

Initiatives in the field of education to increase school enrolment

Haydi Kizlar Okula (Girls let's go to school)¹

Started in 2003 with the support of UNICEF. The campaign was initially limited to the 10 provinces with the lowest ratio of girls attending school. 23 provinces were added in 2004 and 20 provinces in 2005, and the rest of the country was included in 2006. With the help of teachers, village muhtar (elected headmen), imams (religious officials) and school principals, the authorities attempted to reach and convince parents to send their children, particularly their daughters, to school.

Campaign officials emphasized the availability of a Conditional Cash Transfer distributed by the Social Solidarity Fund to needy parents whose children are attending school regularly. The scheme, available to the poorest 8 percent of the families is funded by the World Bank as part of its Social Risk Mitigation Program. Girls in primary school get 22 YTL (12€) a month, while boys receive only 18 YTL (10€). The contribution for secondary school is 39 YTL (22€) for girls and 28 YTL (16€) for boys. In order to empower women, these funds are distributed to mothers, through accounts opened in their name. This amount might look little, but for poor families can be an important contribution to the family income.

Numbers of girls enrolled in school since 2003:

2003 (10 provinces)	2004 (33 provinces)	2005 (53 provinces)	2006 (all of Turkey)	Total	Girls who were asked to but could not yet be enrolled
40.000	73,200	62,251	47,349	222,800	50,647

During the campaign from 2003 until 2006 273,447 girls were contacted through their parents to get enrolled to school. Of these 81 percent could be enrolled (222,800) while 19 percent are still out of school (50,647).

¹ <http://www.haydikizlarokula.org/>

Ministry of National Education (MEB)

The ministry is providing transportation to children where the distance to the closest school exceeds 2,5 kilometers.

Quantitative Developments in Bussed Primary Education²

ACADEMIC YEAR	NUMBER OF PROVINCES	NUMBER OF CENTRAL SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF BUSSED SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF BUSSED STUDENTS
1989-1990	2	5	12	305
1995-1996	62	2.182	5.994	95.554
2000-2001	76	5.249	25.967	607.918
2001-2002	78	5.373	27.665	636.508
2004-2005	80	6.337	29.145	698.061

In 2004-2005 83,749,000 textbooks were distributed free to all primary students.

Milliyet newspaper: “Father sent me to school”³

The “Father, send me to school” (Baba beni okula gönder) program targets poor girls by offering educational grants and funding for the construction of dormitories for female pupils who live in remote areas where schools are not available. In the framework of the campaign within 2 years 16 dorms were built and 5 are about to be finished. 5600 children received 3 year scholarships, in total 25 million YTL (13,5 Mio. Euro) were spent (Milliyet newspaper, 21 April 2007, p. 16/17).

Association for the Support of Modern Life (CYDD)⁴ and the cell phone operator Turkcell - scholarships for girls

Launched in 2000, the campaign “Modern girls of modern Turkey” has provided some 10,000 scholarships so far; 4,400 students graduated from high school and 550 successfully sat the university entrance exam. In its third phase, a Mentoring Program was introduced to support girls from Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia who are enrolled in universities.

² http://digm.meb.gov.tr/uaorgutler/OECD/OECD_onrapor_INGMart06.pdf, page 42.

³ <http://www.bababeniokulagonder.org/index2.html>

⁴ <http://www.cydd.org.tr/>