

## Türkiye

### Update on the context and situation of children

The Republic of Türkiye has demonstrated an overall positive trend in indicators for the wellbeing of children, despite facing recent socio-economic challenges. The latest demographic data available shows a current resident child population of 22.8 million, with children comprising 27.2% of the total population[1]. Türkiye hosts the world's largest registered refugee population of around 4 million people (1.8 million children). Of these, about 3.5 million (1.6 million children) are Syrians who have been taken under 'Temporary Protection', with around 50,000 of them living in camps[2].

Approximately 400,000 asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, and most recently Ukraine. Despite the commendable integration efforts, challenges to social inclusion still exist, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

National GDP is currently fluctuating by quarter: the GDP grew in the first, second and third quarters year-on-year by 7.5%, 7.7% and 3.9% respectively, where it was 11.4% for 2021[3]. The devaluation of the Turkish Lira vis-a-vis foreign currency was accompanied by increased inflation, with the annual change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Domestic Producer Price Index (D-PPI) increasing to 64.27%[4] and 97.72%, respectively[5]. Inflation has eroded the purchasing power and access to services for the most vulnerable groups.

Unemployment rate for age of 15 and over was 10.1% (8.4% for men, 13.6% for women), with youth unemployment at 19.1% (15.2% for men, 26.4% for women) in the third quarter – down from 12.0% (10.7% for men and 14.7% for women) and 22.6% (19.4% for men, 28.7% for women) in 2021[6]. These numbers show a disparity in unemployment for women and girls that continues to rise. The proportion of youth in the 15-24 age group who are neither employed nor enrolled in education is 24.7% for 2021 is an area of concern.

The relative poverty rate amongst children[7]– increased to 32.6% in 2021 where it was 21.3% for the general population[8]. Severe material deprivation among children increased from 32.6% to 35.0% in 2021[9]. Refugee households are consistently poorer compared to the average household in Türkiye. UN Vulnerability mapping shows almost half of the registered refugees in Türkiye are below the national poverty line, with 7% below the extreme poverty line[10]. According to the 2019 TurkStat Child Labour Force Survey, 4.4% of children in the 5-17 age group are involved in child labour. Social protection expenditures for children and families were 0.5% of GDP in 2019 and 0.6% in 2020[11]. The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) was 11.1 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021[12] where it was 11.3 in 2018. By 2018, the birth registration percentage for children under five was 98.4% where it was 79.1% for Syrian refugees. Exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months is 40.7% for 2018, where it [13] 30% for 2013 [14]. According to the Ministry of Health, coverage of three doses of pentavalent vaccine is 95% in 2021[15] compared to 98% in 2020[16], which may have been due to vaccine hesitancy and COVID impact [17].

In 2021, the number of incidents involving children received into security unit was 499,319 with an increase compared to 450,803 in 2020[18].

The proportion of children tried in dedicated child courts edged up to 49.9% in 2021, compared to 52.1% in 2020 [19].

Türkiye has made considerable improvements in educational performance over recent years. Net school enrolment among Turkish children in the 2021-2022 school year was 93.16% for the 6-9 age group and 89.84% among 10–13-year-olds[20]. Net enrolment among 14- to 17-year-olds (grades 9-12) reached 89.67% in the 2021-2022 school year[21]. By September 2022, the number of refugee children enrolled in formal education in Türkiye was 813,590 (413,123 boys and 400,467 girls), representing a gross enrolment rate of 64.27% (77.56% in grades 1-4, 80.08% in grades 5-8, and 33.98% in grades 9-12), while over 450,000 refugee children remained out of school [23]. UNICEF continues to support the Government in delivering policy priorities and programming along the humanitarian-development nexus and promoting inclusive education service delivery to all children, including refugees. The

prioritization by the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) in expanding access to quality early childhood education, investments in upskilling the education workforce, and modernizing the curriculum, including the technical and vocational education system and its service delivery, are promising signs of increased attention to quality and not only access to education.

