# 2024 EARTHQU/AKE SOLIDARITY FUND FINAL REPORT

POSTANE



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#### 1. General Information about Earthquake Solidarity Fund

# a. Earthquake Solidarity Fund: Collective Memory, Solidarity, and the Co-creation of Future in Hatay

The devastating earthquakes that struck Türkiye on February 6, 2023, deeply affected many cities, most notably Hatay. The extraordinary solidarity shown in the immediate aftermath gradually gave way to longer-term reconstruction and social recovery efforts. During this period, rights-based needs such as rebuilding cities, preserving cultural heritage, strengthening the right to education, and supporting women, children, and youth became increasingly visible.

In response to these needs, the **Earthquake Solidarity Fund (ESF)** was established through the partnership of Allianz Foundation, the European Cultural Foundation (ECF), and Postane. Initiated with a starting budget of  $\in$ 150,000, the fund aimed to support small-scale, innovative initiatives with a strong cultural and social impact in the earthquake-affected regions.

The fund is based on three core principles: **needs assessment, collective solidarity, and decentralized decision-making**. The application and selection process was simplified to ensure accessibility for civil society actors already working in or planning to work in the region.

Accordingly:

- 8 projects received small-scale grants,
- 1 collaborative project received additional funding,
- Over 60 round-trip travels were supported through the Mobility Fund,
- Short films and documentary content were produced for each project to ensure visibility.

The supported projects varied in focus, encompassing areas such as arts, ecology, cultural heritage, women's solidarity, child and youth support, preservation of traditional crafts, and development of technical skills.

#### b. Overview of Supported Projects

The selected projects were initiated by civil society collectives working with diverse groups and geographies in Hatay. Each project was designed and implemented based on local needs and with participatory methods:

- Nehna Oral History Project: This project focuses on documenting the oral histories of the Rum Orthodox community in Antakya through an online training curriculum for youth aged 18–25, culminating in a digital booklet.
- Polen Kolektif Increasing Polen Gardens: Working with children aged 4–15, this initiative provided workshops on ecology, art, and permaculture to support psychosocial recovery.
- Hatay Gençlerle Sanat İnisiyatifi: Targeting youth aged 12–18, this project engaged participants in a series of art workshops to reflect on the question, "What is the utility of art?" and promote self-expression and creativity.
- Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası Light of Art in Hatay: This project revived musical life in Hatay through concerts in tent and container cities, using art as a tool for healing and cultural resilience.
- **Defne Apollon İpekçilik**: Aiming to preserve the endangered endemic silkworm "Hatay Sarısı", this initiative focused on sustainable textile production and the inclusion of women in eco-friendly production processes.
- Rimmen Kadın Kooperatifi & Deprem Dayanışma Derneği : A collaborative effort to provide safe production and living spaces for women and establish a shared area for children with psychosocial and educational support.
- Kültürhane Repair Library and Workshops: Designed to increase self-reliance and practical skills among adults living in temporary shelters by offering training in basic repair, woodworking, and electrical maintenance.
- **Beytna Creative Experiences with Children**: Organizing art and VR workshops and film screenings for children and youth in villages around Antakya, this project aimed to foster creativity, community, and access to cultural tools.

The field testimonies gathered from each initiative highlight the resilience, hope, and continued sense of solidarity among Hatay's communities in the face of profound loss.

#### c. Project Timeline and Collaborative Meetings

The fund's contribution extended beyond financial support, incorporating field visits, regional meetings, and capacity-building workshops to maintain ongoing engagement. Notably, in August 2024, a significant gathering was held in Mersin, hosted by Kültürhane. This two-day retreat brought together project teams to assess the present conditions in Hatay, discuss shared needs, and imagine futures through themes such as:

- "Expectations for the Future of Hatay"
- "What Is Our Role in Rebuilding the City?"

Participants emphasized the following key needs:

- Sustained support for youth and children
- Preservation of cultural memory
- Enhanced economic participation of women
- Development of ecological and solidarity-based urban models
- Access to health and education services

These discussions laid the groundwork for new collaborations and a strengthened sense of collective identity among the participating initiatives.

#### 2.From August to December

The teams completed their projects and carried out their individual closing activities specific to each project. In December, a three-day closing event was held to mark the conclusion of the ESF projects.

# a. Earthquake Solidarity Projects Closing Gathering December 13–14–15, 2024 / Postane, Istanbul

Following the February 2023 earthquakes, a series of community-based recovery projects took place across Hatay and nearby regions. The closing phase of these efforts culminated in a three-day gathering held at Postane in Istanbul between December 13–15, 2024. This program was not only a space to reflect and conclude, but also a site of remembrance, shared production, and imagining a common future.

