of our goals is to create a digital Mesopotamia map showing the geographical regions where the tales take place. This way, when a user clicks on a village or city on the map, they will be able to listen to a tale specific to that region from a child from that area. In this way, a cognitive link will be established between geography and narrative.

When this project comes to life, the bond established through fairy tales between children, adults and the elderly will strengthen the social fabric by preventing intergenerational alienation. Again, through fairy tales, children will become familiar with the rich idioms, metaphors and narrative power of their language. Children who hear their own voices on a podcast channel and listen to the sound effects they have created will become individuals who are not "consumers" but "culture producers". Sharing Mesopotamian fairy tales with the world through a professional podcast channel will also elevate our association's advocacy power in the field of cultural rights to an international level.



Project III: Pixel Pixel My Rights (Children's Rights Animation Studio)

Child rights advocacy often remains an area where adults speak on behalf of children. However, in the digital world, the ways in which children make their voices heard are undergoing a radical transformation. Children spend an average of 4-6 hours a day in front of screens (on YouTube, TikTok and similar digital platforms). However, a large portion of this content does not address children's real issues (rights violations, child labour, inequality in education), but rather produces language that is predominantly consumption-based. This project aims to turn the tablet in the child's hands into an "advocacy tool".
Abstract concepts such as "the right to life," "the right to education," or "the right to participation" are often difficult to explain to children. However, when a child brings this right to life on stage through a character they have created using the stop-motion method, the concept of rights finds a lasting and practical counterpart in their mind.

The lack of cartoon and animation content in Kurdish that explains children's rights and has a modern visual aesthetic prevents children from learning these rights through their own cultural codes. Our primary aim is to enable children to develop their technical animation skills and use animation, a universal visual language, to tell the world about the rights violations they experience or their demands for rights in their native languages, and to institutionalise child participation through digital media.

Project Scope:

- **Professional Animation and Stop-Motion Workshops:**

Children will be taught storyboard preparation, character design (clay, paper or digital drawing) and frame-by-frame shooting techniques. Using professional stop-motion software on tablets, children will turn their ideas into finished films. In this process, children will gain patience, focus and technical editing skills.

- **Rights-Based Script Laboratory:**

Workshop activities are not limited to technical training. Each film begins with a real question: “If you were a child working on the street, what would you say to the world?” or “How would you solve the problem when your disabled friend cannot enter the park?” Starting with questions like these, children will produce 10 short films, which will be broadcast on Zarok TV and social media platforms as professional public service announcements.

- **International Children’s Media Forum and Digital Diplomacy:**

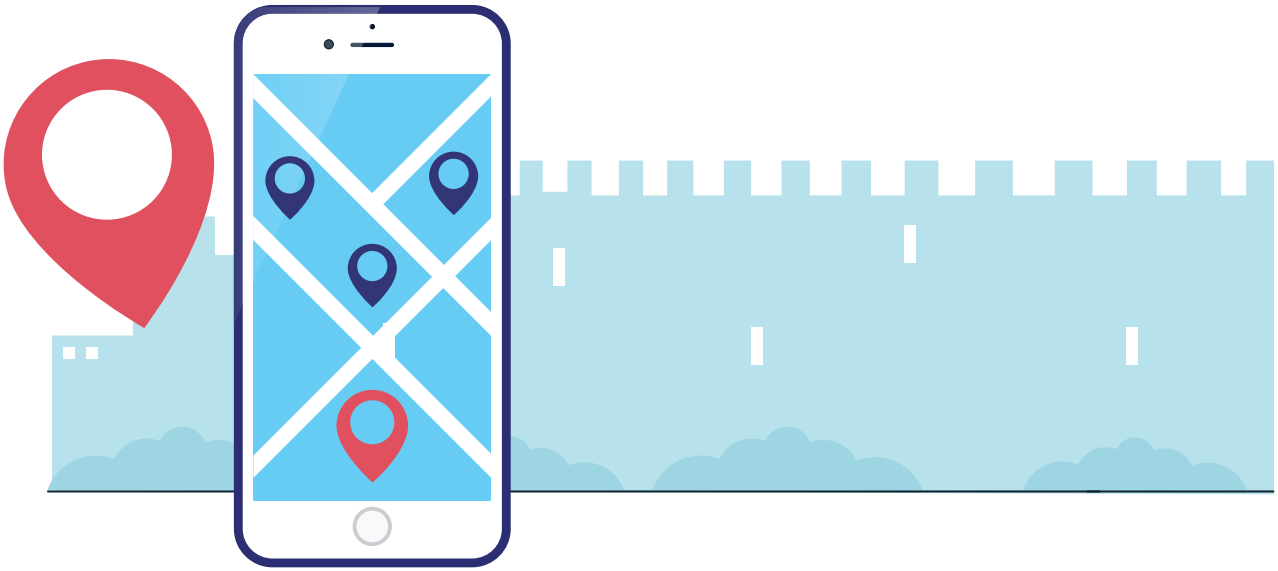
The content produced by these children will not remain local. Through collaboration with Eurochild, UNICEF and international film festivals, we aim to ensure that children’s voices are heard in Diyarbakır, Geneva and Brussels, and by audiences worldwide.

We will also strengthen our relationships to establish an online international platform where children can present their own films and discuss advocacy with their peers. With this project, we believe that voices that have not been heard until now will gain visibility, and that accounts of rights violations experienced by children in Diyarbakır or the region’s rural areas will reach audiences worldwide, overcoming language barriers thanks to the universal language of animation. In addition to this advocacy impact, children will gain fundamental skills in digital fiction and animation, which are among the professions of the future, at an early age. Children who actively participate in this production process and write the script for their own film will develop the awareness to respond and generate solutions as “agents” rather than remaining silent as “victims” when their rights are violated. As a result of these gains, our association will gain a much more powerful and effective lobbying force on the international stage with visual evidence produced by the children themselves, rather than dry reports prepared by adults.

Project IV: Travelling Art Truck and Mobile Access

Cultural and artistic opportunities are often concentrated in city centres due to physical and economic barriers. This spatial inequality pushes children living in rural areas into a position of being virtually “forgotten”. As a result of this inequality, for a child living in an outlying district of Diyarbakır, such as Kulp, Lice or Hazro, or in a remote village, attending a professional theatre performance or accessing a microscope involves not only travelling long distances but also incurring significant costs. This project aims to fundamentally resolve this inequality by bringing the service to the child.

The impact of this access problem on education is even more profound in rural areas. Due to economic hardship, children are quickly taken out of school and directed towards farming or animal husbandry. The perception that school is “boring” or “useless” prevents families from prioritising education. The Travelling Art and Science Truck aims to revive interest in education by transforming the school playground into a festival. On the other hand, village squares and other public spaces are usually controlled by adult men. There are very few spaces where children can express themselves, play or engage in aesthetic activities. Based on all these issues, our main goal is to make art and science accessible, to ensure the cultural participation rights of children living in rural areas and to support children in taking ownership of their spaces through art.