Türkiye ranked 124 out of 146 countries in terms of gender equality in 2022, down from 105th place in 2006 [20]. Violence against women and girls, including child marriage are among major concerns regarding gender equality., 14.7% of married women aged 20-24 had married before turning 18, this percentage remaining unchanged since 2013. Furthermore, 2% said they had married before turning 15 – up from 1.1% in 2013. The Syrian Refugee Sample of the same survey indicated that 44.8% of married Syrian refugee women aged 20-24 had been married by the age of 18 and 9.2% by the age of 15.[21].

[1] <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Statistics-on-Child-2020-37228&dil=2>

[2] <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27>

[3] <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Quarterly-Gross-Domestic-Product-Quarter-III:-July---September,-2022-45551&dil=2>

[4] <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Consumer-Price-Index-December-2022-49651&dil=2>

[5] <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Domestic-Producer-Price-Index-December-2022-49403&dil=2>

[6] <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Labour-Force-Statistics-2021-45645&dil=2>

[7] Defined as 60% of median equivalised household income

[8] TurkStat, <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Income-and-Living-Conditions-Survey-2021-45581&dil=2>

[9] TurkStat, <https://biruni.tuik.gov.tr/medas/?kn=203&locale=en>

[10] Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (CVME) - United Nations World Food Programme. [https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000112161/download/?\\_ga=2.207008528.223012546.1671184639-240926175.1665073371](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000112161/download/?_ga=2.207008528.223012546.1671184639-240926175.1665073371)

[11] <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Social-Protection-Statistics-2020-37193&dil=2>

[12] Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies. (2019). 2018 Türkiye Demographic and Health Survey. Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies, T.R. Presidency of Türkiye Directorate of Strategy and Budget and TÜBİTAK, Ankara, Türkiye.

<http://www.hips.hacettepe.edu.tr/eng/tdhs2018/analysis.shtml>

[13] Ministry of Health, Health Statistics Annual 2021 Press Release,

<https://sbsgm.saglik.gov.tr/Eklenti/44131/0/saglik-istatistikleri-yilligi-2021-haber-bultenipdf.pdf>

[14] Ministry of Health, Health Statistics Annual 2020,

<https://dosyasb.saglik.gov.tr/Eklenti/43400,siy2020-eng-26052022pdf.pdf?0>

[15] Ministry of Health, Health Statistics Annual 2021 Press Release,

<https://sbsgm.saglik.gov.tr/Eklenti/44131/0/saglik-istatistikleri-yilligi-2021-haber-bultenipdf.pdf>

[16] Ministry of Health, Health Statistics Annual 2020,

<https://dosyasb.saglik.gov.tr/Eklenti/43400,siy2020-eng-26052022pdf.pdf?0>

[17] <https://adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/SayfaDokuman/310520221416422021H%C4%B0ZMETE%C3%96ZELK%C4%B0TAP.pdf>

[18] TurkStat, <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Juvenile-Statistics-Received-Into-Security-Unit-2021-45586&dil=2>

[19]

<https://adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/SayfaDokuman/310520221416422021H%C4%B0ZMETE%C3%96ZELK%C4%B0TAP.pdf>

20 MoNE Formal Education Statistics, 2021-2022 School Year

[https://sgb.meb.gov.tr/meb\\_iys\\_dosyalar/2022\\_09/15142558\\_meb\\_istatistikleri\\_orgun\\_egitim\\_2021\\_2022.pdf](https://sgb.meb.gov.tr/meb_iys_dosyalar/2022_09/15142558_meb_istatistikleri_orgun_egitim_2021_2022.pdf)

21 Ibid. MoNE Formal Education Statistics, 2020 – 2021 School Year

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[http://sgb.meb.gov.tr/meb\\_iys\\_dosyalar/2021\\_09/15142558\\_meb\\_istatistikleri\\_orgun\\_egitim\\_2021\\_20](http://sgb.meb.gov.tr/meb_iys_dosyalar/2021_09/15142558_meb_istatistikleri_orgun_egitim_2021_20)

## Major contributions and drivers of results

A significant milestone for the future of UNICEF in Türkiye was the Government's signing of a new **Host Country Agreement** to supersede the former Basic Cooperation Agreement dated back to 1951. This agreement, once ratified, grants, *inter alia*, the possibility to open field offices to facilitate the implementation of the country programme, emphasizes engagement beyond borders through south-south and triangular cooperation, cements cooperation in humanitarian and emergency contexts, along with deepening engagement with corporates and mobilization of resources. It is also the first legal basis required to move forward with an official UNICEF regional/global presence in Türkiye.

