Child Friendly Cities
I grow up with my city.
I am aware of my rights.*

* This slogan was identified by children through children's parliaments in Turkey for Child Friendly Cities Initiative.
A Child Friendly City is where children can access to quality education and health services and play in a safe environment. A child friendly city (CFC) is the embodiment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the local level, which in practice means that children’s rights are reflected in policies, laws, programmes and budgets. In a child friendly city, children are active agents; their voices and opinions are taken into consideration and influence decision making processes. It is a city, or more generally a system of local governance, committed to fulfilling children’s rights, including their right to: influence decisions about their city; express their opinion on the city they want; participate in family, community and social life; receive basic services such as health care and education; drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation; be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse; walk safely in the streets on their own; meet friends and play; have green spaces for plants and animals; live in an unpolluted environment; participate in cultural and social events; be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability.

UNICEF Turkey has implemented a Child Friendly Cities Project together with 10 municipalities with the financial support of IKEA Turkey and the UNICEF Turkish National Committee in order to support the municipalities in their efforts to design child friendly policies and programmes.

In order to ensure collaboration and coordination among the relevant partners, the Turkish Ministry of Interior Local Administrations Directorate General (MoI- LADG), Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) and United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) and World Academy for Local Government and Democracy took role in the national coordination of the project.
The project aimed to reach children in urban settings with a special focus on the most vulnerable areas. Indirectly, the project also impacted the families, service providers and policy makers.

- With the financial support of IKEA and the UNICEF Turkish National Committee, UNICEF Turkey implemented a Child Friendly Cities Project in order to support the municipalities in their efforts to design child friendly policies and programmes and create child friendly spaces.
- In order to ensure collaboration and coordination among the relevant partners, the Turkish Ministry of Interior Local Administrations Directorate General (MoI-LADG), Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) and United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) and World Academy for Local Government and Democracy took role in the national coordination of the project.
- The project was implemented throughout 2014 and 2015.

Urbanization in Turkey grows so fast with the growing economy, industrialization and migration from rural to urban. In this dynamic process of change, needs of the children are often ignored or their best interests are not prioritized although children of Turkey composes one third of the overall population.

For the realization of children’s rights at the local level, municipalities have a great role to play. It is them who touch the lives of children every day and it is them who make the living environment of children. Municipalities are closer both the problem and the solution. They know the specifics of their area and of their people. They are the best platforms in which problems can be identified and meet with the solutions with the participation of local people. The key is to make the children active agents of this change.

The Country Programme Action Plan signed between UNICEF Turkey and the Government of Turkey aims to reduce the disparities amongst children, both in terms of geography and gender, to ensure equitable access to services, to reduce child poverty and to increase children’s participation in order to increase the well-being of children both at the national and local level.

Child Friendly Cities (CFC) Project, implemented by UNICEF Turkey with the financial support of IKEA and the UNICEF Turkish National Committee, provided a good opportunity for the local authorities to play their roles in the development Turkish society.

**Project’s Beneficiaries**

The project aimed to reach children in urban settings with a special focus on the most vulnerable areas. Indirectly, the project also impacted the families, service providers and policy makers.
Project cities/municipalities

- Adana
- Yüreğir
- Ş. Urfa
- Eyyübiye
- Erzurum
- İspir
- Bitlis
- Giresun
ADANA
YÜREĞİR
According to Turkish Statistical Institute, 164,182 children (between the ages 0-19) live in Yüreğir, Adana in the Mediterranean Region of Turkey.

Youth volunteer training was held on June 23-24 2014 in Yüreğir with 23 young volunteer participants. The average age of the participants was 26.9.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life with 885 people in total, including 132 children, 194 adolescents, 170 parents with pre-school children, 109 parents with primary school children, 139 parents with high-school children and 141 service providers.

The number of male and female respondents in each survey was either equal or close. For instance, of the respondent children, 39 were boys and 26 were girls. Of the respondent adolescents, 55 were male and 54 were female. The rest chose not to indicate a gender.