Project Scope:

- **Mobile Cinema, Stage and Suitcase Workshops:**

The lorry will set up a “Culture Square” in the village square it reaches. When its side doors open, it will transform into a theatre stage, while the rear section will become a large open-air cinema screen. Children will participate in intensive and enjoyable 1-2-hour educational sessions using the “Quick Setup Workshops” (art, rhythm, science kits, etc.) that emerge from inside the lorry. This process will ensure that the child is not just a spectator but an active “experimenter”.

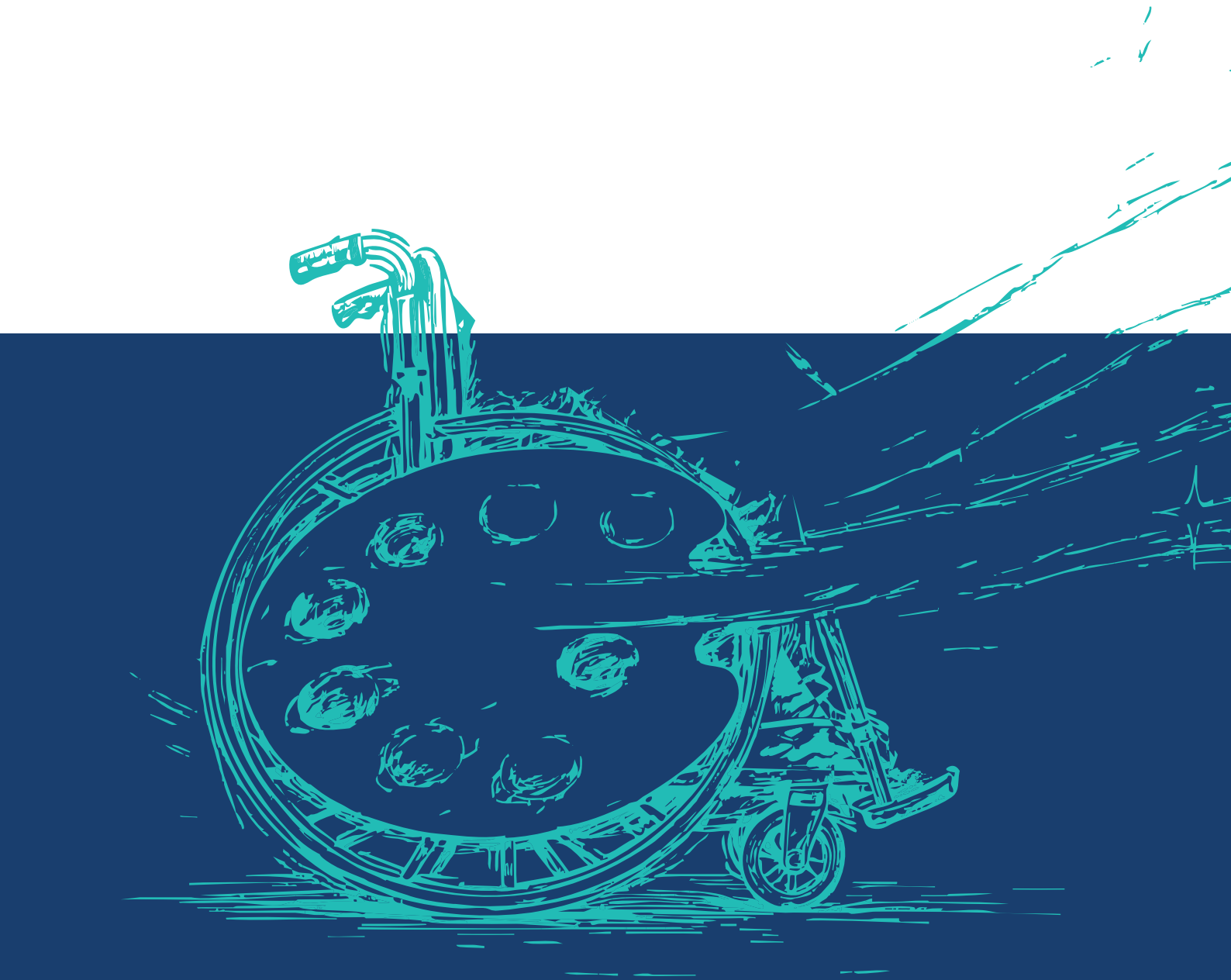
- **Art and the “Back to School” Diplomacy:**

The Art Truck will visit priority villages, particularly before harvest seasons or where school dropout rates are high. The themes of the theatre plays will be based on the importance of education and the harms of child labour. After the show, expert pedagogues will hold “village coffee meetings” with families to encourage and support children’s continued school attendance.

- **Village School Mural Festival:**

Under the motto “No grey walls,” the exterior of the village school is transformed into a work of art with the participation of children. Children first draw their dreams on paper; then professional painters transfer these drawings onto the wall as sketches, and the children take brushes in their hands and paint their own school. This process will increase their sense of belonging.

As a result of this project, thousands of children who have never been to the theatre before will encounter professional art in their own villages, expanding their imaginations. Another of our goals is to break down prejudices against education through the unifying power of art. Village schools will cease to be neglected and cold structures and become vibrant centres of life, beautified by the children’s own efforts. For children living in the isolation of rural areas, the arrival of the Travelling Art Truck will serve as a celebration and a source of morale, supporting collective healing.



Project V: Touch and Feel (Accessible Art and Education)

Children with disabilities are the most “invisible” and most confined group in society. The current system approaches these children only as a “medical/health problem,” neglecting their spiritual and cultural development. Art workshops, cinemas, and theatres across the region are largely inaccessible to children with disabilities. This situation deprives children with disabilities of artistic expression, confining them to a “cultural ghetto.” This project opens the doors of art to everyone, regardless of disability. The rare activities aimed at children with disabilities are usually designed for them to merely “watch.” However, putting clay in a child’s hands (for visually impaired children) or enabling them to keep rhythm under stage lights (for hearing-impaired children) has a powerful and restorative effect on the development of self-confidence.
When urban planning is carried out, the views of children, especially disabled children, are not taken into account. It is not adults who should decide whether a park or museum is “accessible,” but the children who use that space.

Within this framework, our primary objective is to ensure the full and equal participation of children with disabilities in artistic and cultural life; to support their productivity, break down social prejudices against them, and transform Diyarbakır’s public spaces with a child-centred accessibility perspective.

Project Scope:

• **Relief and Tactile Art:**

A “Tactile Exhibition” will be prepared for visually impaired children using 3D pens, ceramic clay and materials with different textures. During this process, children will not only produce abstract objects but also build symbols of the city, such as the Walls of Diyarbakır or Hevsel Gardens, using relief techniques, thereby connecting with the cultural heritage through touch.

• **Sign Language and Inclusive Theatre Performances:**

An “Inclusive Theatre” team will be formed, bringing together hearing-impaired children and their peers without disabilities. The plays will be performed simultaneously in both spoken language and sign language (including Kurdish and Turkish sign languages). The stage design will be supported by vibrating floors (vibrational stages) that will allow hearing-impaired children to feel the rhythm of the music through the soles of their feet.