The creation of the **ECD Task Force underneath the Presidency of Strategy and Budget (PSB)** to support the drafting of the **National ECD Strategy** and the further coordination during its implementation, constituted an essential moment towards strengthening ECD services nationwide. The leadership of PSB will strengthen coordination of efforts conducted by line ministries in order to jointly accelerate and scale results in ECD.

An evidence-based Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) intervention ensured a deeper understanding of vaccination hesitancy reasons linked to COVID 19 and better identified key influencers at the community level. This led to the design of a more targeted and multi-layered programme reaching more than 85,000 community members and implementing partners. More than **7 million people were reached through social media campaign for vaccination**.

**UNICEF has been supporting the Early Childhood Education reform of the government from curricula and standards revisions to teacher training.** UNICEF was also able to directly contribute to the enrolment of 49,000 preschoolers through the creation of 600 classrooms, demonstrating a significant accomplishment in UNICEF's direct implementation towards increasing preschool enrolment.

UNICEF reached an additional 30,000 children through its **early child education summer program** across 12 provinces. This demonstrated how complementary ECE services such as summer schools or home-based ECE services can accelerate the country's capacity to expand ECE to the most vulnerable children.

UNICEF continued to **work with CSO and municipality partners** to address specific barriers and bottlenecks that OOSC children face in accessing education opportunities. These barriers have been exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on families and the current economic situation. Through strategic outreach efforts, UNICEF and its partners screened, identified and provided counselling support to 101,986 OOS refugee children. Based on the case management support, 107,186 children (including the 101,986 OOSC) were referred to age-appropriate and relevant services to overcome various barriers including but not limited to financial, protection, registration, health, disability and gender-related challenges such as gender-based violence, child marriage and child labor. 101,986 children were referred to education opportunities, whereas 63,729 were referred externally to other services. Subsequently, 36,415 OOSC children were enrolled in formal and non/formal education opportunities.

UNICEF also provided support to the implementation of **flexible learning opportunities to vulnerable adolescents in formal and non-formal settings**. 6,788 OOS refugee children (3,210 girls) were

enrolled in the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) to address learning loss and support enrolment in formal education. An additional 13,758 children and adolescents (7,429 girls) benefitted from the Academic Support Programme and 26,738 children and adolescents (13,689 girls) benefitted from Turkish Language Courses provided by partners.

With 400,000 Syrian children still out of school, the Syrian Support Workers (SSW) Programme, in partnership with MoNE, started in February 2022 to improve Syrian children's access to high-quality and inclusive education and to support and enhance Syrian families' access to education and social services. To date, 3,420 SSWs (1,736 female; 1,684 male) support more than 80,000 refugee children. Capacity development was provided through implementing partners (Turkish Red Crescent – TRC and Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants-ASAM) to 2,629 SSWs.

UNICEF, in collaboration with MoNE implemented a programme called the Schooling Adolescents through Vocational Education (SAVE) Programme. It was developed as a targeted programme to identify and address the needs of children who are engaged or at-risk of child labour, and support their transition back to formal education. In 2022, the programme expanded its reach across 23 Provinces and 30 Vocational Education Centers (VECs) and TVET High Schools (VTHSs). 25,146 children were reached, 6,701 of whom were identified as OOSC, and 3,756 children (610 girls and 3,136 boys) were enrolled in VEC programmes.