The surveys indicated that all groups have given above-average scores for Education and Home environment/Private life in Yüreğir. On the other hand, it was observed that particularly Play and Leisure as well as Participation and Citizenship needed more support.

All groups that took part in the survey have indicated higher level of satisfaction in the fields of domestic safety, protection against violence and abuse, relations with family and community, school attendance, infrastructure of schools as well as relations with teachers and friends.

Nevertheless, all groups have indicated that in their communities, spaces for play and sports, and places where children can be in contact with nature are very limited, children with disabilities do not have access to spaces for play, they do not participate in programs/events outside school or help with projects in their communities, and they do not provide their opinions on the municipality budgets or decisions.

Meanwhile, Safety and Protection indicated variances among the groups. Children and adolescents have rated this heading far above average, while the ratings by primary school parents and service providers were below average.

In addition, the results indicated that children do not feel safe while using public transportation; considerable majority of the adolescents work in jobs, their work environments involve Health and safety risks, and occasionally prevent them from going to school.

Moreover, all groups have suggested that they do not have the opportunity to participate in the festivals of other religions and cultures.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, Yüreğir Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on January 23, 2015.

55 representatives from municipalities, public institutions (Provincial/District Directorate of Health, Provincial/District Directorate of National Education, Provincial/District Directorate of Family and Social Policies, District Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations), universities, schools and NGOs set for the below-mentioned solutions during the Yüreğir Action Plan for Children Workshop regarding the deficiencies in the implementation of child rights.
Yuğur is a district which received migration creating a set of problems.

The Municipality of Yuğur takes pride in having partnered with UNICEF in the ‘Child Friendly Cities Project’ with an awareness on the need for protecting children's rights and taking due account of their needs and priorities.

As part of this meaningful project, the Municipality of Yuğur has a number of initiatives under way including supporting children with disabilities in accessing their rights to play and development by establishing a playground designed in accordance with their needs; introducing a fully-functional Children's Co-ordination Mechanism; offering parenting training in line with the physical, psychological and cognitive needs of children and raising the community's awareness on child rights. In addition, the activities for the Syrian children who have found asylum in our district due to the ongoing internal conflict in their country are also in progress.

Children are our assurance for the future; they are our joy of life.

Municipality of Yuğur
Yüreğir Municipality will support children with disabilities to access their right to play and development through the establishment of a playground adapted to children with disabilities.

Yüreğir Municipality will establish a Child Coordination Mechanism by strengthening the capacity of staff and existing systems.

Yüreğir Municipality will continue providing parenting education through a strengthened programme in order to support the parent on better parenting practices in line with children’s physical, psychological and cognitive needs.

Yüreğir Municipality will work to advocate to promote children’s rights among the society through billboards and other visual communication means.

Yüreğir Municipality will conduct a child impact analysis to assess the effects of cultural centre on children.

Yüreğir Municipality will conduct several activities for Syrian children.
According to Turkish Statistical Institute, 174,606 children (between the ages of 0-19) live in Mamak, Ankara in the Central Anatolia Region of Turkey.

Youth volunteer training was held on September 17-18, 2014 in Mamak with 20 young volunteer participants. The average age of the participants was 21.7.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life with 892 people in total, including 158 children, 150 adolescents, 148 parents with pre-school children, 140 parents with primary school children, 143 parents with high-school children and 153 service providers.

The number of male and female respondents in each survey was either equal or almost equal. For instance, of the respondent children, 33 were male and 30 were female. Of the respondent adolescents, 53 were male and 30 were female. The rest chose not to indicate a gender.

The surveys indicated that all groups have given above-average scores for Home environment/Private life and most groups have given above-average scores for Education in Mamak. While some groups have given above-average scores for Health, adolescents and children have particularly given below-average scores. On the other hand, it has been observed that particularly Play and Leisure as well as Participation and Citizenship needed more support.

Meanwhile, Safety and Protection indicated variances among the groups. Children and adolescents have rated the fields such as violence, abuse, safety and etc. with high scores, while the ratings by parents and service providers are below average.

