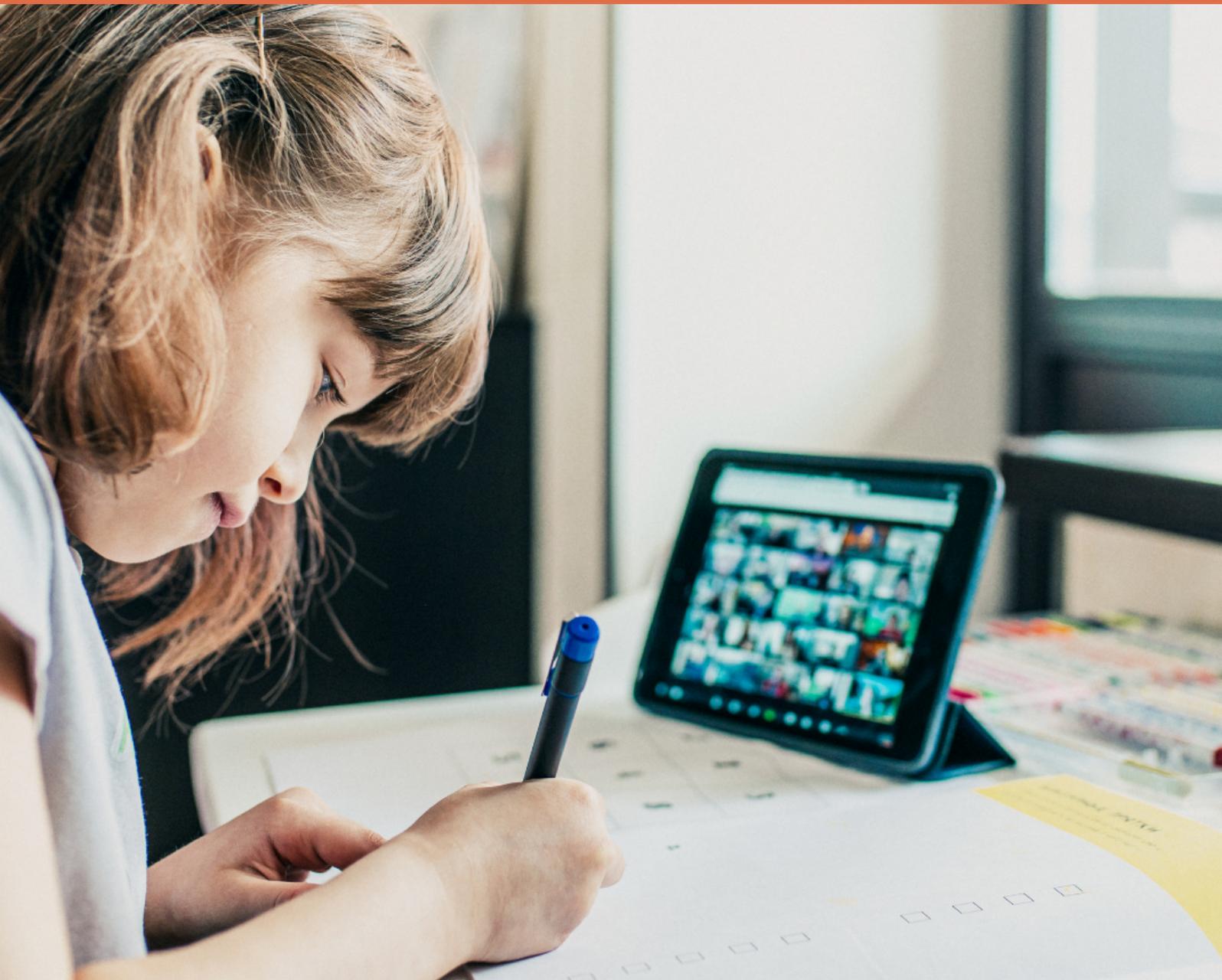


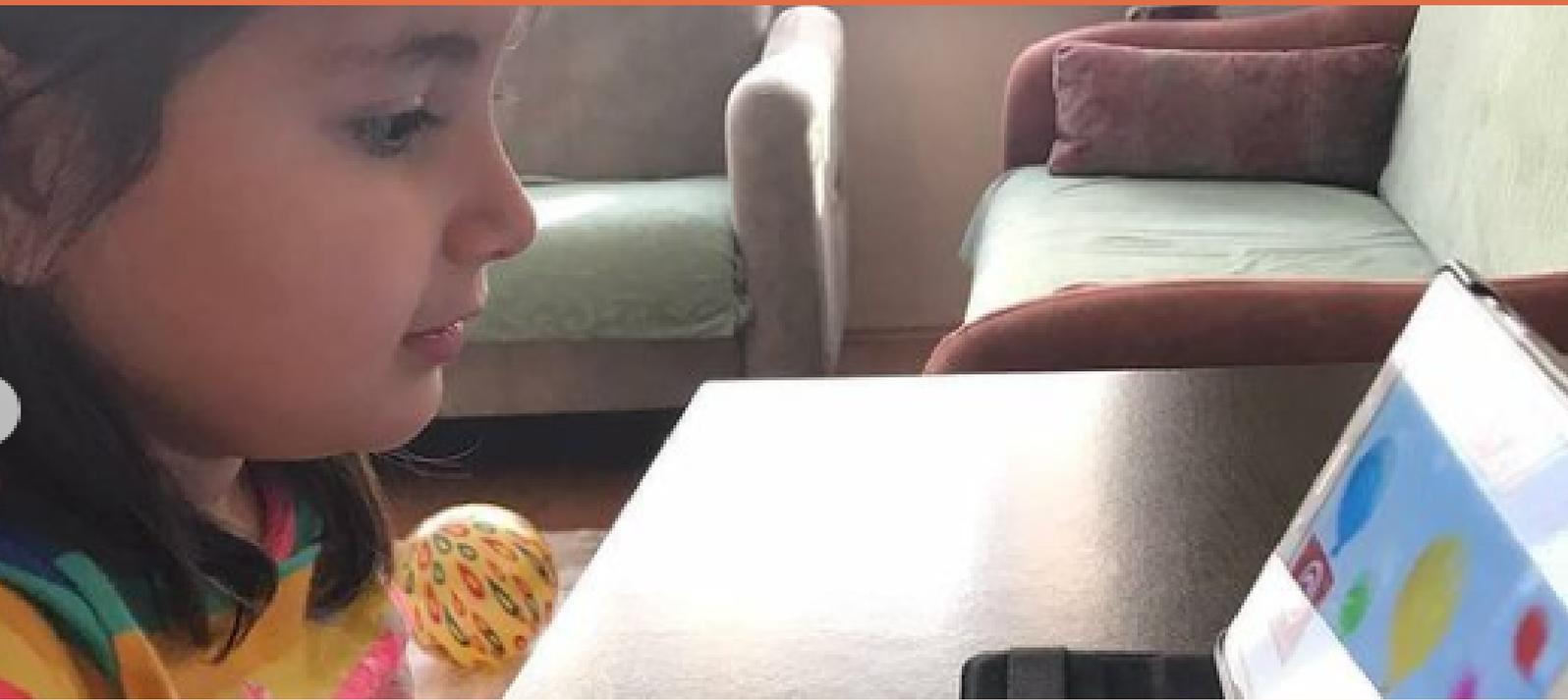
TURKISH  
PHILANTHROPY  
FUNDS

MAY 2021

# TPF COVID-19 DIGITAL DIVIDE IMPACT REPORT



# THE CHALLENGE



**The digital divide** has become a major social issue in the last few years as technology has become the center of our lives. The digital divide in education especially is widening inequalities as the gap between those with sufficient knowledge of and access to technology and those without creates leaves many disadvantaged children behind.

Before the pandemic, at Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) our educational funds mainly went to supporting students that couldn't afford an education with scholarships, investing in schools to improve infrastructure, and contributing to workshops to prepare youth with the skills to succeed in today's economy.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, our focus has shifted as the Internet and the computer has become lifelines for all of us. Yet, only some of us had access to these tools. In Turkey where 60 percent of students are without access to a computer at home, the situation is direr. As a result, we've observed a significant gap in solutions for youth.