During the year, UNICEF continued to lead the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) with monthly coordination meetings, and through the Back to School social media campaign reached over 25 million viewers. Furthermore, UNICEF led the management of the Problem Log, an online tracking tool developed jointly with the ESWG to identify and address over 250 cases of school registration denials. To expand the evidence on OOSC, UNICEF, in collaboration with ESWG partners, analyzed education constraints of over 6000 children in 49 provinces through an online parent survey. 1,989 children (28 %) were identified as out of school, primarily driven by their inability to cover school expenses, child labour and problems faced during school registration. In cooperation with several partners, including key line Ministries like MoFSS, MoYSS, MoI-DGMM, MoL and CSO partners, UNICEF continued to promote enrolment, attendance, prevent early-school leaving, and fight against child labour.

Through two **Academic Support Programmes**, UNICEF strived to prevent non-attendance and early school leaving among vulnerable adolescents attending upper-secondary schools. Firstly, the **“Mathematics Campaign”** developed a resource pack with skills-based mathematics content. The resource pack is digitally available for the use of students and teachers through EBA (MoNE online education platform). The second **Academic Support Programme** increased academic performance of 96,000 vulnerable students and 5,088 teachers by supporting and distributing **“Test and Guidance Books”** in 1,683 schools in 81 provinces and organized a series of ToTs for 1,763 school coordinators and teachers. Through the **Skills Development Programme**, **over 3 million children and young people were reached**. Among them, over 1 million girls were reached through the integration of adolescent girls' leadership and wellbeing strategies into skills development programming. The increased cooperation between different Ministries, complementarities and synergies between central government and municipalities, and the enhanced public-private sector cooperation facilitated by UNICEF were amongst the key factors towards this important milestone. An example being the cooperation between UNICEF, MoNE, municipalities and the private sector company SAP which ensured the establishment of 59 new innovative **multi-purpose Science and Learning Spaces (SLs)** in 37 provinces – bringing the initiative to over one million adolescents. In a significant achievement for innovation towards delivering results, UNICEF rolled out a **Digital Learning Management System** that has already enrolled over 10,000 young people since its launch in September. This success of this system for youth enrolment demonstrates the strong potential of innovation as an accelerator for engaging youth for results at scale.

To ensure that **children with disabilities (CwD)** in ECE and primary school levels are supported to learn in hybrid settings, 22,000 existing learning activities for CwD were digitalized, and new digital learning content on basic literacy, numeracy and life skills was developed.

The **Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CCTE)** Programme for Refugees continued

supporting refugee families surpassing its initially planned targets (700,000 cumulatively by 2022) by benefitting 621,737 children in 2022 alone and 811,181 children since 2017 (401,680 girls; 409,501 boys; 32,019 Pre-primary; 341,645 Primary; 321,533 Lower-secondary; 104,942 Upper-secondary; and 5,893 Accelerated Learning Program). About 85% of refugee children enrolled in schools in Türkiye benefitted from CCTE. Additional top-up payments incentivized enrolment and attendance of older children, who are particularly at risk of drop-out, reaching 614,339 children in 2022. The CCTE Programme under a child protection component, which benefitted 136,558 children, included household visits, case management, and referrals for students who stopped attending school. Being a gender-responsive cash+ programme, CCTE pays higher amounts for girls. Also it's child protection component pays special emphasis on understanding school drop-out risks associated with gender. The CCTE contributed to strengthening the existing national systems and in December has been handed over to the government which will ensure its sustainability in line with the **humanitarian-development nexus approach**. One of the innovative elements of the programme, was the inclusion of both a child protection element and a gender specific angle in a conditional cash transfer programme. UNICEF will keep working closely with the government to provide technical advice in this programme, and overall to expand the Cash Plus approach. Being the European Union the major donor of the CCTE programme a social media outreach campaign on the programme results, has been conducted in cooperation with several Natcoms in Europe reaching 26 million European citizens, with 1.5 million EU citizens direct engagement. This is a significant geographic expansion, as TCO usually conducts social media outreach exclusively in Türkiye.

In the **Winter Cash Programme's final year**, 5,000 families were reached, with half of those reached being children. In 2022 UNICEF gradually exited the programme, moving towards a system strengthening support for municipalities in the Southeast of the country to be fully enabled to independently provide this assistance.