Nevertheless, all groups have indicated that in their communities, spaces for play and sports, and places where children can be in contact with nature are very limited, children with disabilities do not have access to spaces for play, they do not participate in programs/events outside school or help with projects in their communities, and they do not provide their opinions on the municipality budgets or decisions.

In addition, the results indicated that children do not feel safe while using public transportation; there are no areas for walking and riding bikes, and occasionally prevent them from going to school.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, Mamak Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on February 3, 2015.

63 representatives from the municipality, universities and NGOs have come up with solutions listed below regarding the deficiencies in the implementation of child rights in Mamak Action Plan for Children Workshop.
Taking pride in having undertaken the Child Friendly Cities Project which gave us the opportunity to launch the chain of child-friendly parents initiative, we as the Municipality of Mamak would like to thank UNICEF and the Family Training Programme.

Municipality of Mamak
Mamak Municipality will work through strengthening its Children’s Assembly to facilitate the active participation of children in influencing and planning the programmes that are designed for them and provide comments and feedback regularly.

Mamak Municipality will continue providing parenting education through a strengthened programme in order to support better parenting practices in line with children’s physical, psychological and cognitive needs.

Mamak Municipality will work to advocate to promote children’s rights among the society through billboards and other visual communication means.

Mamak municipality will support children with disabilities to access their right to play and development through the establishment of a playground adapted to children with disabilities.
BITLİS
According to Turkish Statistical Institute, 162,451 children (between the ages 0-19) live in Bitlis in the Region of Eastern Anatolia.

Youth volunteer training was held on November 29-30, 2014 in Bitlis with 17 young volunteer participants. The average age of the participants was 24.2.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life with 571 people in total, including 100 children, 92 adolescents, 92 parents with pre-school children, 96 parents with primary school children, 95 parents with high-school children and 96 service providers.

According to the findings of the survey, in Bitlis, Home environment/Private life was rated above-average by all groups, while Education has been rated above-average by the majority of the respondent groups. The headings Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship and Health have received below-average scores from all groups. Safety and Protection has been rated more highly by children and adolescents; however, parents and services providers have given lower scores for this heading.

All groups have indicated that places for play and spaces for sports are very limited in their community, children with disabilities are unable to access to places for play and schools, they do not participate in the projects for their community, they do not give their opinions on the municipality budget or decisions, they do not feel safe while using public transportation vehicles, there are no places in the community where they can safely walk and ride their bikes, they do not feel protected against gangs, being taken away by a stranger or violence, there are no clean public toilets in the community and there is air pollution and garbage. Nevertheless, Bitlis have been rated very highly in almost all questions asked under the main headings of Education and Home environment/Private life. In this context, school environment, relations with friends and teachers as well as the infrastructure of schools have received above-average scores. In the same vein, home infrastructure and relations at home have also been rated above-average. In addition, it has been noted that there are spaces where children can be in contact with nature, they have friends to spend time with and they know where to go for help in case of danger.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, Bitlis Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on April 9, 2015.

31 representatives from the municipality, universities and NGOs have come up with solutions listed below regarding the deficiencies in the implementation of child rights in Bitlis Action Plan for Children Workshop.
“As the Municipality of Bitlis, what we cared most about was the way the community-based assessment was carried out in cooperation with volunteers from different parts and organizations of the city. By virtue of these assessments, in addition to working out how to ensure progress in the city’s policies for children, we have had and will continue to have the chance to meet the needs, requests and demands of our children with an increased level of awareness. Moreover, the project has brought along many great changes for our children: they have become more aware of their rights and learnt how to demand what is rightfully theirs with their increased self-esteem and be a part of advocacy. In short, together with our children who are the most essential element of the city and the organizations providing services for them as well as the volunteers, adults and parents, we now have a higher level of awareness on and a different perception of children’s rights.

Municipality of Bitlis
Bitlis Municipality will establish a Children’s Assembly (Campus) to facilitate the active participation of children in influencing and planning the programmes that are designed for them and provide comments and feedback regularly.

Bitlis Municipality will develop a child friendly strategic plan by ensuring the meaningful participation of children during the drafting and negotiation process.

