

Mavi Kalem is a non-governmental organization working in Turkey since 2000. We currently have three offices in İstanbul (Fatih, Zeytinburnu, and Esenyurt, one in Kocaeli (Gebze), and one in Adana.

Mavi Kalem was established by volunteers working in the field after the Marmara earthquake in 1999. Women and children were doubly disadvantaged during the disaster, already being vulnerable groups. In its first years, Mavi Kalem volunteers supported women and children that were affected by the disaster. After those years, we continued to primarily work with women and children, especially those who were affected by disasters or emergency situations. However, the most important thing for us is to respond to the needs and demand in the field using our own capacity. We continued to work only with volunteers until 2015. After 2015 we have decided that it would be more effective and sustainable to continue our work by being funded.

During the years which we only worked with volunteers, we had one office in Fatih (Balat). In Balat there were many people who were affected by internal migration. We worked with women in this neighborhood on women's health, health rights, preventing violence, and improving skills to live in a big city. We supported the children's education as well as playing games and doing arts, sports, and psychosocial support activities with them. In 2012, we have started working with women and children from Syria and other countries that were affected by the external migration due to war.

Other than working with target groups we are contributing with adaptations and translations of relevant sources to humanitarian field in Turkey. Mavi Kalem is a member of different networks.

In 2016 we organized the Women in Disasters and Emergencies workshop. Recently in 2020, we have prepared videos on the difficulties in women's lives during the pandemic and spread the videos on our social media.

Since 2015, we started to do more sustainable projects that access more people. Our longest project has been the Child Protection project that started in 2017 with the support of UNHCR and it still continues. Within the scope of this project, we follow individual cases of children to support their access to their basic needs and rights. We also give consultancy to their parents and have psychosocial support activities in our offices.

In 2019, we opened the Women's Consultation and Solidarity Center in Esenyurt (İstanbul) with the support of GIZ. With this center, we aim to provide women a safe space to get together, have enjoyable time, and search for solutions to their problems together by sharing experiences. We give general, health, legal, and psychological consultation services in this center. Besides this we also have psychosocial support activities and information meetings with women and psychosocial support activities with their children.

We also developed two workshop series and their training of trainer workshops. One of the workshop series is called Empowerment of Girls Workshop Series and it is for girls between the ages 12 and 17. In the workshops we discuss with girls about adolescence, physical and mental health, sexuality, and how to protect ourselves from violence. Our aim is that they gain awareness about these subjects and feel that they are able to make decisions for themselves. The other workshop series is called Male Participation for the Empowerment of Women Workshop Series. This workshop

series was designed together with refugee men. During the workshops, we discuss with men how they can support the empowerment of women.

With the pandemic, we moved our consultation services and activities to digital platforms. We popularized our consultation line and received calls from all over Turkey during the pandemic. We also had psychosocial support activities for women and children, and information meetings for women on digital platforms.