In **Child Protection** UNICEF, the government and partners continued providing community-based child protection services for refugees and host communities children, whilst also advancing the strengthening of child protection systems within a nexus approach. 355,285 individuals, including 225,762 children and adolescents, were reached. Over 220,000 women and children received specialized services as survivors and as child witnesses of **domestic violence** through MoFSS, with UNICEF's technical support to ensure survivor-centred, gender-responsive and age-appropriate service delivery, including PSS. Elimination of child marriage continued to be a key gender priority for the CO, and over 63,000 community members were reached with SBC communication, and over 35,000 adolescent girls with prevention and care interventions to address child marriage.

Across 26 provinces, 40,479 children were referred to specialized cross-sectoral government and NGO services based on individual care plans, 27,232 caregivers benefitted from structured positive parenting and coping sessions, among which 818 benefitted from a new gender transformative parenting programme pilot, and 36,981 children benefitted from MHPSS counselling.

In order to strengthen childcare system, and maintain achievement reached so far in the de-institutionalization agenda, a total of 6,945 foster families and 8,440 children in **alternative care systems** have been supported, with a family strengthening assessment initiated for mapping of existing services providing family and parenting support, in addition to an in-depth analysis of the families, parents and carers' needs for support. UNICEF played a leading role in ensuring services and care provision to Ukrainian children evacuated from large scale institutions. The Country Office, in close cooperation with the Regional Office, the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS), and NGO partners carefully managed the balance between providing services in a child-centred manner to children used to living in large scale institutions, without disrupting the great advances made in the de-institutionalization agenda in Türkiye, under the leadership of the MoFSS. As of December, 740 Ukrainians (688 children and 52 adult caregivers) are receiving services in Antalya, and 65 Ukrainians (43 children and 22 caregivers) are residing in the Child Home Site in Ankara.

UNICEF-supported **Child Interview Rooms** increased to 152 in 147 courthouses, benefitting 27,164 children. As of September 2022, 6,303 children under probation benefitted from the UNICEF-



supported **DENGE Juvenile Probation Programme**, along with other PSS programmes and child-specific policies.

In the field of **Public Finance for Children (PF4C)**, in partnership with PSB, UNICEF successfully produced the first ever Child-Focused Budget Analysis and Child-focused Public Expenditure Measurement (C-PEM) for the health, education and social protection sectors in Türkiye. These are the first national level budget documents prepared for **a specific target group/theme** in Türkiye. This achievement identifies and measures the national government expenditures allocated for children's and their families' well-being. These pieces will be the main sources of advocacy towards influencing strategic planning, budgeting and investment for children. Additionally, a Rapid Review on projected budgets of some key line ministries for the next three years was performed and in partnership with the Union of Municipalities, guidelines and tools to increase the capacities of municipalities in strategic planning and budgeting for children were also developed.

UNICEF, CSO, and government partners reached 179,723 adolescents and young people including refugees through outside-of-school adolescent development and participation activities. Over 55,000 out-of-school adolescents, including refugees had access to multiple learning pathways and vocational education to enhance their job-readiness skills. This was done through some innovative initiatives such as 1) a partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport on Genc Upshift entrepreneurship programme to reach vulnerable adolescents; 2) a new partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change – to ensure the engagement of Youth Climate Envoys including in the COP27; 3) the development of a regional platform of youths on climate change in partnership with the Office of the First Lady, the MFSS, the Regional Office, and other Country Offices in the region. The UNICEF BAB proved to be a unique platform for UNICEF to convene private sector actors and youths in joining hands to support and complement initiatives led by the government both at central and local level. In 2022 the focus has been on the 'Skills Pledge' to ensure private sector companies committed towards ensuring internships to young people in partnership with MoNE and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye. Additional support has been provided by the BAB members (financially and in kind) to reach the 2 years target of the BAB: skills opportunities for 2 million young people.