Bitlis Municipality will establish a Child Coordination Mechanism by strengthening the capacity of staff and existing systems.

Bitlis Municipality will work to advocate to promote children’s rights among the society through billboards and other visual communication means.
ERZURUM
İSPİR
According to Turkish Statistical Institute 4,122 children (between the ages of 0-19) live in İspir in the Region of Eastern Anatolia.

Youth volunteer training was held on March 14-15, 2015 in İspir with 15 young volunteer participants. The average age of the participants was 18.7.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life with 593 people in total, including 112 children, 138 adolescents, 83 parents with pre-school children, 79 parents with primary school children, 76 parents with high-school children and 105 service providers.

The number of male and female respondents in each survey was either equal or almost equal. For instance, of the respondent children, 40 were male and 49 were female. Of the respondent adolescents, 51 were male and 51 were female. The rest chose not to indicate a gender.

Play and Leisure and Participation and Citizenship have been given below-average scores by each group; while the heading Safety and Protection has been given below-average scores by all groups except children and adolescents. Health and Education have been rated around average. In addition, all groups have given above-average scores for the heading Home environment/Private life.

A further analysis over the average scores pointed out that children (with and without disabilities) have limited access to places for play, children do not have the opportunity to participate in the festivals of other religions and cultures, they have limited contribution to the projects for their community and limited involvement in decision making processes, they have limited access to the internet, there are very few places offering counselling and career guidance services, there are no places in the community where they can safely walk and ride their bikes, there is not sufficient number of facilities offering parenting training, there are no clean and safe public toilets in the community or schools, and children do not learn about productive health at school.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, İspir Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on June 12, 2015.

25 representatives from the municipality, universities and NGOs have come up with solutions listed below regarding the deficiencies in the implementation of child rights in İspir Action Plan for Children Workshop.
The children’s playground built as part of this project has not only helped us ensure that the children of our district spend quality time and form an awareness on sharing and solidarity through socialization, but also served as platform where parents see the happiness in the eyes of their children as they spend a peaceful time at the playground... In other words, this project has raised awareness on our ‘Colourful Flowers’ in our district... We hope that, having been so effective despite being steered from a small office, this project is extended so that it would reach all the children around the world...

Municipality of İspir
1. İspir Municipality will establish a Children’s Assembly to facilitate the active participation of children in influencing and planning the programmes that are designed for them and provide comments and feedback regularly.

2. İspir Municipality will ensure children and young people active participate in the new Cultural Centre and make sure that young people develop projects and programmes including a child friendly space in the Cultural Center.

3. İspir Municipality will provide parenting education through a strengthened programme in order to support parents on better parenting practices in line with children’s physical, psychological and cognitive needs.
According to Turkish Statistical Institute, 114,469 children (between the ages of 0-19) live in Giresun in the Region of Black Sea.

Youth volunteer training was held on June 5 and 6, 2014 in Giresun, with 17 young volunteer participants. The average age of the participants was 21.4.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on **Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life** with 821 people in total, including 152 children, 175 adolescents, 104 parents with pre-school children, 134 parents with primary and secondary school children, 117 parents with high-school children and 139 service providers.

The number of male and female respondents in each survey is either equal or almost equal. For example, of the children participated in the survey, there are 53 male, 57 female. Of the adolescents participated in the survey, there are 67 male, 75 female. Others didn’t state their gender.

According to this research, it was observed that in Giresun, the headings on **Home environment/Private life and Education** have been scored above average by all groups. Accordingly, it has been noted that **Participation and Citizenship** in particular needed support. All respondent groups have suggested that they are unable to contribute to projects about their lives and their community, they do not hear about the projects in their neighborhood, and they do not provide their opinions on the municipality budget or decisions. Moreover, each group has stressed out that places for play are not designed to ensure access for children with disabilities.

Unlike other groups, children (in the category of **Health**), parents with children at primary school age and service providers (in the category of **Safety and Protection**) scored Giresun with lower grades. Although Play and Leisure was above average, it has been scored lower by particularly parents with children at primary school age when compared to other headings (excluding **Participation and Citizenship**).

