

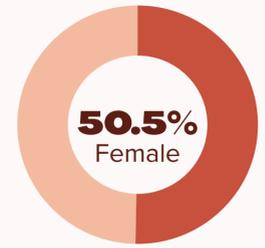
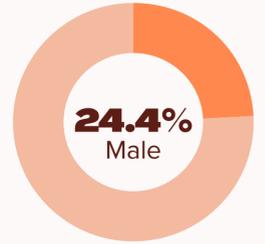
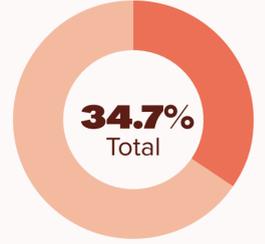
YOUNG WOMEN BUILDING THEIR FUTURE

Dear stakeholder,

We, the Sabancı Foundation, are proud to announce that we're launching a new project titled **"Young Women Building Their Future."** We firmly believe that it will transform the lives of thousands of young women who classify as **NEET**: those who are not in employment, education or training. Unfortunately, this issue still plagues much of the world, including us here in Turkey.

The concept of **NEET** (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) first emerged in the United Kingdom in the late 1990s, in reference to young people. Its use has since spread internationally – including to Turkey, where more and more people are finally recognizing just how serious a problem it is.

The average NEET rate for young people aged **18 - 29** in the OECD countries is 13.4%. In Turkey, that number is significantly higher: **34.7%**, or **5,298,000 young people**. By gender, **some 24% of young men, and 50.5% of (i.e., 3.5 million) young women in Turkey classify as NEET.**



In partnership with the **Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Services**, the **Turkish Ministry of Work and Social Security** and **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, we have recently launched the **Young Women Building Their Future** project with the aim of raising awareness about the challenges that young women NEETs across Turkey face, and to address their needs.

It has taken us close to two years of research and consultation with experts to bring our project to life. Now, our first step will be to visit three separate Turkish provinces – Adana, Diyarbakır, and İzmir – with our stakeholders. There, we will conduct field research so that we can get to better picture of what the circumstances and needs are like, and then devise a course of action accordingly to help them out – in the form of education, counselling, and mentorship programs. Part of that will entail drafting and setting into motion various capacity building and awareness raising programs to empower these women, as well as to provide them vocational trainings.

Next, we are going to introduce a digital platform including **"The Map of Opportunities."** Its purpose will be to put NEETs in touch with Turkey's private sector, civil societies, and public institutions so that they can access education, internship, and job opportunities.

Finally, we also plan on running a grant program for civil society organizations who would be willing to carry out any of the aforementioned activities that our project embodies, in one of the following 11 provinces: Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Diyarbakır, Erzurum, Istanbul, İzmir, Konya, Mardin, Trabzon, and Van.

"Young Women Building Their Future" is projected to run for at least three years. We want NEET women to know that we are there for them!

As always, getting to share our excitement with you is what makes this project worth it. There's no doubt in our minds that it will empower more young women, and fortify their social and economic participation.

For more details, please click to watch our **project video.**



Sincerely,

The Sabancı Foundation