Throughout the gathering, music from Antakya played in the background, and food inspired by the Antakya culinary tradition was served. These sensory elements contributed to transforming Postane into a memory space, evoking both individual and collective emotional connections.

#### **13 December Friday**

Orientation, Memory, and Settling into the Space

#### 09:30 - Breakfast at Postane

Participants began the day with a warm breakfast, marking their first in-person interactions. The morning offered a gentle entry into the space and time for informal conversations.

#### 10:30 - Postane Tour

Participants joined a guided tour to explore Postane's architecture, social mission, and the role it has played as a hub for civic engagement and cultural production.

10:50 - Roundtable: How Are You These Days?

In a collective circle, participants shared how they were feeling-not only in terms of the

project process but emotionally and mentally. This created an initial space of mutual trust and openness that would deepen over the following days.

12:00-14:00 - Memory Processing Workshop with Damla Sandal

This workshop engaged participants with printed photographs of Antakya from before the earthquake. Using needle and thread, participants embroidered directly onto the images, giving new life and texture to their visual memory. The tactile act of sewing allowed for a quiet, meditative form of reflection. Conversations emerged around loss, belonging, memory, and slowness.

14:00–15:00 – Lunch at Postane

A shared meal of dishes inspired by Antakya's culinary heritage allowed participants to further connect in an informal setting.

15:30 – Discussion with Center for Spatial Justice (MAD): Talking about Spatial Justice MAD revisited previously presented field research, this time in direct dialogue with the project teams. This session went beyond a data presentation, transforming into a reflective conversation on urban inequality, reconstruction, and the importance of community-led recovery efforts. Participants shared their field experiences, and a rich discussion emerged around justice in spatial planning.

18:30 - End of Day

#### 14 December Saturday

Roles, Production, Visibility, and Collective Imagination

#### 13:00 - Lunch at Postane

The second day began with a shared lunch, giving space to reflect on the previous day's learnings.

14:00 – Workshop with Merve Kavas: Roles in Social Change and New Alliances This participatory session invited participants to explore their individual and collective roles in social transformation. Participants discussed what it means to be part of a community, how alliances are formed, and what sustainable collaboration can look like.

15:20 - Coffee Break

#### 15:30 - Workshop with Ekinsu Ulu: Effective Use of Social Media

Participants explored how to amplify their work online through digital storytelling, audience engagement, and visual strategy. The session included practical exercises with social media platforms and encouraged peer sharing of communication practices.

#### 16:30 - Free Time

Participants had the chance to rest, explore Istanbul, or engage in informal conversations and reflection.

#### 18:30 - Film Screening: SEVA Documentary at Postane

The day concluded with the premiere of SEVA, a documentary featuring the stories and processes of the supported projects. The director, Nesime Karateke, project coordinator Elifsena Biroğlu, and Postane's director Yaşar Adanalı were present in the audience. The film brought to light the emotional and structural journeys of the community projects.

#### 20:00 - Post-Screening Conversation

Following the screening, a moderated conversation took place, where audience members and project representatives discussed the film, the process of documentation, and its emotional resonance. Elifsena Biroğlu moderated the session, creating a space for reflective and heartfelt dialogue.

#### 20:45 - Cocktail

Participants closed the day with an informal reception, enjoying conversation and refreshments in a relaxed atmosphere.

23:00 - End of Day

#### **15 December Sunday**

Closing: Personal Stories, Collective Memory, and Becoming a Community

10:00 – Talk and Breakfast with E. Ece Kuleci: An Invitation to Your Story The final day opened with a breakfast conversation where participants were invited to share stories from their childhood. This gathering allowed participants to connect on a more personal level, beyond professional or activist roles. Stories of play, food, family, and place deepened the emotional fabric of the group.

12:00 – Reflection Circle: Your Story is Our Story – Evaluating the Project and Our Community

This session provided a platform for each project team to reflect on their experience—what they learned, what challenged them, what transformed them. Three questions guided the discussion:

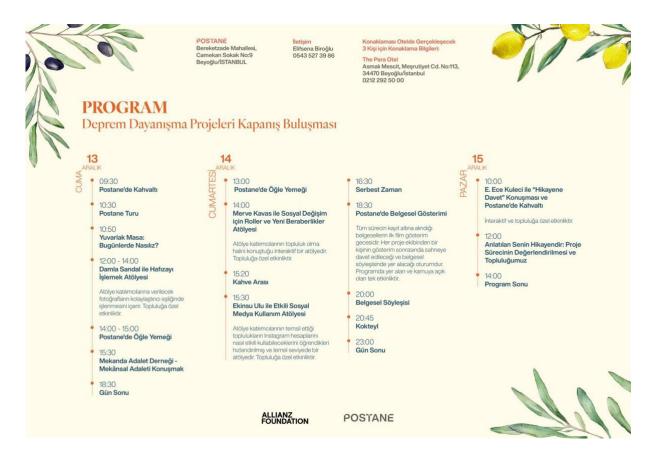
- What does it mean to be a community?
- How can we contribute to our community?
- Who can support whom, and how?