The other issues of concern include the following: there are no places for children to walk and ride their bikes safely, the schools and the area are not equipped with clean public toilets, schools do not teach children about productive health, schools lack adequate drinking water, and children do not have access to a library in one of the neighborhoods. Moreover, all groups have responded that they do not have the opportunity to participate in the festivals of other religions and cultures.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, Giresun Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on December 25, 2014.

55 representatives from municipalities, public institutions (Provincial/District Directorate of Health, Provincial/District Directorate of National Education, Provincial/District Directorate of Family and Social Policies, District Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations), universities, schools and NGOs participated in Giresun Action Plan for Children Workshop regarding the deficiencies in the implementation of child rights mentioned above.
Thanks to the Child Friendly Cities Project, the people of Giresun have had the chance to get acquainted with UNICEF and its projects. Although we had difficulties while carrying out the surveys, the people we had interviewed later called us, sent us e-mails or even came to visit us to ask about the results of the assessment. They have taken ownership of the project... We are still in contact with the young volunteers who took part in this work; we attend their social responsibility lessons as guests and talk about our project. Our citizens used to be unaware of the City Council; thanks to the visual materials we used and our efforts on the social media, now they are asking for information about the activity fields of the ‘Children’s Assembly’.

Municipality of Giresun
Giresun Municipality will establish a Children’s Assembly to facilitate the active participation of children in influencing and planning the programmes that are designed for them and provide comments and feedback regularly.

Giresun Municipality will review its budget through a child rights perspective and make related budgetary changes for the new budget term.

Giresun Municipality will support children with disabilities to access their right to play and development through the establishment of a playground adapted to children with disabilities.

Giresun Municipality will work to advocate to promote children’s rights among the society through billboards and other visual communication means.
According to Turkish Statistical Institute, 116,160 children (between the ages 0-19) live in Bornova in the Aegean Region of Turkey.

Youth volunteer training was held on July 7-8, in Bornova with 16 young volunteer participants. The average age of the participants was 20.8.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life with 576 people in total, including 117 children, 172 adolescents, 62 parents with pre-school children, 89 parents with primary school children, 53 parents with high-school children and 83 service providers.

The number of male and female respondents in each survey was either equal or almost equal. For instance, of the respondent children, 50 were boys and 38 were girls. Of the respondent adolescents, 46 were male and 66 were female. The rest preferred not to indicate a gender.

Play and Leisure and Participation and Citizenship were given below-average scores by each group; while the heading Safety and Protection was given below-average scores by all groups except children and adolescents. In the same line, there were variations among the groups in the field of Health. In addition, all groups have given above-average scores for the headings of Education and Home environment/Private life.

A further analysis over the average scores pointed out that children with disabilities have limited access to spaces for play, children do not have the opportunity to participate in the festivals of other religions and cultures, they have limited contribution to the projects for their community and limited involvement in decision making processes, there are not enough places in the community where they can safely walk and ride their bikes, there are no facilities offering parenting training, there are no clean and safe public toilets in the community, there is no community library for children and there is lack of awareness on child rights.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, Bornova Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on February 12, 2015.

45 representatives from municipalities, universities, schools and NGOs participated in Bornova Action Plan for Children Workshop.
Every right for every child everywhere

Working for children with children has been the guiding principle of the Municipality of Bornova. With UNICEF’s Child Friendly Cities Project, we have developed methods for ensuring that our “shared wisdom” approach also involves the children. We have worked out how Children’s Councils could function better and understood the importance of children’s participation in the administration of the city. The fact that child rights were explained to the children by children has strengthened the communication among children. Thanks to this project, now we have the capacity to offer trainings on healthcare, education and the rights also to the parents; we will enhance child protection. We now have a greater number of safe places for play, and the community centres offering services for children have new alternative education methods. The Renewable Energy and Mechatronics Lab has been an asset, this project has introduced for the children of our city. We are well aware that the future of a better Bornova and a better Turkey is in the hands of children and this can only be achieved with the involvement of children; in our journey on which we set out with such a frame of mind, UNICEF’s Child Friendly Cities Project has been our greatest supporter.