UNICEF's strategy to retain public sectors' donors, diversify funding streams, investing in multiyear development proposals (with a focus on the humanitarian-development nexus), expand its partnerships and engagement with private sector proved to be successful. In its second year of Country Programme implementation, the office, considering the firm pipeline, increased its OR ceiling of 78%. Despite the overall decrease of donors' funding (also due to the heavy focus on the Ukraine crisis), in 2022 the TCO ensured an allotment of over 200 million USD, compared to 150 in 2021. Overall, in 2022 it ensured new funding for almost 145 million USD.

There has been promising progression in **Staff Wellbeing and Advancement** with TCO. This year 12 TCO staff advanced their careers within UNICEF: 5 National staff were reassigned/promoted to the international professional category (contributing to an important increase of Turkish nationals within the IP category in UNICEF) and 7 out of 9 IP staff were reassigned to higher level roles. The office realized a 46% increase in the number of staff completing stretch/surge assignments from 8 to 15 staff. The 2022 results of the Global Staff Survey were more positive than the one of 2020 and showed important improvements in areas that were prioritised in the well-being plan of the office.

## UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF is playing a significant role in UN-wide coordination and actively chairing and participating in all Result Groups (UNICEF Chairs the RG on Social Inclusion). Through the Monitoring for Strategic Results Group, UNICEF has been advancing the evidence generation agenda and has participated in consultations on the development of the Official Statistical Programme (OSP).

UNICEF welcomed the more prominent and active role the PSB has taken towards ensuring government close coordination with the UN system in planning and reporting. TCO had in total 18 rolling workplans (RWPs) active in 2022. The Child Intersectoral Board (CIB) led by the Presidency

was convened with large participation of line ministries, Ombudsperson office and civil society partners to revise the implementation status and provide suggestions for the next RWPs.

The UN support the Government efforts within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). The leadership of the UN inter-agency response takes place via the Syria Task Force in which UNICEF is an active member. UNICEF is leading the Education Working Group (WG), including its sub-WGs in Istanbul, Izmir and South-East Türkiye and the Child Protection WG. UNICEF is contributing to 3RP Basic Needs and Health sector WGs at national and sub-regional levels, is an active member of the PSEA Network and Working Groups on Gender and Gender-based Violence, Accountability to Affected Populations.

UNICEF Country Office is leading the only joint programme in the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Türkiye, **The Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) Programme**, in partnership with UN Women and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Based on lessons learned from the first phase, UNICEF intensified strategies this year with funding from Swedish Government, to conduct situation monitoring, direct advocacy efforts linked to relevant legislative framework and form strong alliances with key partners, including women and girls' organizations.

**The International Day of the Girl Child** demonstrated the ability of the UN system in Türkiye to rollout a unified UN-wide advocacy campaign in partnership with the private sector (Aydin Dogan Foundation), contributing to adolescent girls' leadership.

On behalf of the UN Country Team, the RC has appointed UNICEF to lead the **Transforming Education Summit** work with MoNE and facilitate national consultations. A wide range of 325 stakeholders from 20 different stakeholder groups was consulted to inform the development of the Statement of Commitment that was presented by the President of the Republic of Türkiye in September 2022 in NY.

In support of **staff wellbeing**, considering the deepening depreciation of the Turkish Lira, and ramping inflation, in close cooperation with the Regional Office, DFAM, RC Office and the UNCT, the TCO ensured 'bonuses' for local staff to compensate the lost in purchasing power, which is highly appreciated by staff members. Additionally, the Comprehensive Salary Survey resulted in dollar-denominated salary scales for local staff salaries with a considerable increase in Turkish lira.

## Lessons Learned and Innovations

Significant progress in innovation has been through partnerships with the private sector and municipalities to deliver results for children.

Engagement with the private sector to support programmatic priorities has great potential and should be expanded further. The skills pledge with the BAB, which will provide "learning to earning" opportunities for thousands of young people, the partnership with LEGO on preschool, with SAP and DELL on skills, with Dogan on gender, are some of the examples where scale and/or acceleration of results have been possible thanks to a joint public-private engagement and a strong convening role of UNICEF.