The circle became a space of listening, affirmation, and deep solidarity. It also revealed new potentials for future collaboration and ongoing mutual support.

During this session, MAD also revisited and contextualized their previously presented research, creating a space to bridge empirical findings with lived experiences from the field. It became clear that recovery is not only technical but deeply relational and human.

#### 14:00 - End of Program

Though the formal program ended, the relationships, reflections, and shared visions carried forward. Participants left Postane not only with memories but with renewed connections, inspiration, and commitment to sustained solidarity.



Earthquake Solidarity Projects Closing Gathering



Memory Processing Workshop with Damla Sandal



Memory Processing Workshop with Damla Sandal



Workshop with Merve Kavas: Roles in Social Change and New Alliances



Discussion with Center for Spatial Justice (MAD): Talking about Spatial Justice



Workshop with Ekinsu Ulu: Effective Use of Social Media



Talk and Breakfast with E. Ece Kuleci: An Invitation to Your Story



The premiere screening of the Seva documentary at Postane

#### 3.On the Path of Solidarity: The Impact of the Seva Documentary

Seva is an Arabic word that means "Birlikte" in Turkish and "Together" in English. The documentary Seva accompanies all the projects from their inception through their development and conclusion, offering a perspective on post-earthquake Antakya through themes of uncertainty, emptiness, mourning, sprouting, and healing. Centering on women, children, and youth, it bears witness to the journeys of those who strive to revive life through art, production, and solidarity.

"Seva" is a directed by Nesime Karateke the 54-minute is primarily filmed in Turkish, with some scenes featuring Arabic dialogue. It is presented to the audience with both Turkish and English subtitles. The film's cinematography, editing, and art direction were also handled by Nesime Karateke. The screenplay was written collaboratively by Nesime Karateke, Yaşar Adnan Adanalı, and Elifsena Biroğlu.

The original music for the documentary was composed by Mihrap Eskiocak and Banu Kanıbelli. The production company is Postane, and the executive producer is Elifsena Biroğlu.

"Seva" features the following cast: Canan Yüce, Cansel Aslan, Gizem Güzel, Emel Duman, Hatice Gül, Tuğçe Duman Pedük, Nihal Kara, Kerem Gassaloğlu, Özlem Şekercioğlu, Ayşegül Aksel Kamacı, Necati Sönmez, Cansu Akdeniz, Zeynep Gücel, Burçak Görel, Ali Uğur, Ayşegül Uçar, Kesra Okumuş, Özlem Çolak, Serpil Sultanoğlu, Tuğrul Eroğlu, Berivan Turan, Evlin Hüseyinoğlu, and Reha Songurtekin.

#### a. Film Screening Process and Audience Feedback

The film screenings reached a wide audience through a series of events held in various cities in 2024. These screenings not only provided feedback on the film itself but also sparked discussions about societal memory, post-disaster recovery, and the role of women in society. The screenings took place in different cities in collaboration with various projects and local initiatives.

#### Istanbul - Postane Screening (December 14, 2024)

The first screening took place at Postane in Istanbul, with around 150 participants. All the project teams attended, which made the event even more significant. The post-screening discussions revealed positive feedback, with many viewers praising how the film depicted the trauma without resorting to melodrama. This event in Istanbul highlighted the social impact of the project in a large city and the sensitivity of the participants on this issue. Furthermore, having **Postane** as a cultural venue was an important opportunity to increase the visibility of such social projects.

#### Hatay - Kültür Sanat Çarşısı Screenings (February 3, 2025)

The first screening in Hatay was held at Kültür Sanat Çarşısı, with approximately 70 attendees. Feedback on the film suggested that it successfully depicted the situation in Antakya without resorting to melodrama. This made the portrayal of Antakya's condition feel more authentic and relatable. Projects like Beytna, Defna, Polyon, Ipekçilik, Hatay Academy, the Symphony Orchestra, and the Youth Art Initiative participated, and their involvement reinforced the connection between the film and local solidarity. **These projects enriched the film's content and provided valuable sources for the narrative**, as each project worked to engage their own audiences, helping them better understand the film.