Municipality of Bornova
Bornova Municipality will work through strengthening its Children’s Assembly to facilitate the active participation of children in influencing and planning the programmes that are designed for them and provide comments and feedback regularly.

Bornova Municipality will continue providing parenting education through a strengthened programme in order to support the parent on better parenting practices in line with children’s physical, psychological and cognitive needs.

Bornova Municipality will establish a Renewable Energy and Mechatronics Lab with child friendly equipment to ensure opportunities of good practices and technical standards for children to use technologies for robotics, autonomy, linear and nonlinear control, and automation.
According to Turkish Statistical Institute, 34,783 children (between the ages 0-19) live in Lüleburgaz in the Marmara Region of Turkey.

Youth volunteer training was held on October 15-16, 2014 in Lüleburgaz with 17 young volunteer participants. The average age of the participants was 20.1.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life with 458 people in total, including 69 children, 90 adolescents, 93 parents with pre-school children, 58 parents with primary school children, 56 parents with high-school children and 92 service providers.

The results from the surveys indicated that all groups have given above-average scores for the headings of Play and Leisure, Safety and Protection, Health, Education and Home environment/Private life in Lüleburgaz. On the other hand, it has been observed that particularly the field of Participation and Citizenship needed more support.

Almost all groups that took part in the survey have expressed higher levels of satisfaction in the fields of places for play, green areas, domestic safety, protection against violence and abuse, relations with family and community, access to healthcare services, clean environment, school attendance, and infrastructure of schools as well as relations with teachers and friends.

Nevertheless, all groups have noted that they do not participate in programs/events outside school or help with projects in their communities, and they do not provide their opinions on the municipality budget or decisions. The findings suggest that service providers have given lower scores for all main headings in general, as opposed to other groups.

In addition, the results indicated that children do not have access to clean toilets at school and in the community, they have not heard about child rights, children with disabilities do not have access to places for play, and there are not many places where adolescents can learn about reproductive health and receive support for career planning.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, Lüleburgaz Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on February 10, 2014.

46 representatives from municipalities, public institutions (District Directorate of Health), schools and NGOs have come up with solutions listed below regarding the deficiencies in the implementation of child rights in Lüleburgaz Action Plan for Children Workshop.
Having partnered with UNICEF in the “Child Friendly Cities” project implemented between 2014 and 2015, the Municipality of Lüleburgaz has had the opportunity to take part in national platforms aimed at increasing the capacities of the organization and the Children’s Assembly under Lüleburgaz City Council. Although it used its budget for children indirectly in the past, Municipality of Lüleburgaz will, from now on, ensure increased visibility and knowledge by raising awareness within the city through “Child Friendly Budgeting” efforts.

Municipality of Lüleburgaz
1. Lüleburgaz Municipality will strengthen its Children’s Assembly to facilitate the active participation of children in influencing and planning the programmes that are designed for them and provide comments and feedback regularly.

2. Lüleburgaz Municipality will design a children’s lane to create a safe, free and child friendly environment for children for their activities (sports, cultural events, festivals.. etc) with their active involvement at all stages.

3. Lüleburgaz Municipality will review its budget through a child rights perspective and make related budgetary changes for the new budget term.

4. Lüleburgaz Municipality will enhance parenting education through a strengthened programme in order to support better parenting practices in line with children’s physical, psychological and cognitive needs.

5. Lüleburgaz Municipality will develop a child friendly strategic plan by ensuring the meaningful participation of children during the drafting and negotiation process.

6. Lüleburgaz Municipality will work to advocate to promote children’s rights among the society through billboards and other visual communication means.
According to Turkish Statistical Institute 389,229 children (between the ages 0-19) live in Manisa (including the districts) in the Aegean Region of Turkey.

Youth volunteer training was held on February 28-March 1, 2015 in Manisa with 19 young participants. The average age of the participants was 20.2.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life with 413 people in total, including 83 children, 86 adolescents, 54 parents with pre-school children, 62 parents with primary school children, 61 parents with high-school children and 67 service providers.