Through its Field Office in the Southeast, UNICEF has developed an innovative programme by establishing Youth Centers in Kilis City. In the centers, young people learn digital and soft skills and strengthen their employability, including through specific skills courses linked to the relevant industries in the province. UNICEF secured support from the private sector for the digital skills courses as well as "Mobile Maker Bus" equipped with computers and educational resources to expand the 'Makers' programme to youths living in rural areas. Working in partnership with municipalities and the private sector to ensure acceleration of results for children from vulnerable communities is proving a good practice that UNICEF will extend to other municipalities in the coming years.

UNICEF signed its first rolling workplan with Ankara Metropolitan Municipality. Expanding the work

at the level of metropolitan municipalities is also needed to ensure services to some of the most vulnerable children, including refugees (mainly Syrians and Afghani).

The ongoing partnership with LEGO provided an additional 1,255 Duplo Boxes and 915 Six Bricks, reaching 40,610 children. UNICEF supported cascade training for 885 MoNE preschool teachers on LEGO-guided learning materials through play in 18 provinces. The innovative pedagogy has been appreciated by partners and discussions are underway with LEGO Foundation to continue a second phase.

UNICEF has begun crucial studies to generate evidence to design more innovative ECE programming. A new SBC Programme agreement was established between UNICEF and TRC to build on the recent KAP Study findings. To inform the equitable expansion of ECE services, UNICEF is undertaking an ECE investment Case Study, to help identify capacity gaps in planning, budgeting, and expenditures. More investment studies are needed to inform advocacy efforts, influence financing decisions and explore blended financing opportunities with IFIs for the social sector.

SBC programmes were also scaled up significantly in 2022, standing as a cross-sectoral innovation across the programme. Integration with key government stakeholders and CSOs resulted in engagement with 12,811 community members and service providers, including 12,000 women and girls, to facilitate community dialogue on gender stereotypes, adolescent rights, gender-based violence and prevention of child marriage. The development of the **first work plan with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change** resulted in the training of 209 Youth Climate Envoys, who are now participating in national and global climate related policy level discussions (four youth climate envoys joined the Government delegation at COP27). This contributed to positioning UNICEF as partner of choice when it comes to ensuring youth participation towards development of national climate change prevention and/or adaptation policies and programmes.

Ongoing work around **market shaping for educational products** in Türkiye has been a significant innovative approach. UNICEF has developed two educational products for the Türkiye context – **My Playbox and Early Childhood Education Study books** – and have both been exported to UNICEF programmes in Ukraine and the surrounding regional response countries. Adapting these products to other geographies has allowed TCO to reach an **economy of scale**, while also conducting market shaping for educational suppliers in Türkiye, resulting in an overall supply procurement value USD 49 million. This is a quadrupling of value in comparison to the usual UNICEF contribution of USD 10 million on average annually. The agile distribution abroad was supported by UNICEF Supply Division. During the first Genc-UPSHIFT cycle launch, 10,160 young innovators registered to be supported by 546 trainers. Youth skilling linked to social entrepreneurship remains a vibrant space in Türkiye to be actively explored. UNICEF supported MoYS to strengthen further and expand the *Mahalle* (Neighbourhood) *Support Mechanism*, where 500 youth volunteers reviewed and re-designed the modality for national scale up. The Mahalle model was also presented to other COs in the region.

UNICEF together with Koç University (KU), has developed an evaluation learning module that will be used to develop and enhance the evaluation capacity of implementing partners including the government, NGOs, and academia. UNICEF also established that a common **evaluation agenda** with the Independent Evaluation Laboratory (IEL) at Koc University and expanding collaborations with other universities is possible which will help enhance national capacities for research and evaluation and provide a platform for dissemination of best practices on evaluation.

Finally, the Office embarked on a Programmatic Review. The intent was to assess the validity of key strategies deployed in attaining results for children in light of the socio-political and economic fast evolving context. The Office is one of the few globally to have undertaken this exercise, to innovatively evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies used to address key bottlenecks which hamper child well-being agenda in Türkiye. It recommended key strategic programmatic shifts to be implemented in 2023 onwards to accelerate results for children.