• **Children’s Monitoring Teams and Accessibility Report:**

A monitoring unit called “The City Through Our Eyes” will be established. This team will consist of children who use wheelchairs or have visual or hearing impairments. This team will visit libraries, cinemas, and parks in Diyarbakır and keep an “Accessibility Record”. The reports prepared will be presented annually to municipalities and the public along with “Solution Recommendations”.

Through this project, children with disabilities will experience the feeling of “I can do it” through art, which will enable them to break free from isolation and integrate into social life. Families and other children watching mixed theatre plays will learn to view the concept of “disability” not with pity but on the basis of equality. The reports prepared by the children’s monitoring teams will exert democratic pressure on local authorities, leading to improvements in the city’s physical infrastructure (ramps, audible warning systems, etc.). Our association will provide a practical and successful model for “Accessible Culture and Arts Education” for other NGOs and institutions in the region.

• **Conclusion**

We have briefly outlined how our five projects on education, mother tongue and cultural life are structured and what their objectives are. The expected concrete outcomes of these five projects by the end of 2028 can be summarised as follows:

•Ensuring that at least 500 children at risk of dropping out of school continue their education.

•Preparing 100+ digital books and 50+ animated films in Kurdish.

•Establishing direct contact with over 5,000 children in 40 different rural locations via a mobile truck.

• Submitting the annual “Regional Children’s Rights and Education Status” report to UN committees.

However, it is not possible for these projects to be implemented by a single association or institution alone. In this regard, our association will continue to work together, cooperate and share with different institutions, associations and organisations for the projects it intends to implement in the coming period. As we have worked together with some of these institutions in previous years, we will take this solidarity to a higher level in our new projects. At the same time, new relationships will be established with other institutions, associations and organisations. The table below shows which institutions will be involved in which projects and for what purpose:

Resource, Collaboration and Sustainability Plan

Activity Area	Potential Local and Regional Partners	Potential National and International Partners	Potential Funding and Support Sources
Mother Tongue, Science & STE-AM (Digital Mother Tongue and Science Academy)	Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality relevant units, Kurdish Studies Association, Mesopotamia Foundation.	Turkish Education Association (TED), Google for Education, Code.org, Khan Academy.	EU Erasmus+ KA2 (Strategic Partnerships), UNICEF Innovation Fund.
Culture, Arts & Storytelling (Dengbêj)	Amed City Theatre, Ma Music Centre, Mesopotamia Cinema Academy.	Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Project-Based), Eurochild, International Play Association (IPA).	EU Creative Europe, French Culture, Goethe Institut, Prince Claus Fund.
Digital Advocacy & Animation	National TV Channels and media outlets, Zarok TV, Local Journalists' Association.	Istanbul Bilgi University Child Studies Unit, Civil Pages, Digital Freedom Fund.	European Endowment for Democracy (EED), Civil Thought EU Programme, Global Voices, National and International Grants.
Health, Nutrition & Child Labour	Diyarbakır Medical Association, SES, Food Engineers Association, Diyarbakır Bar Association.	Turkish Medical Association (TTB), Nutrition Association for Children, ISIG Assembly.	ILO (International Labour Organisation), Save the Children, World Health Organisation (WHO) Small Grants.
Accessibility & Disability	Diyarbakır Disability Council, Local Orthopaedic Disability Associations.	Six-Point Blind Foundation, Turkish Confederation of Disabled Persons, Tohum Autism Foundation.	EU Civil Society Facility (CSF), Dutch and Swedish Embassies (MATRA Programme).
Logistics & Mobile Access (Art Truck)	Diyarbakır, Sur, Kayapınar, Yenişehir Municipalities, Chambers of Tradesmen.	TMMOB Architects and Engineers Chamber Headquarters, Turkish Education Volunteers Foundation (TEGV).	Embassy Local Initiative Funds (Canada, Norway, Switzerland), Private Sector Corporate Social Responsibility Funds.



b) Child labour and holistic health

Child labour in the region, caused by the economic crisis and lack of oversight, is the primary source of school dropout and physical exploitation. Our association does not accept systems that lead to child labour exploitation (such as MESEM) as stakeholders; it defends the right to life and safety of children who are excluded from these systems or victimised by them. Malnutrition and psychosocial trauma are among the underlying factors that fuel and deepen this system of exploitation. It was only to be expected that our association, whose primary focus is children's rights, would take action on these issues. While keeping child labour and holistic health issues in mind in all our other activities, we will also implement activities focused directly on solving these problems. Our planned activities are as follows:

Project I: Monitoring Children's Rights and Legal Advocacy in Industry

Our aim is to subject the rights violations suffered by children who are systematically exploited and employed under the guise of "students" or "apprentices" in hazardous industries (small industrial sites, etc.) to civil society oversight.

Operational Activities:

• **Independent Monitoring Committee:** In cooperation with the Diyarbakır Bar Association and relevant professional chambers (Medical Chamber, TMMOB), prepare periodic "Rights Violation and Safety" reports targeting industrial areas with high concentrations of child labour.

• **Legal Shield Desk**: Establish a bar association-supported free legal helpline and representation mechanism for children who have suffered workplace accidents, violence or wage theft.

• **Local Government Protocol:** Work with municipal licensing and inspection units to advocate for administrative sanctions against businesses found to employ children, with the aim of securing favourable outcomes for children.

Project II: Digital Monitoring of Seasonal Migration and the "Safe Space" Model

Our primary objective is to track children who have dropped out of education due to agricultural migration and to create alternatives to child labour in harvest areas.

Operational Activities:

• **Digital Rights Record:** Launch monitoring software that processes children's education and health data before families migrate. Share this data with local stakeholders in the provinces to which they migrate to check on children's school attendance.

• **Mobile Art and Education Truck:** Establish "Child Safe Spaces" in harvest areas in collaboration with municipalities. This ensures children spend time in workshops offered by the truck instead of going to the fields, thus keeping them away from exploitation.

• **Parent Awareness Academy:** Organise sessions in the native language for families, explaining the legal consequences of child labour and the long-term economic benefits of keeping children in education.

Project III: Transition from the Streets to Social Empowerment

The primary aim of this project is to help children leave street work through art and economic alternatives rather than punitive methods.

Operational Activities:

• **Flexible Access Centre:** Operate "Transition Centres" that children working on the streets can access at any time, providing showers, hot meals and art workshops (in collaboration with Ma Music).

• **Cooperative-Based Family Support:** Establish neighbourhood workshops in collaboration with local authorities where mothers who do not send their children to the streets can engage in production. Generate sustainable income for families by selling these products through the association's economic enterprise.

Project IV: Access to Nutrition and Urban Rights Advocacy

The aim is to put children's access to food and water on the agenda of local authorities as an urban right rather than an individual problem.

Operational Activities:

• **Nutrition Poverty Map:** Collect children's development data (height, weight, anaemia) in pilot neighbourhoods and report the areas where local authorities need to take "emergency food action" based on scientific data.

• **Urban Water and Food Access:** Provide technical consultancy and take initiatives to encourage municipalities to install "Children's Fountains" (water dispensers) in parks and revise the content of social assistance packages (focusing on protein and vitamins instead of flour and oil).

• **School Canteen Monitoring Network:** Establish a civil "Food Safety Report Card" system that monitors food quality around schools in collaboration with parents.