The number of male and female respondents in each survey was either equal or almost equal. For instance, of the respondent children, 47 were boys and 30 were girls. Of the respondent adolescents, 44 were male and 32 were female. The rest preferred not to indicate a gender.

The headings Play and Leisure and Participation and Citizenship were given below-average scores by each group; while the heading Safety and Protection was given below-average scores by all groups except children and adolescents. The main headings of Health and Education received average scores. In addition, all groups have given above-average scores for the headings of Education and Home environment/Private life.

A further analysis over the average scores has revealed that children (with and without disabilities) have limited access to places for play, children do not have the opportunity to participate in the festivals of other religions and cultures, they have limited contribution to the projects for their community and limited involvement in decision making processes, they have limited internet connection, there are very few places offering counselling and career guidance services, there are not enough places in the community where they can safely walk and ride their bikes, there is not sufficient number of facilities offering parenting training, there are no clean public toilets in the community or schools, children do not learn about reproductive health or child rights at school.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, Manisa Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on June 17, 2015.

40 representatives from the municipality, universities and NGOs have come up with solutions listed below regarding the deficiencies in the implementation of child rights in Manisa Action Plan for Children Workshop.
In partnership with UNICEF and thanks to this project, Manisa has had the privilege of being a Child Friendly City, a fairly new concept for our country. Metropolitan Municipality of Manisa takes pride in having been a part of this project. Within the scope of the Child Friendly Cities Project, with the contributions from UNICEF and IKEA, a Child Friendly Space is currently being established in the District of Selendi, in an effort to make sure that children who have never been to the cinema, never used a tablet or a personal computer or never played games on a game console have access to all of these opportunities. The Children’s Assembly of the Metropolitan Municipality of Manisa is now undertaking more efficient projects for the children, thanks to the trainings provided by UNICEF. We would like to thank UNICEF and IKEA as well as all other Child Friendly stakeholders for their support for the project.

Municipality of Manisa
Every right for every child everywhere

Manisa Metropolitan Municipality will establish a Children’s Assembly to facilitate the active participation of children in influencing and planning the programmes that are designed for them and provide comments and feedback regularly.

Manisa Metropolitan Municipality will provide parenting education through a strengthened programme in order to support parents on better parenting practices in line with children’s physical, psychological and cognitive needs.

Support for establishing a child-friendly space (i.e. library, culture and art section) to be built.
MERSİN
According to Turkish Statistical Institute 173,851 children (between the ages 0-19) live in Mersin in the Mediterranean Region of Turkey.

Youth volunteer training was held on November 5-6 2014, in Mersin with 18 young volunteer participants. The average age of the participants was 24.1.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life with 983 people in total, including 173 children, 166 adolescents, 153 parents with pre-school children, 169 parents with primary school children, 165 parents with high-school children and 157 service providers.

The number of male and female respondents in each survey was either equal or almost equal. Of the respondent children, 77 were boys and 94 were girls. Of the respondent adolescents, 85 were male and 75 were female. The rest preferred not to indicate a gender.

Play and Leisure and Participation and Citizenship were given below-average scores by each group; while the heading Safety and Protection was given below-average scores by all groups except children and adolescents. The main heading of Health received average scores. In addition, all groups have given above-average scores for the headings of Education and Home environment/Private life.

A further analysis over the average scores pointed out that children with disabilities have limited access to spaces for play, children do not have the opportunity to participate in the festivals of other religions and cultures, they do not participate in activities outside school, they have limited contribution to the projects for their community and limited involvement in decision making processes, there are not enough places in the community where they can safely walk and ride their bikes, there is not sufficient number of facilities offering parenting training, there are no clean and safe public toilets in the community, Convention on the Rights of the Child is not taught at school, they are not have a say in the decisions taken in their schools, they do not feel protected against being taken away by a stranger and there is no community library for children.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, Mersin Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on March 26, 2015.