# TPF'S RESPONSE



The digital divide is an issue that has been under TPF's radar for a long time. Before the pandemic, we have mostly created opportunities to disadvantaged youth to access digital tools and content to support their education.

With Covid-19, to respond to the urgent need in Turkey, we have collaborated with many individuals and partner organizations to provide access to students who had no means to continue their formal schooling. We connected stakeholders and mobilized the community to a prompt and effective response.

We have prioritized underprivileged students' access to online education through providing computers, tablets, internet connections, and online classes whose formal education has been interrupted due to the sudden switch to online education.





# IMPACT



**RAISED**

**\$208,521.47**

Hundreds of donors supported education of students with disadvantaged backgrounds

**PARTNERED WITH  
9 ORGANIZATIONS**



Needs Map, CYDD, TOG, Okul Destek Dernegi, TEV, Tohum Autism, PAYDA, ILKYAR, Support to Life



**TOUCHED THE  
LIVES OF**

**~4,500**

**CHILDREN TO CONTINUE  
TO THEIR EDUCATION**

**2,663 laptops & computers**

are provided to primary school  
and college students



**500+** students received  
online makeup classes

**540 monthly internet  
packages**

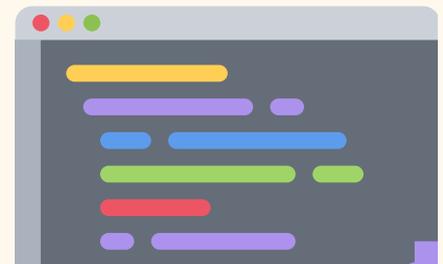
are provided to students



**78 tablets to children  
with autism**

with 32GB internet packages

**150 students** received  
**coding** classes



**200 tablets & internet  
access** to girls from  
seasonal worker families

# IMPACT BEYOND NUMBERS



## 1

### STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

During the pandemic, due to high demand and limited production, the reserves of digital devices fell short of the expected demand around the world. Thanks to the connected network of TPF's donors and institutions' trust in us, our private sector partners obtained devices at a lower price and ease the logistics so we could support more children.

## 2

### CREATED NEW PLATFORMS TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE

TPF brought many professionals together in the field of education, technology, and digital divide by hosting two online panels: *EdTech & Philanthropy: Crafting The Future* and *the Coming Together to Close the Digital Divide* and opened the stage to discuss the importance of technology and the role of philanthropy in guaranteeing high-quality education, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 3

### BUILDING STRONGER TURKISH - AMERICAN COMMUNITY

These challenging times built stronger ties among Turkish Americans from different generations and led them to take immediate actions as impact makers. Our donors fought against the digital divide gap within their power. A group of young Turkish American students started the **One Child One Computer initiative** and supported their peers in rural parts of Turkey to continue their education during Covid 19.

TPF's giving circles such as **Turkey's Educated Kids (TEK)** supported girls' education to close the gap of the digital divide. Other donors of TPF increased the impact of the cause through their valuable matching gifts.

TPF's mission to support education gathered many Turkish Americans from different geographies and generations under the same umbrella.

# CLOSER LOOK AT OUR IMPACT

## 1. CYDD- \$21,977.51



TPF supported two CYDD projects:

**1. Computer Support Project,** supported by **TEK Giving Circle** of TPF,

**30** high school girls with disadvantaged backgrounds received **scholarships** and **computers** and joined online 21st Century Skills classes.



**2. Kodlamaca Campaign,**

**~150**

children from 4th to 7th grades are trained in coding.

**7** laptops are purchased.



## 2. ILKYAR- \$20,834



With the **Curious Ambassadors of Science Project**, 16 tablets and high-speed internet access were provided for 18 months. "Ambassadors", who are successful 6th-grade students shared the computers with 30 of their peers in the same villages.

Through these ambassador students,

**~500**

students in villages gained internet literacy.