Project V: Psychosocial Resilience and Disaster Preparedness

The aim is to prepare children for disasters without instilling fear, using language they understand, and to make post-traumatic support accessible.

Operational Activities:

- **Gamified Disaster Education:** Organising workshops that teach children what to do in the event of a disaster without frightening them, using games, stories and metaphors.
- **Mobile Psychosocial Unit:** Conducting regular screening and support sessions in rural neighbourhoods with teams of experts providing play therapy in the native language (Kurdish/Turkish) in a mobile truck.
- **Peer Support Ambassadors:** Establishing small neighbourhood groups where children can support each other with basic “emotional first aid” skills, making the child an active subject rather than an object of solidarity.

Conclusion

The concrete outcomes to be achieved by the end of 2028 with the successful completion of the five projects we plan to implement on the themes of child labour and holistic health can be summarised as follows:

- **Legal:** Intervention and legal follow-up in at least 200 child labour cases/incidents.
- **Health:** At least 3 municipalities in Diyarbakır will include the “Free School Meals” model in their permanent budgets.
- **Policy:** Inclusion of regional child labour data in Turkey’s national statistics and international reports (ILO/UN) as association-sourced data.
- **Capacity:** Providing face-to-face training on child health and the risks of child labour to 2,000 families.

The institutions and organisations with which we plan to establish solidarity and partnerships in terms of resources, cooperation and other matters in order to implement these projects are as follows:

Resource, Collaboration and International Advocacy Plan

Area of Activity	Local and National Stakeholder Targets	International Organisations & Network Objectives	Funding Source / Funding Mechanism Objectives
Workers' Health and Child Labour	İSİG Council, Diyarbakır and Ankara Bar Associations, TMMOB Mechanical Engineers' Chamber, DİSK/Genel-İş.	ILO (International Labour Organisation), Fair Labour Association, Global March Against Child Labour.	EU EIDHR (Democracy and Human Rights Programme), Netherlands MATRA Programme, ILO Small Grants.
Health & Nutrition	Diyarbakır Medical Association, TMMOB Food Engineers Chamber, SES, Turkish Dental Association.	UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), Action Against Hunger, Save the Children.	UNICEF "End Child Hunger" Fund, The Global Fund, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Global Nutrition Initiative.
Data, Research & Reporting	Dicle University, Istanbul Bilgi University Child Studies Unit, STGM, Education Reform Initiative (ERG).	UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Eurochild, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International.	European Endowment for Democracy (EED), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), EU Horizon Europe (Social Research Funds).
International Advocacy & Lobbying	Human Rights Association (İHD), Children's Rights Network, Balance and Oversight Network.	Terre des Hommes, Eurochild, Child Rights International Network (CRIN).	Civil Society EU Programme, Norwegian and Swedish Embassies, Chrest Foundation.
Digital Transformation & Mother Tongue	Kurdish Studies Association, Mesopotamia Foundation, Local Software Offices.	UNESCO (Endangered Languages Unit), Google for Non-profits, Mozilla Foundation.	Creative Europe, UNESCO Cultural Diversity Fund, Digital Freedom Fund.
Disaster & Psychosocial Resilience	AFAD (Coordination), Red Crescent, Regional Municipalities' Social Services Units.	World Health Organisation (WHO), International Medical Corps, Doctors Without Borders (MSF).	ECHO (EU Humanitarian Aid), Embassy of Japan (GGP), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



c) Health and nutrition: Healthy foundations for the future

Structural poverty, exacerbated by the socio-economic crisis in the region, leads to chronic malnutrition (stunting, anaemia) in children. This situation, coupled with language barriers and logistical problems in rural areas, severely limits children's access to basic health services (vaccinations, developmental monitoring, psychosocial support).

Project I: Mobile Health and Health Literacy in the Native Language

The main objective of the project is to safeguard the right to life and health of children who are deprived of health services due to geographical distance, economic hardship or language barriers. It aims to transform health services from being merely "curative" to a "protective and developmental" process delivered in the language in which the child feels most secure. For families living in remote villages in districts such as Kulp and Lice, travelling to the city to see a doctor entails significant transportation and time costs. This situation leads to delays in the diagnosis of childhood illnesses. On the other hand, the ineffective use of the native language in the healthcare system prevents parents, especially those in rural areas, from fully expressing their children's complaints or leads to misunderstanding of the doctor's advice (incorrect use of medication, dosage errors, etc.). In sensitive and deeply affecting situations such as trauma or abuse, it is essential for children to be able to communicate with a specialist who speaks the language in which they can best express themselves. Furthermore, the lack of reliable, understandable guidance in children's and families' own languages to counter unscientific health information spreading rapidly on social media poses a serious public health risk.

Project Scope:

- **Mobile Health Screening Unit:**

This unit visits villages alongside the "Mobile Art Truck". While the Art Truck brings children together around games and activities, the Health Unit (Mobile Unit) conducts general health screenings, oral and dental health checks, and vision/hearing tests, with a paediatrician and a dentist. Children identified as at risk during the screenings are referred to hospitals in the city, with the association monitoring their cases.

- **Multilingual Health Guides:**

Animated, audio and visual digital guides are produced, avoiding the complexity of medical terminology. Guides on topics such as "What is a vaccine?", "What is happening to my body during puberty?", and "How should I brush my teeth?" are prepared in Kurdish and Turkish, uploaded to the association's application, and distributed in villages via brochures with QR codes.

- **Psychosocial Support and Counselling in the Native Language:**

Within the scope of this project, a "Mobile Therapy Room" or online counselling network is established that covers not only physical but also mental and emotional health. Child development specialists and psychologists conduct sessions in the native language on developmental disorders, post-traumatic stress and anxiety disorders. This approach reinforces the feeling of "being understood", especially for children who have experienced trauma. With the implementation of this project, village screenings will enable the early detection of numerous problems, from tooth decay to developmental delays, thereby reducing treatment costs and long-term health risks. Guides prepared in the native language will minimise incorrect medication use and medical misunderstandings, increasing families' trust in the healthcare system. By accessing accurate information about their bodies and rights, children will become informed advocates for their own health in the years to come. As a result, the gap in "access to healthcare" between children in city centres and those living in villages will narrow.

Project II: Crisis Management and Child-Focused Disaster Health

Our primary goal is to establish a preventive logistics and education system that will speed up children's access to basic necessities (nutrition, hygiene, safety) during disasters and crises. It is to prevent children from becoming a "forgotten" group in times of chaos and to reduce the risk of post-disaster epidemics and malnutrition to zero. In major disasters, aid is usually organised in an "adult-focused" manner (dry food, blankets, etc.). Therefore, access to baby formula, follow-on milk, nappies and clean water suitable for children is often secondary. The rapid deterioration of hygiene conditions in post-disaster collective living areas (tent/container cities) affects children the most (diarrhoea, typhoid, scabies, etc.). Under these conditions, it becomes vital for children to develop their self-care skills. If data on the number of children and infants in each neighbourhood at the time of the disaster is not up to date, aid cannot reach its target. A stock and tracking system established at the local level reduces the response time from days to hours.