70 representatives from the municipality, universities and NGOs have come up with solutions listed below regarding the deficiencies in the implementation of child rights in Mersin Action Plan for Children Workshop.
As the young people of Mersin, we have found the chance to get to know our city as part of the Child Friendly Cities project. We have come a long way in enhancing the current potential of our city for becoming a Child Friendly City and reaching out to the children of Mersin. It has been incredibly rewarding for us to directly convey what we had learnt in the effective, efficient and pleasant trainings to the children of our city, and witness how a higher level of awareness was ensured in our city as a result of these efforts. Our aim is to keep acting in cooperation without losing the sense of enthusiasm we had on the first day and ensure sustainability. A million thanks to UNICEF.

Municipality of Mersin
Mersin Metropolitan Municipality will work through strengthening its Children’s Assembly to facilitate the active participation of children in influencing and planning the programmes that are designed for them and provide comments and feedback regularly.

Mersin Metropolitan Municipality will work to advocate to promote children’s rights among the society through billboards and other visual communication means.

Mersin Metropolitan Municipality will review its budget through a child rights perspective and make related budgetary changes for the new budget term.

Mersin Metropolitan Municipality will establish a Child Coordination Mechanism by strengthening the capacity of staff and existing systems.
ŞANLIURFA
EYYÜBİYE
According to Turkish Statistical Institute 201.746 children (between the ages 0-19) live in Şanlıurfa-Eyyübiye Southeast Anatolia Region of Turkey.

According to Turkish Statistical Institute Eyyübiye is the one of the youngest provinces in Turkey. Medium of age is 19 years.

Youth volunteer training was held on February 21-22, 2015 in Eyyübiye with 27 young volunteer participants. The average age of the participants was 31.1.

Following the training, young volunteers carried out in-depth surveys on Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship, Health, Education, Safety and Protection, Home environment/Private life with 939 people in total, including 174 children, 172 adolescents, 149 parents with pre-school children, 148 parents with primary school children, 134 parents with high-school children and 162 service providers.

The number of male and female respondents in each survey was either equal or almost equal. For instance, of the respondent children, 43 were boys and 54 were girls. Of the respondent adolescents, 38 were male and 53 were female. The rest preferred not to indicate a gender.

Play and Leisure, Participation and Citizenship and Health have been given below-average scores by each group; while the heading Safety and Protection has been given below-average scores by all groups except children and adolescents. In addition, all groups have given above-average scores for the headings of Education and Home environment/Private life.

A further analysis over the average scores pointed out that children (with and without disabilities) have limited access to places for play, children do not have the opportunity to participate in the festivals of other religions and cultures, they have limited contribution to the projects for their community and limited involvement in decision making processes, they have limited access to the internet, there are very few places offering counselling and career guidance services, there are no places in the community where they can safely walk and ride their bikes, many adolescents work outside school and their jobs prevent them from going to school and involve Health and safety risks, there is not sufficient number of facilities offering parenting training, there are no clean and safe public toilets in the community or schools, children do not learn about safe sex at school and they are not protected against violence, abuse and being taken away by a stranger.

In order to discuss the results of these surveys and offer solutions to the identified problems, Eyyübiye Action Plan for Children Workshop was held on April 28, 2015.

42 representatives from the municipality, universities and NGOs have come up with solutions listed below regarding the deficiencies in the implementation of child rights in Eyyübiye Action Plan for Children Workshop.
As a new and innovative municipality, we have been doing our best to make Eyyübiye a better place to live, by embracing all segments of the society.

Municipality of Eyyübiye
Eyyübiye Municipality will establish a Children’s Assembly to facilitate the active participation of children in influencing and planning the programmes that are designed for them and provide comments and feedback regularly.

Eyyübiye Municipality will work to advocate to promote children’s rights among the society through billboards and other visual communication means.

Eyyübiye Municipality will support the right to play and development of children through the establishment of a playground adapted to children with disabilities.

Eyyübiye Municipality will prove parenting education through a strengthened programme in order to support the Syrian parents in host communities on better parenting practices in line with children’s physical, psychological and cognitive needs.
http://unicef.org.tr/sayfa.aspx?id=64

http://childfriendlycities.org/tr/