The second screening that evening, starting at 9 PM, was attended by around 60 people. Here, Antakyan people who had experienced the disaster had the opportunity to see the film, which allowed them to reflect on their own trauma and see their experiences portrayed. The strong emotional connection from the audience was evident.

#### Hatay - Samandağ Culture Center Screening (February 4, 2025)

This screening was supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and took place at the Samandağ Culture Center. Although only 20 people attended, the participation of the project teams underscored the cultural and artistic resilience of the region. Projects such as Beytna, Hatay Youth Art Initiative, and the Unknown Women Cooperative were involved. Audience members asked insightful questions about the role of women in the film and the broader

implications for societal change. These kinds of projects not only increased visibility but also strengthened local community engagement with the film.

#### Hatay - Güneş Koleji Screening (February 7, 2025)

The screening at Hatay Güneş Koleji took place on February 7, with about 50 participants. This screening was particularly valuable for its hopeful message, with the documentary being seen as an inspiration for many. The film's focus on recovery and personal transformation resonated deeply with the attendees. The involvement of groups like the Youth Art Initiative and the orchestra further strengthened the connection to the local community. **These events served as important educational tools, fostering awareness and connection among the youth and community members.** 

#### Istanbul - 44th Istanbul Film Festival Screenings

The film was first shown at the 44th Istanbul Film Festival on April 14, 2025, at Beyoğlu Cinema. About 30 visitors attended, and the questions that emerged focused on the preparation process, the role of women in the films, and the recovery process in Antakya. This screening provided an important platform for discussing not only the artistic aspects of the film but also its social message. It was a key moment in increasing the film's visibility, while also showcasing **Postane** Allianz's support for the project.

The next festival screening took place at Sinematek in Kadıköy on April 17, with around 50 attendees. During this event, the film's composer performed live, adding a unique element to the screening. The audience asked questions about the shooting process, the role of projects, and how the themes were selected. This screening offered a deep dive into the creation of the film. Furthermore, Allianz's sponsorship helped raise the film's visibility, allowing it to reach a wider audience.

Additionally, *Seva* has been accepted to the Uçan Süpürge Festival, which will be held in Ankara from April to May 2025, continuing its festival journey. The film team is continuing to submit applications for screenings at national and international festivals such as IDFA and the Bozcaada Film Festival in order to broaden its impact and visibility.

#### b. General Evaluation

Each of the screenings sparked in-depth discussions not only about the film but also about collective memory, cultural recovery, and societal rebuilding after disasters. Audience feedback showed that the film had a profound impact on viewers' understanding of these topics. The role of women, the recovery process in Antakya, and the film's focus on transformation were central to the post-screening discussions.

These screenings were not just about showcasing a film, but also about creating a platform for societal healing, preserving memory, and forming new networks of solidarity. The

constant participation of local project teams in each screening and the varied contexts in which the events were held showed how far-reaching and multifaceted the impact of these screenings was. The collaborations with Postane and Allianz significantly boosted the visibility of the projects, enabling them to reach both local and international audiences.

On the evening of April 18, a screening was held at Postane as part of a mini summit. Participants from various European countries, representing Allianz Hub partners, watched *Seva* and attended a cocktail reception afterward. During this event, several comments were made about the film, primarily focusing on the direction and visual design. The Allianz Hub partners who watched the film expressed interest in organizing screenings of *Seva* at their own centers after meeting with the director and executive producer.

The Seva documentary will continue its journey through national and international film screenings.



Seva Screening in Hatay



Seva Screening in Hatay



Seva Screening in Hatay



Seva Screening in Hatay

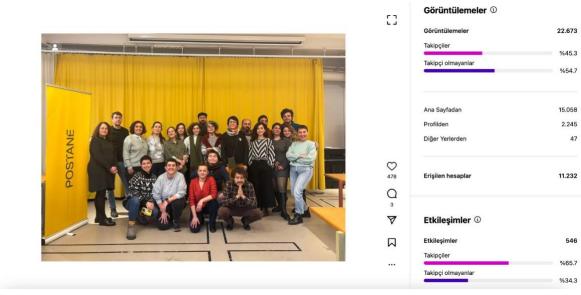


Seva Screening in Hatay

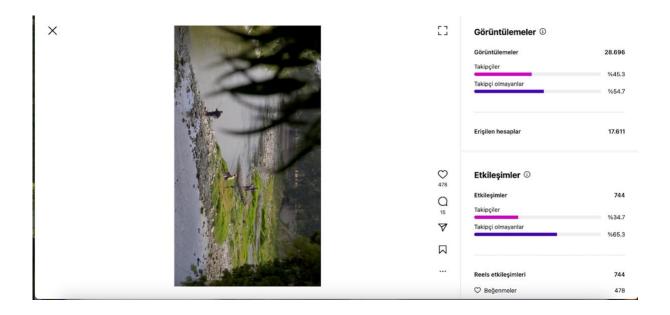
#### 4. The Visibility of Our Time: The Social Media Journey of ESF