Project Scope:

- **Disaster Period Nutrition Protocol and Local Logistics Plan:**

A digital "At-Risk Area Child Inventory" will be created for the whole of Diyarbakır, based on neighbourhoods and separated by age groups (0-3-year-old babies, 3-6-year-old children, etc.). Instead of maintaining a physical stock, the association will create an "Emergency Food Fund" within its economic enterprise. Instead of physical warehouse management, the "Agile Supply Chain" described below will be implemented. "Priority Purchase and Delivery in Times of Crisis" protocols will be signed with large supermarket chains, pharmaceutical warehouses and local milk producers in the region. In this way, the responsibility for stock tracking will remain with the supplier, and the association will be guaranteed rapid access to fresh and appropriate products in times of crisis. Local courier companies and transport cooperatives will prepare "Child-Focused Priority Route" plans in times of crisis. The contents of the packages to be distributed (calorie and protein requirements according to age groups) will be determined in advance by volunteer dieticians as a "Standard Emergency Package Prescription"; purchases in times of crisis will be made according to this scientific list, not at random.

- **Hygiene Ambassador Training:**

A gamified curriculum will be implemented for children, covering survival and hygiene skills in difficult conditions during a crisis. Hand washing, economical and hygienic use of water, and rules for shared toilet use will be taught through songs and plays themed around "Fighting Germs". Children who complete the training will receive "Hygiene Ambassador" kits (soap, disinfectant, personal towel).

This project will ensure uninterrupted access to food for infants and children during the first 72 hours of a crisis, thereby preventing nutrition crises. The spread of epidemic diseases, which is the greatest risk after a disaster, will be minimised among groups of children thanks to informed "Hygiene Ambassadors". Children who are prepared for disasters and know what to do will experience lower levels of anxiety during crises and feel "prepared" rather than "helpless." Finally, our association will gain the technical and operational capacity to provide guidance on "Child-Focused Disaster Response" for local authorities and institutions such as AFAD.

Project III: Monitoring and International Advocacy

Our primary objective is to systematically record violations of children's rights in Diyarbakır and the wider region, particularly violations of the rights to nutrition and health, using scientific data. We aim to bring this local data to the attention of international mechanisms (such as the UN and the Council of Europe) to create pressure that will bring about structural change at national and local government levels.

Turkey has signed many international documents, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, there is a lack of independent civil mechanisms to monitor whether these commitments are being fulfilled locally (e.g., in Bağlar or Sur). Local government child policies are generally based on quantitative indicators (e.g., how many parks have been built). However, there is a need for qualitative data, such as how safe children are in these parks or the impact of tap water on children's health. As long as human rights violations at the local level are not reported in accordance with international terminology, they cannot attract the attention of global human rights networks, and the necessary funds or political will for a solution cannot be mobilised.

Project Scope:

- **"Nutrition is a Right" International Campaign:**

Data obtained from previous projects is transformed into a digital advocacy campaign. The campaign is designed not only for the public but also directly for decision-makers such as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the European Parliament. It is submitted as a "Shadow Report" to Turkey's periodic review reports (UPR). The demand for "one free school meal" is framed as a reminder of an international obligation.

- **City Health Profile and Child-Friendly Audit:**

The criteria for a "Child-Friendly Health City" are determined based on World Health Organisation standards. In collaboration with local authorities, concrete issues such as tap water analyses, air quality around schools, hygiene in children's parks and ground safety are monitored by "Child Monitors" and experts. As a result of these inspections, municipalities are issued a "Children's Rights Report Card" each year. This project combines international pressure and scientific data to encourage local authorities to reassess their budget priorities (e.g., prioritising the safety and quality of parks over the number of parks). The "Child-Friendly City" criteria will become a source of prestige for municipalities, establishing a permanent benchmark for service quality.

Conclusion

With the three projects we will implement on health and nutrition, our association will become not just an aid provider, but a reference centre for information and monitoring at the UN and EU levels. The awareness that children's rights are not a matter of "charity" but a "legal obligation" to which the state has committed itself through international treaties will take root. The goals we will achieve by the end of 2028 with these projects can be summarised as follows:

- **Policy:** The inclusion of the item "Urban Food Access and Free Clean Water Network" as a service standard in the 5-year Strategic Plans of cooperating municipalities.
- **Access:** Screening at least 5,000 children within two years using a mobile unit.
- **Data:** Publication of Turkey's most comprehensive "Regional Child Nutrition and Stunting Report" in three languages.
- **Material:** Distribution of health and nutrition education kits to 10,000 families in their native languages.

The planned partnerships for these projects are as follows:

Resource and Partnership Plan

Activity Area	Local Stakeholders' Objectives	National Institutions and Networks Objectives	International Reference & Funding Objectives
Food Safety & School Meals	TMMOB Food Engineers Chamber, Diyarbakır Local Producers' Cooperatives, Village Councils.	TMMOB GMO General Headquarters, Farmers' Unions, School Meals Coalition Turkey.	FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation), WFP (World Food Programme), Slow Food International, Global School Meals Partnership.
Clinical Monitoring & Child Health	Diyarbakır Medical Association, Dicle University Faculty of Medicine, Local Child Health Associations.	Turkish Medical Association (TTB), Turkish National Paediatrics Association, Turkish Dental Association.	UNICEF "Health & Nutrition" Funds, World Health Organisation (WHO) Small Grants, Save the Children International.
Advocacy & Rights Monitoring	Diyarbakır Bar Association Children's Rights Centre, Local Municipalities (Council Groups), Local Media.	Bar Associations, Human Rights Association (İHD), Children's Rights Network (ÇHA), Equal Rights Monitoring Association.	EU Civil Society, EU Human Rights and Democracy Programme, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Eurochild.
Disaster & Crisis Management	Diyarbakır Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Logistical support), Local Search and Rescue Teams.	AFAD (Coordination), Red Crescent, Turkish Psychologists Association, AKUT.	ECHO (EU Humanitarian Aid), Embassy of Japan (GGP Fund), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
Digital Health Literacy	Local Software and Design Offices, Kurdish Studies Association.	IT Associations, Education Reform Initiative (ERG), Turkish IT Foundation.	Google for Non-profits, Mozilla Foundation, UNESCO (Access to Knowledge Funds), Digital Freedom Fund.

d) Child protection and crisis preparedness: Safe city, resilient child

Diyarbakır and its surrounding provinces form a region vulnerable to both natural disasters (such as the 6 February earthquake) and social crises (forced migration, cycles of violence). Existing mechanisms struggle to develop child-centred responses in times of crisis; children become the most vulnerable subjects in these processes. In accordance with our charter, our association aims to establish a local “Child Protection Ecosystem” to address these risks.