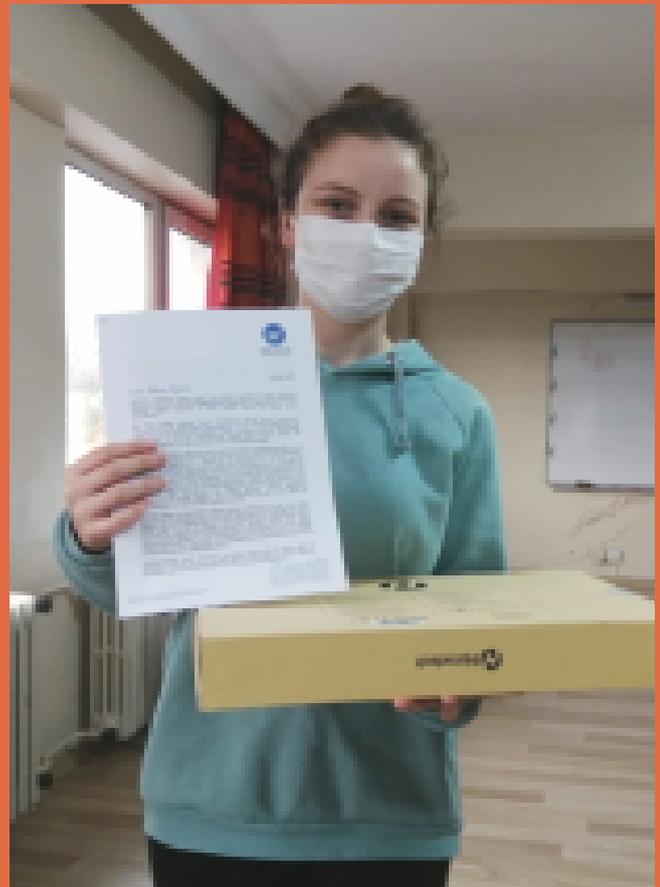




## 3. NEEDS MAP & CYDD- \$49,750

**One Child One Computer Initiative**, launched by a group of Turkish-American high school students based in Seattle area, raised funds to send computers to underprivileged children in Turkey to have an equal opportunity in education.

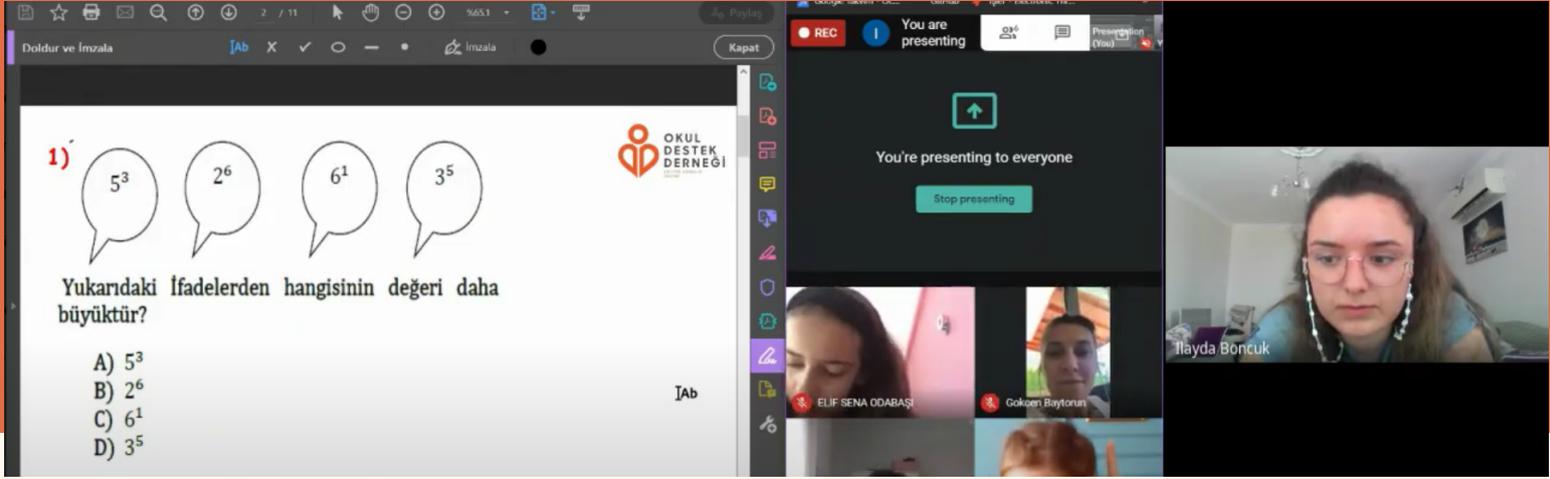
CYDD facilitated the Support to Education with A Computer Project and Needs Map handled the logistics of the project.