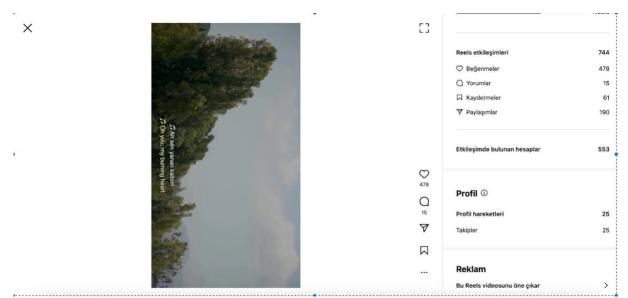
ESF gained visibility on social media through the announcements of its 9 project partners and Postane. Social media posts were primarily shared through Instagram channels. Each team's posts particularly followed and tagged @postaneistanbul and @allianzfdn, with these tags placed in every post. In this context, the visibility of the support and its content reached a wide range of channels. The most striking data from these announcements were supported by both visuals and text:

The closing events for the eight projects that have been supported since February 2024, were held in Istanbul at Postane on December 13, 14, and 15, with the participation of all project teams. On December 13, the project teams participated in the "Embroidering Memory/Stitching Memory" workshop, facilitated by Damla Sandal, where they discussed and reflected on photographs and memories of Antakya's streets before the earthquake. Later, they joined the Mekanda Adalet Derneği (Center for Spatial Justice) team for a walk in Karaköy, where they explored and discussed urban justice. The walk concluded with a visit to Ömer Abed Han, where they explored examples of "Spatial Justice" in Turkey with guidance from the MAD team. On December 14, the teams engaged in a discussion on the concept of community facilitated by Merve Kavas and attended a short training session on digital media usage with Ekinsu Ulu. This was followed by the screening of the documentary film Seva, directed by Nesime Karateke, along with a discussion session. On December 15, the project teams met with Esra Ece Kuleci for a conversation about what it means to be part of social change. The events concluded with an evaluation of the entire project period and discussions on potential future collaborations with Yasar Adanalı and Elifsena Biroğlu from the Postane, as well as Nino Klingler from the Allianz Foundation. The announcement and communication of these three-day closing events were shared via the Postane Instagram account, which has over 27,000 followers. The posts reached more than 11,000 accounts, generated over 22,000 views, and achieved a high engagement rate. The posts related to the Seva documentary film alone reached over 17,000 accounts and received more than 28,000 views. In total, the posts received approximately 1,500 likes, were saved 100 times, and were shared 300 times.



#### Interactions received on Instagram





Interactions received on Instagram



### postaneistanbul ve beytna\_kolektif Hatay



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esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi postaneistanbul Allianz Vakfı'nın (@allianzfdn) destekleriyle ve Postane'nin koordinasyonunda Hatay'daki Deprem Dayanışma Projeleri devam ediyor.

Instagram post /ESF Partners



esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi postaneistanbul Antakya'nın kadim kültürel belleğinin izinden giderek Harbiye ve civarındaki köylerde... devamı 27 Ağustos 2024

**Instagram post /ESF Partners** 

#### 👀 🔊 esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi

postaneistanbul Antakya'nın kadim kültürel belleğinin izinden giderek Harbiye ve civarındaki köylerde yaşayan kadınlarla beraber üretimlerini sürdüren Defne Apollon İpekçilik, Deprem Dayanışma Programı kapsamında desteklenen 8 projeden biri olan "Etik ve Sürdürülebilir İpek" projesini sürdürüyor.

Kültürel belleğin taşıyıcılarından biri olarak doğaya saygılı bir üretim sürecinden geçen ipekböcekleri ise sevgiyle sarmalanıyor. 🐛 Sürdürülebilir ve etik üretim süreci boyunca kadınların birlikte çalıştığı bu projede hem beraber yaşamanın hem de beraber üretimin iyileştirici gücü Antakya'da el ele devam ediyor. 🤍 @allianzfdn

🙋: @nesimekrtk

#antakya #ipekçilik #dokumakültürü #dayanışma
27 Ağustos 2024



görmediler, her şeyin aşılabileceğini biliyorlardı... devamı 25 Temmuz 2024

#### Instagram post /ESF Partners



**()))** esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi postaneistanbul Hatay'da yaşamın gayreti çocuklar ile filizlenecek. **\*** 