Project I: Local Child Protection and Early Warning Network

Our primary objective is to establish a civil oversight and rapid response network in Diyarbakır capable of identifying all forms of child neglect, abuse, and violence “before they occur” or “before the crisis deepens.” This project aims to build a neighbourhood shield that not only “punishes after the fact” but also “prevents before it happens” and protects children.
Children or witnesses hesitate to contact official institutions (183, 155, etc.) due to fear, social pressure, or language barriers (children/witnesses who feel more comfortable expressing themselves in Kurdish). Official processes are often bogged down by bureaucracy and fail to quickly identify local dynamics (risky focal points within the neighbourhood). At this point, a “risk signal” noticed by a shopkeeper on the street or a volunteer woman in the neighbourhood can sometimes be the earliest and most valuable warning. A child dropping out of school, wearing unkempt clothes, or spending time with risky groups on the street is an important “early warning” sign. Intervening at this stage can save the child from serious abuse or involvement in criminal networks.

Project Scope:

- **Neighbourhood-Based Child Ambassadors (Civil Monitoring Points):**

A “Local Monitoring Network” consisting of shopkeepers, neighbourhood leaders and volunteer housewives is established in pilot neighbourhoods (such as Sur and Bağlar, where the risk is high). These individuals are not trained as “informers” but as “child-friendly monitors”. When they notice that a child is not attending school, is exposed to violence on the streets, or is being exploited in a workplace, they send a secure and confidential signal to the association’s professional team.

- **Digital Reporting Line in the Native Language (Support Line):**

A “Help Desk” is established in Kurdish and Turkish via telephone, WhatsApp or an app-based platform. This mechanism, where children can request assistance in the language they feel most comfortable using and where confidentiality is paramount, serves not only as a reporting hotline but also as a guide for children who ask, “I have a problem. Who should I talk to?”

- **Legal and Social Case Tracking:**

Reports received through the case tracking team established by the Diyarbakır Bar Association Children’s Rights Centre and specialist psychologists are classified by experts. The Bar Association intervenes in cases requiring legal proceedings; if social support is needed, the association’s pedagogues and local institutions intervene. The case is monitored until the child is completely “safe”.

This project will bring to light cases of neglect and abuse that remain behind closed doors or are “normalised” within the neighbourhood. Individuals who are reluctant to approach state institutions will be able to safely report to civil society through “ambassadors” who speak their language and are known in the neighbourhood. Problems will be resolved before they become legal cases (e.g. at the stage of dropping out of school), preventing secondary victimisation of children. Finally, residents of the neighbourhood will internalise through the “ambassador” system that child protection is not only the responsibility of the police or institutions, but of each individual.

Project II: Lundy Council: Children's Voice in City Management

The aim of this project is to build a model that enables children to participate at the decision-making level, beyond symbolic participation in local governance processes. Municipalities' existing "Children's Councils" are often merely symbolic. Children have no real say or budgetary control over the design of parks, transport routes or social services in their neighbourhoods.

Project Scope:

• **Neighbourhood Monitoring Teams (Child Inspectors):** In pilot neighbourhoods, children periodically observe and monitor issues such as park safety, street lighting and accessibility.

• **Child-Focused Participatory Budgeting:** Through a protocol with local authorities, a portion of the municipality's children's budget (e.g., 5%) is allocated based on a vote by the children's council established by the association.

• **"Report to the Council" Day:** Twice a year, the file prepared by the children's council, entitled "Problems in Our Neighbourhood and Proposed Solutions", is submitted to the Municipal Council as an official agenda item.

Conclusion

The concrete outcomes we aim to achieve by the end of 2028 through these projects are as follows:

• The formal adoption of the "Child Participatory Budgeting" system in at least two municipalities.

• Implementation of at least 10 concrete improvements (lighting, playground renovation, etc.) proposed by children in the city's strategic plan.

• Publication of the "City Guide Through Children's Eyes" (which parks are safe, which streets are accessible) in digital and printed formats.

Resource, Collaboration, and Advocacy Plan

Project	Local/National Stakeholder Targets	International Reference & Funding Objectives
Zarok-Lab (Digital)	Kurdish Studies Association, Software Companies, Mesopotamia Foundation.	UNESCO (Cultural Diversity), Mozilla Foundation, Digital Freedom Fund.
Lundy Council (Participation)	Municipal Councils, Bar Association, Neighbourhood Heads, City Councils.	UNICEF (Child-Friendly Cities), Eurochild, Civil Thought.

Partner Organisations (Local/National)	International Reference & Funding
Diyarbakır Bar Association, Association of Heads of Neighbourhoods, Chambers of Tradesmen, Human Rights Association.	UNICEF (Child Protection Programmes), Save the Children.
Diyarbakır Network Against Violence, Local Municipalities.	EU Human Rights and Democracy Fund (EIDHR).
Association of Social Service Specialists (SHUDER).	Terre des Hommes, Global Fund for Children.

3- Institutional development goals (2026-2028)

This period will be a critical threshold for the association's evolution from a "project-based" structure to a "system-based and continuously productive" actor. In the new period, financial sustainability will be one of our key policies.

a) Economic enterprise and self-generated resource model

The association's dependence solely on external funding (grant mechanisms) makes it difficult to make long-term plans. Therefore, the economic enterprise is a "solidarity economy" model in which the association generates income through its own labour and savings and spends this income on children.

Why is it necessary?	The association must have its own income to ensure that rent, salaries and workshop expenses can still be paid when grants end.
What Will Be Done?	The educational materials, multilingual children's books, and play sets produced by the association will be made available for sale.
What Will Be the Outcome?	All profits generated will be used to fund free children's workshops in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Application area: Zarok-Store (Production and sharing)

The main activity of the economic enterprise is to transform the association's child-focused knowledge and production expertise into physical and digital products.

• **Products:** Mother-tongue supported game cards for children, storybooks, and children's accessories prepared according to ethical production principles.

• **Sales method (Pay-it-forward scheme):** A person purchasing a product can, if they wish, set one item aside for a child in need. This transforms the sales process into a direct act of solidarity.

• **Revenue Use:** The revenue generated from sales will cover basic operating expenses that are difficult to fund, such as electricity, rent, and staff salaries, ensuring the continuity and accessibility of the association.

Concrete targets by the end of 2028

• **Financial Sustainability:** At least 20% of the association's basic operating expenses (rent, bills, etc.) will be covered by these operating revenues.