# 2,583

students received computers to maintain their online formal education.

# 4. OKUL DESTEK DERNEGI (ODD)- \$15,000



## Summer School COVID-19 Makeup Project

helped secondary school students with disadvantaged backgrounds catch up with math and science classes and encouraged them to overcome the distress that emerged due to the pandemic.

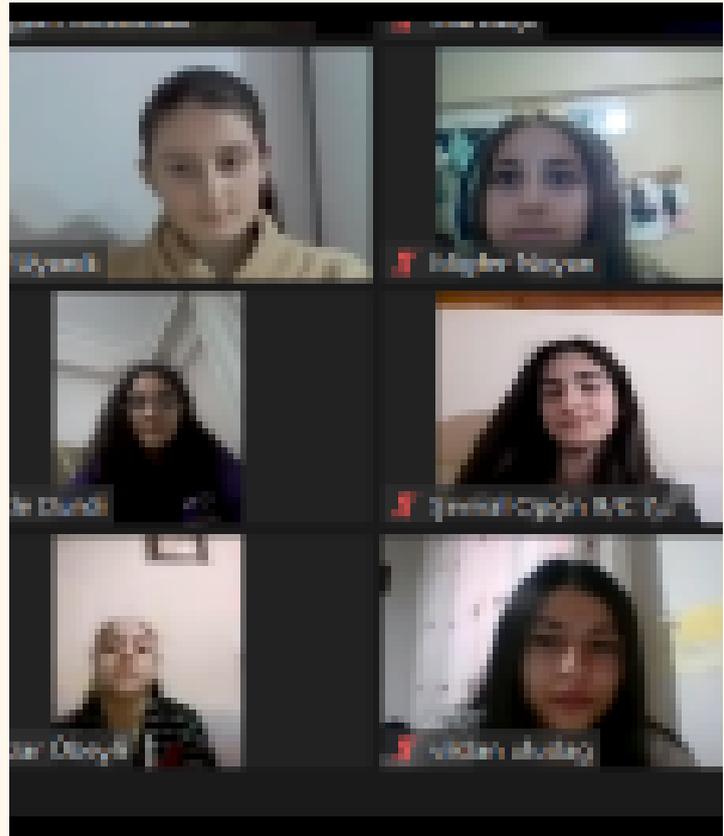
# 2,960

number of digital contents used,

# 500+

students were supported

The support provided the salaries for professional teachers who trained teaching volunteers during the first three months of the project.





## 5. PAYDA- \$72,000

20

female college students

+

30

elementary & high school students are provided educational support.

40

Computers with 20 GB internet packages.

**PAYDA With Students Project** also covered an additional 20 female students' material equipment expenses and one college student's internship accommodation and transportation expenses.





# 6. SUPPORT TO LIFE- \$10,183



**Technology for Girls Education Project** will provide tablets and internet access to

# 200

girls mostly from seasonal migrant worker families in the cities of Adana, Sanliurfa, Diyarbakir, Hatay, Mersin, Batman, and Istanbul.



## 7. TOHUM AUTISM- \$12,836.70

### TOHUM AUTISM E-LEARNING PROJECT

When formal education moved to online education due to the pandemic, students of TOHUM Autism got interrupted.

The Project provided **tablets** and **32 GB of internet packages to 78 families** of children with autism who are in need and require special education.



## 8. TURK EGITIM VAKFI (TEV)- \$5,939.56

Internet & computer Scholarship for Students' Distance Learning



**300** underprivileged high school and undergraduate students received **monthly cash assistance** and monthly payments for them to purchase an internet package.

**Equal Opportunity Movement for Distance Education Project** provided computers and scholarships to three undergraduate students.

**TOGETHER WE MADE A  
DIFFERENCE!**



**THANK YOU**

**FOR YOUR TRUST &  
SUPPORT IN**

**TURKISH PHILANTHROPY FUNDS**