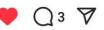
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esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi postaneistanbul Hatay'da Yaşamı Filizlendirmek: Deprem Dayanışma Programı kapsamında desteklenen 8 projeden birisi olan "Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası - #Hatay'da Sanat Işığı" isimli depremden sonraki ilk büyük konser, Katar 2 Konteyner Kent Alan'ında 1 Haziran 2024 tarihinde gerçekleşti. 90 kişilik senfoni orkestrası ekibi, konteyner kent sakinleri ile 2 saat süren keyifli bir geceyi dayanışma içinde gerçekleştirdi.

Senfoni Orkestrası şarkılarını söylerken sanatçı Şerivan Tutuş 2 saat boyunca konserden ilhamla "Hatay: Şehre Giden Güzel Yol" isimli bir tablo çizdi.

#### **Instagram post /ESF Partners**





esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi postaneistanbul Hatay'da Yaşamı Filizlendirmek: Deprem Dayanışma Programı kapsamında desteklenen 8 projeden birisi olan "Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası - #Hatay'da Sanat Işığı" isimli depremden sonraki ilk büyük konser, Katar 2 Konteyner Kent Alan'ında 1 Haziran 2024 tarihinde gerçekleşti. 90 kişilik senfoni orkestrası ekibi, konteyner kent sakinleri ile 2 saat süren keyifli bir geceyi dayanışma içinde gerçekleştirdi.

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#### a: @nesimekrtk

6 Haziran 2024

**Instagram post /ESF Partners** 

postaneistanbul ve kulturhanemiz kulturhanemiz • Orijinal ses

# Kültürhane TASARIM VE ONARIM KÜTÜPHANESI

"Kültürhane Tasarım ve Onarım Kütüphanesi" nde verilecek temel ahşap, onarım, elektrik atölyeleri ve kütüphanenin sağladığı aletler ile depremden etkilenen kişilerin basit bakım ve onarım işlerini geliştirmeleri hedefleniyor.

Kültürhane Tasarım ve Onarım Kütüphanesi Zeytun Çocuk ve Yaşam Alanı'nda.

Adres: Serinyol, ceylan 3 sokak no:28, 31115 Defne/Hatay Telefon: 0545 445 26 25

kültürhane



POSTANE

ALLIANZ FOUNDATION

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 esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi nehna\_biz Antakya'nın geçmişine, anılarına ve kültürel mirasına birlikte tanıklık etmeye hazır mısınız?

#### Instagram post /ESF Partners





🚯 esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi

nehna\_biz Enkazların altından yükselen hikayeler... Antakya ve çevresinin unutulmaması gereken kültürel mirasına dair daha fazla video ve hikaye için bio'muzdaki linke erişebilirsiniz. Bu proje, @allianzfdn ve @postaneistanbul'un destekleri ile hayata geçmiştir. Video: Nesime Karateke ve José Rafael Medeiros Coelho, "Enkaz Altından Notlar"

20 Kasım 2024

### ♡ Q 14 7

esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi postaneistanbul Rimmen Kadın Kooperatifi ve Deprem Dayanışma Derneği ortaklığında sürdürülen "Kadınlar ve Çocuklar İçin Güvenli Yaşam Alanı" projesi, Hatay / Samandağ'da hayata geçiyor. V

6-20 Şubat Depremleri sonrasındaki dönemde kadın ve çocukların güvenli yaşam alanlarına duydukları ihtiyaç ile ortaya çıkan proje alanının alt yapı ve yerleştirme çalışmaları tamamlanmak üzere. Samandağ'da kurulan bu mekanın kadın, çocuk ve gençlere kucak açarak hem dayanışma ortamına erişimlerini sağlamayı hem de hep birlikte üretimler yaparken atölyelere katılarak, eğlenceler düzenleyerek birlikte olma halini ve dayanışma kültürünü hissedebilmelerini hedefliyor.