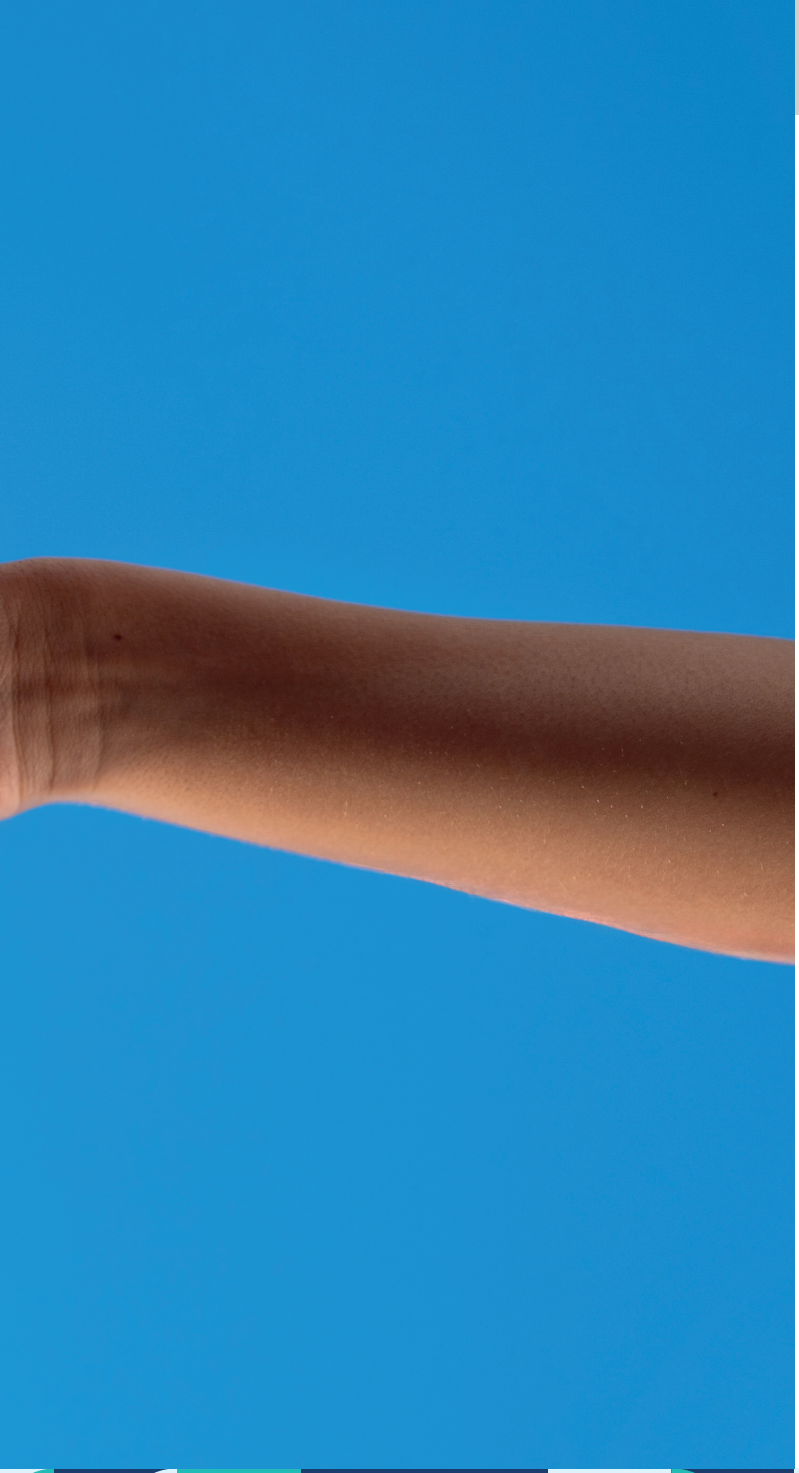
• **Expansion:** Financing the costs of "mobile workshops" in at least two additional neighbourhoods in Diyarbakır through profits from sales.

• **Local Support:** Creating limited but sustainable economic vitality at the neighbourhood level by collaborating with local women's cooperatives during the production phase.

The economic enterprise is the association's effort to "stand on its own two feet". Rather than relying on external resources, it aims to create a sustainable fund for children by transforming existing knowledge and labour into quality products.

• **Corporate Partnerships:** Our primary goal is to provide private sector and local government entities with consultancy and training services focused on "Children's Rights and Safety." Within this scope, we aim to generate service revenue by offering companies "Child-Friendly Business" certification and organising workshops for working parents.





b) Professional volunteer management and “Capacity Bank”

Volunteer power is not just a labour resource; it is the association’s greatest source of legitimacy and sustainability in social transformation. Volunteering is often seen as “a spare-time activity”. With our own approach, we are turning it into a “skills donation” system.

• **What Will We Change?**
We will meet our needs for legal services, software development and graphic design, which would be very costly to outsource, through pro bono support from professionals who believe in the association’s values. The association will save approximately 40% in operational costs while bringing its institutional capacity up to international standards. The integration of hundreds of professionals from different professions into the association will maximise its social accountability, transparency, and credibility.

• **Volunteer-Management Portal (VMP):**
A system will be established where volunteers are not just “helpers” but “expert contributors.” By creating a “Pool of Expert Volunteers” consisting of lawyers, software developers, and doctors, we aim to reduce professional service procurement costs by 40%.

• **ESC and International Exchange:**
With European Solidarity Corps (ESC) accreditation, four long-term volunteers from abroad will be accepted at the association’s headquarters each year, thereby supporting operational capacity and strengthening the association’s intercultural vision.

c) Integration into the digital age: “Data-driven advocacy”

Digitalisation is the main lever that will carry the association’s sphere of influence beyond the borders of Diyarbakır and turn it into a global brand. For us, digitalisation is not just technology; it is a method of “making our voice heard around the world”. The situation regarding children’s rights in the region is generally monitored through reports published annually or every 2-3 years. With Zarok-Data, we will transform this into a “live” monitoring dashboard. Thus, instead of reaching only a limited number of children accessible in Diyarbakır, we will reach thousands of children (in different languages) simultaneously through digital platforms and AI-powered translations. When organisations such as UNICEF or ILO want to access up-to-date information about the region, they will use our data panel as their first port of call; this will establish the association as an authority. Monetising digital content and selling reports will enable the digital world to serve as a sustainable revenue stream for the association.



• **Zarok-Data (Interactive Monitoring Panel):**
Data on child labour, malnutrition and school dropout rates in the region will be presented to the public in a transparent, real-time and visual manner. The “Regional Child Rights Status Reports” generated through this panel will be presented to international organisations (UNICEF, ILO, Save the Children) as a reference source through subscription or sponsorship.

• **Artificial Intelligence-Supported Native Language Content:**
Existing fairy tales and educational materials will be rapidly translated into different dialects and languages using artificial intelligence tools and monetised through digital platforms (YouTube Kids, Spotify).

d) Strategic financial targets (2026-2028)

Model	Current Situation	2028 Target	Expected Impact
Funding	95% Grant Dependent	60% Grant / 40% Own Resources	Financial freedom and sustainability.
Volunteerism	General Workforce	Capacity Bank (Expert-Focused)	Access to high-quality professional services at zero cost.
Data/Impact	Local Reporting	Global Digital Monitoring (AI-Supported)	The power of regional data in international policy-making.
Production	Workshop Outputs	Zarok-Store Branded Products	The transformation of cultural capital into economic value.

With this corporate development initiative, the Children First Association will become a Social Innovation Centre that stands on its own two feet, shares the knowledge and content it produces with international audiences, and develops “Children’s Rights Technologies”.

e) Corporate governance and transparency

• **Digital Management Panel:** A “Transparency Panel” will be created where all of the association’s income and expenses can be monitored in real time by volunteers and donors.

• **Independent Audit:** Annual activities will be audited by internationally accredited organisations to ensure the continuation of the “Trusted NGO” certification.