Allianz Vakfı (@allianzfdn) destekleriyle ve Postane'nin koordinasyonunda Hatay'da hayata geçen 8 proje, Aralık 2024'e dek desteklenmeye devam edecek. 🧡

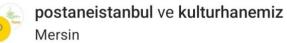
@nesimekrtk, @initiative.hayde, @cnsl\_aslan,
 @gzm\_gzl
 : @nesimekrtk

@allianzfdn

#hatay #samandağ #kadın #kooperatif #deprem
#dayanışma

1 Ekim 2024

Instagram post /ESF Partners









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postaneistanbul Allianz Vakfı ve Avrupa Kültür Vakfı'nın destekleri ile Postane'nin koordinasyonunda gerçekleşen "Hatay'da Yaşamı Filizlendirmek: Deprem Dayanışma Programı" kapsamında desteklenen 8 proje, Kültürhane'nin daveti üzerine Mersin'de bir araya geldi.







esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi

postaneistanbul Allianz Vakfı ve Avrupa Kültür Vakfı'nın destekleri ile Postane'nin koordinasyonunda gerçekleşen "Hatay'da Yaşamı Filizlendirmek: Deprem Dayanışma Programı" kapsamında desteklenen 8 proje, Kültürhane'nin daveti üzerine Mersin'de bir araya geldi.

**Instagram post /ESF Partners** 



# postaneistanbul ve kulturhanemiz

Mersin







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## esenabiroglu ve diğer kişiler beğendi

postaneistanbul Allianz Vakfı ve Avrupa Kültür Vakfı'nın destekleri ile Postane'nin koordinasyonunda gerçekleşen "Hatay'da Yaşamı Filizlendirmek: Deprem Dayanışma Programı" kapsamında desteklenen 8 proje, Kültürhane'nin daveti üzerine Mersin'de bir araya geldi.

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#### 5. At Ground Zero on the Second Anniversary of the Earthquake: Field Experiences from Antakya, February 2–6, 2025

"The week of February 6, 2025, wasn't just about remembrance—it was about gathering, recalling, and rebuilding. This time, I wasn't in Antakya alone; I went with my family. We stayed at the silk workshop of Defne Apollon İpekçilik. That place... it's hard to put into words. It felt like it had slipped out of time—delicate yet resilient. The silence of silkworms emerging from their cocoons blended with the noise of the world outside. Each morning, we woke to the soft sounds of silk weaving. During the three days we spent there, we mourned the losses while also feeling the possibility of another kind of life. We held each other closer, spoke less, but shared more.

One morning, we went to Samandağ for the opening of Rimmen. It's a collective production space established after the disaster. The moment I stepped inside, the morning sun painted everything in gold. There was a mix of grief and hope in everyone's eyes. Rimmen wasn't just a place—it was a site of memory, a gesture of resistance. Every word spoken at the opening, every piece of work shared, was a promise to rebuild.

Throughout the week, Seva, our documentary, was screened three times. After each screening, I took the stage. Since I had gone into the field with our project assistant Pelin and our Antakyan friend and production assistant, Ahmet, I had witnessed these stories up close.
Every time I spoke, my voice caught in my throat. In the audience, there were people who had lived these losses and others hearing about them for the first time. But everyone was united by what Seva explored: emptiness, regrowth, and connection. During the Q&A sessions, people wove their own memories into what we had shared—it felt like we were building a collective memory together. And the silences afterward—sometimes just a glance, a touch—were when everything felt the most real.

This week reminded me once again: memory is not only a space of pain but also of resilience. The days I spent in Antakya were the most touching way to look both backward and forward. And I was there—to witness, to record, and to share. So we don't forget. So we always remember."

Elifsena Biroğlu, ESF Project Coordinator, Postane

"As Postane Earthquake Solidarity Program team, we were in Hatay on February 2nd to 6th, on the second anniversary of the earthquake. My first time in Antakya was in 2019, and this was my second—on the earthquake anniversary. None of the places I could recall were left standing; scenes were hard to describe. Elifsena and I were welcomed by our solidarity network partners from Defne-Apollon İpekçilik team for four days that we were in Hatay. Within just a few days, it was very evident that even two years after the earthquake, the area is still trying to rebuild. Its urgent needs might have been addressed, but life goes on in limited capacities. I do not think it will return to 'normal' for quite some time.

During our visit, we conducted screenings of our Seva documentary film that was made as part of the Earthquake Solidarity Project. Two of these were in a small cinema hall in the Hatay Culture and Art Bazaar. This bazaar was constructed after the earthquake and gathered some of Antakya's social spaces from pre-disaster times—like restaurants and cafes. In addition to this, it features a crafts market hall and a cultural centre. Our two screenings there were attended by considerable numbers. Having screened the documentary film for the first time in Istanbul, screening it in Hatay and being able to have the local community see it was particularly meaningful to us.

The following day, we screened it at Samandağ Culture Centre. Even if the hall is huge, it had inadequate technical support. Even though we arrived hours early, the screening was still delayed due to technical issues. The hall was freezing, and we could have been the first people to step inside in months. This in itself was an indicator about the condition here: resources were limited, and living here is tough. As for feedback we had for our documentary film, I can report that our team was glad to know that people appreciated that part of their own stories in the film instilled hope in the viewers and that it had an empowering influence.

During our visit, we also visited some project teams whom we had supported under the Earthquake Solidarity Program: Hatay Academy Symphony Orchestra, Deprem Dayanışması, Rimmen, Defne-Apollon İpekçilik, Beytna, and Gençlerle Sanat. We caught up with one another and exchanged news. One of the highlights of our visit was being able to join in on the opening ceremony of the Samandağ Svediye Campus by Rimmen and Deprem Dayanışması. We were glad to see that both teams now had their own space. The joy and enthusiasm of all were palpable. The container-campus features an ISO-compliant kitchen for production, a workshop room, dormitory, shop to showcase their products, and study space for children. Elifsena told me that this land was empty last year. Seeing a lively production facility rise from zero—and that it is constructed for women—was simply wonderful.

After all those days full of hope and solidarity stories, came the most difficult part of our journey. On February 6th at 4.17 a.m.—when the city was hit by the earthquake two years ago—we met at Yunus Emre Park in Antakya at the invitation of the Hatay Academy Symphony Orchestra. They organized a mini-concert to remember those lost. We sang together, hugged one another, and left laurel leaves, which is an important symbol of the city, in the Asi River. That morning, I saw hundreds of people who had come to the street in response to different calls, all walking in pain and anger. It was a heartbreaking scene, beyond words.

Throughout that morning even after coming back to Istanbul, one thought kept coming back to my mind: after such immense loss, carrying such pain—and seeing it without being numb—is very hard. As much as I have not been part of this project for very long, I can feel how precious the Earthquake Solidarity Program and community that it envisioned is. At the end of the day, each of us is doing what we can—whether as professionals or volunteers—to help build a better world. I truly hope that this community of solidarity will stay strong even after these projects come to an end, continuing to support one another and contribute to the rebuilding of Hatay. Most compelling to me about all these efforts is the hope that they inspire. In an increasingly economically insecure, political climate in our nation, it is empowering and inspiring to know that strong, supportive communities are not an unrealistic dream—they exist, they can develop, and they do thrive."

Pelin Sarıgül, ESF Project Assistan, Postane



#### Rimmen & Deprem Dayanışma's New Place in Samandağ (one of the outcomes of the ESF)



#### 6. Summaries of Project Outcomes

Nehna: The oral history project has been compiled into a book, which can be accessed. https://nehna.substack.com/p/antakyanin-hafizasi

**Polen Kolektif:** They organized over 45 workshops and held an exhibition featuring artworks created by children. Currently, they are donating their remaining materials to the local middle school and working on establishing a library.

Hatay Gençlerle Sanat İnisiyatifi: They held a closing party in Arsuz and brought together young people from Samandağ and Antakya. They also organized an exhibition featuring the participants' artworks.

#### Beytna Kolektif:

They organized numerous workshops for children and raised awareness among artists in the earthquake zone about the region's needs and experiences.

#### Rimmen Kadın Kooperatifi & Deprem Dayanışma Derneği

They established a new women's center in Samandağ.

#### Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası:

They gave their first concert in a container city after the earthquake, offering a powerful moment of healing through music.

#### Kültürhane:

They launched a mobile tool library and produced urban furniture tailored to the needs of local youth.

#### Defne Apollon İpekçilik:

They created new employment opportunities for women and supported the preservation of traditional silk production practices.

#### 7.A New Chapter for Antakya: Healing Through Community

Following the second anniversary of the earthquake, Antakya has reached a new threshold. The healing process is now moving beyond individual efforts—it's becoming a collective journey, side by side, shoulder to shoulder. It's no longer just about surviving, but about discovering new ways of living together.

In this new chapter, several initiatives are joining forces. Rimmen Kadın Kooperatifi and Defne Apollon İpekçilik are building a shared production network centered on women's labor and local craftsmanship. Nehna and Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası are combining memory and music, intertwining grief, resilience, and hope through collaborative projects. Polen Kolektif and Beytna are nurturing the spirit, color, and voice of this reemerging community through work with children, youth, and artists.

Alongside these collectives, **Deprem Dayanışma Derneği** and **Hatay Gençlerle Sanat İnisiyatifi** continue to be integral parts of the community with their own unique projects. Whether it's in a women's center, the opening of a new workshop, or a street exhibition, they are writing Antakya's healing story step by quiet step.

In Antakya today, it's not just about mending what was broken—it's about planting new roots, together. Every project, every collaboration, every gesture is a step toward the future. As the city rises again, we are witness to its transformation. And most beautifully: this recovery is being made possible by the hands of a community.