4- 2026-2028 work programme matrix

Theme	Research	Advocacy	Model Development	Capacity Building	Training Modules	Campaign
1. EDUCATION & NATIVE LANGUAGE						
1.1. Digital Mother Tongue Literacy		X	X		X	X
2. HEALTH & NUTRITION						
2.1. Free Meals at School		X	X			X
2.2. Monitoring of Obesity and Stunting	X					
3. EMPLOYMENT						
3.1. Seasonal Child Labour Monitoring Network		X	X			
4. CHILD PROTECTION						
4.1. Disaster and Crisis Manage-ment			X	X		
4.2. Peer Bullying and Violence					X	X
5. ACCESSIBILITY (DISABILITY)						
5.1. Accessible Art Workshops		X	X	X		

5- Key issues: Holistic rights advocacy

Our association approaches children's rights not as separate compartments, but as a holistic ecosystem of mutually reinforcing rights. A child's right to nutrition (health) is directly linked to their right to education in their mother tongue; the right to education is directly linked to the right to protection from economic exploitation (child labour). For this reason, the following cross-cutting themes are integrated horizontally into all project areas.

a) Gender Equality and Empowerment of Girls

Breaking the restrictive effects of the traditional social structure in the region on girls (risk of early marriage, domestic workload, dropping out of school).

- **Quota:** Implementing a minimum 50% quota for girls' participation in all projects (arts, science, sports).
- **Mentoring:** Organising mentoring sessions where successful women in science, art and law meet with girls in their native languages. Institutional adoption of a gender-focused budgeting and data collection approach.

b) Digital Transformation and Secure Technology Access

- **Digital Literacy:** Going beyond technology use by integrating "digital rights" and "online safety" training into every workshop.
- **Localised Technology:** Strengthening the connection with technology through cultural identity by prioritising the production of software and content in Kurdish.

c) Ecology and Climate Justice

Defending the rights of vulnerable groups most affected by the climate crisis (children working in agriculture and those living in regions suffering from water scarcity).

- **Ecological Workshops:** "Nature School" modules focused on seed planting, local biodiversity and water conservation for children as part of the "Mobile Truck" initiative.
- **Sustainable Spaces:** Ensuring that association buildings and event areas meet "Child-Friendly Ecological Space" standards in terms of waste management and energy efficiency.

d) Child participation and agency (Lundy Methodology)

The fundamental approach is to move children from a passive position of being "recipients of aid" to an active position of being "agents" who transform their own lives and cities.

• **Children's Advisory Board:** Obtaining approval and suggestions from children during the design and evaluation stages of all association projects.

• **Children's Forums:** Organising "Children's Parliament" simulations where children discuss their local issues and present their proposed solutions to municipal councils.

e) Social Integration and Coexistence

The aim is to reduce the distance between refugee/migrant children and local children through art and play.

• **Mixed Workshops:** Creating safe spaces for interaction where prejudices are broken down by designing art and sports activities in multiple languages (Kurdish, Turkish, Arabic).

• **Culture of Peace:** Celebrating different cultures' games and fairy tales together at "The Street is Ours" festivals.

Project Area	Application of Cross-Cutting Principles
Digital Mother Tongue Academy	Encouraging girls to learn coding (Gender) + Online safety education (Digital).
Mobile Art Truck	Joint performances in refugee camps and local villages (Social Cohesion).
Health & Nutrition	Monitoring climate crisis-related illnesses among agricultural worker children (Ecology).
Mural Festival	Selection of mural designs by children's committees (Participation).



6- Conclusion: Stronger together, freer with children

This strategic plan is not merely a technical commitment document for the Children First Association, but a collective “promise for the future” made to children. Every step we take, every report we prepare, and every child’s heart we touch during the 2026-2028 period is a concrete manifestation of our determination to rebuild the destiny of this ancient land around the axis of children’s rights.

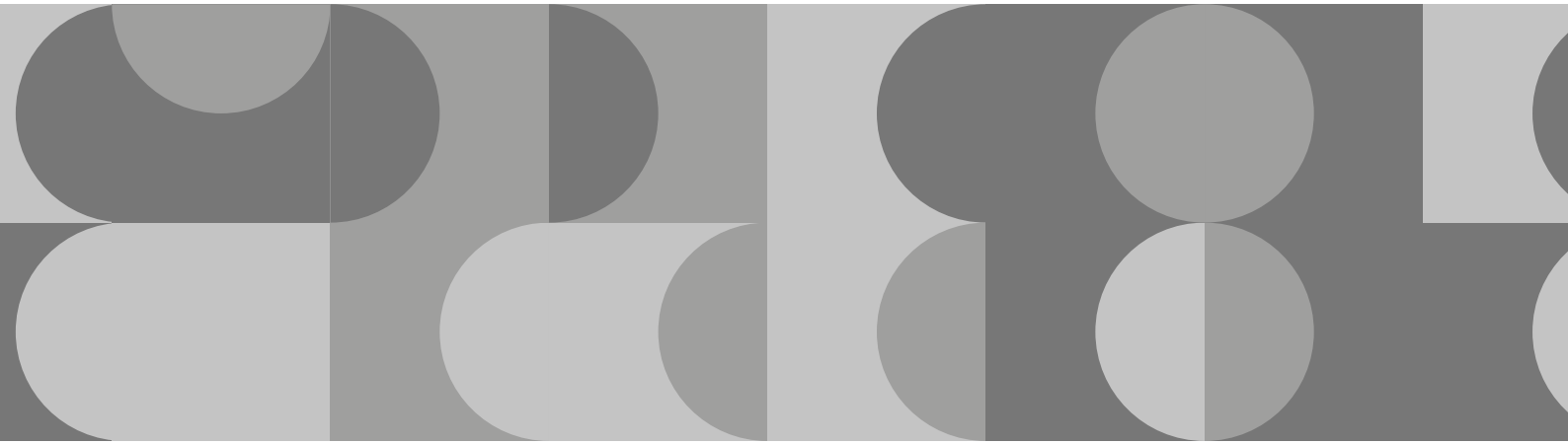
We know that the joy of a child listening to a fairy tale in their mother tongue, the dignity of a young person saved from labour exploitation in industrial sites, and the self-confidence of a child who overcomes obstacles to engage with art are the truest guarantees of social peace and prosperity. The goal of “generations equipped with technology, aware of their rights, and at peace with their cultural identity,” as expressed in our association’s charter, is the fundamental spirit that guides every line of this plan.

By the year 2028:
• Children will not merely be recipients of assistance but active partners in decision-making.
• The mother tongue will be recognised not as a barrier but as an asset in education and technology.
• We aim to have strengthened an ecosystem where no child goes to bed hungry and no child sacrifices their school desk for a workbench.

We express our gratitude to our volunteers who accompany us on this journey, our local and international partners, and most importantly, our children who inspire us and give us resilience. No matter how great the crises we face, the imagination of children and our rights-based solidarity have the power to overcome any difficulty.

It should not be forgotten that the shortest and most lasting way to transform a society is to pave the way for children’s rights. We firmly believe that when each stage of this plan is completed, this rights-based model, spreading from Diyarbakır to the world, will make a unique contribution to the universal struggle for children’s rights.

For a fairer, healthier and happier world: Ji bo zarokan, berî her tiştî zarok! (For children, children first!)





This programme was originally drawn up by the Children First Association.
The Children First Association is responsible for all content in this programme.