



Administrative Projects on Population Resilience and Vulnerabilities in Türkiye

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- In the 21st century, demographic transformations are emerging on a global scale. When the observed slowdown in population growth rates and the decline in total fertility rates are considered alongside the profound changes in family and household structures, they point to significant demographic shifts for both the world and individual countries.
- These demographic transformations in the context of population have led to a consideration of the concept of vulnerabilities and resilience—the ability to eliminate or at least mitigate the effects of vulnerabilities.

- In population studies, vulnerable groups broadly refer to social segments that are disproportionately at risk under conditions of health crises, disasters, poverty, or other crises. These vulnerabilities stem not so much from individual characteristics as from social determinants and structural inequalities that place people in a disadvantaged position.
- This presentation aims to highlight the efforts undertaken by Governors to address the vulnerabilities arising from demographic transformations in the population context in Türkiye.

- In the context of population, resilience (demographic resilience) is defined as the ability of societies to withstand, adapt to, and recover from crises by understanding and anticipating changes in their population structure (aging, migration, growth/decline).
- The concept of vulnerability, on the other hand, refers to the lack of capacity to cope psychologically, socially, and physically with the adversities and hardships individuals face in their lives.
- As of 2025, Türkiye's population stood at 86,092,168, with 43,059,434 males and 43,032,734 females. In this context, as of 2025, 50.01% of the population consists of men, and 49.99% consists of women.



State Organization and Population Resilience in Türkiye



- The state organization in Türkiye formulates and implements policies aimed at enhancing population resilience at the central government level. Governors play a strategic role in the nationwide implementation of these policies, which are carried out by ministries and relevant central agencies.



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- Türkiye is divided into 81 provinces. There are 922 districts within these 81 provinces. The governor, as the representative of the central government, is responsible for the administration of each province. Each province has a general administrative structure that mirrors the central government's organization on a smaller scale.
- The district governor, as the representative of the central government, is responsible for the administration of each district. The district governor operates under the authority of the governor. The governor and district governors ensure the effective coordination of policies established by the central government at the provincial and district levels. Governors are generally responsible for the enforcement of laws, the coordinated delivery of public services, and the maintenance of public order and security in the province and district.



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- On the other hand, a total of 1,003 social welfare and solidarity foundations have been established across the country, spanning 81 provinces and 922 districts. Established under a law, the chairperson of these foundations is the governor at the provincial level and the district governor at the district level. Provincial and district mayors serve on the foundation's board of trustees. In addition to certain provincial and district directors involved in the provincial and district organizational structure, the presidents of some civil society organizations also serve as members.
- Additionally, village heads and members of the provincial assembly are part of the board of trustees. Social assistance is provided to vulnerable segments of the population through funds regularly transferred from a central government-established fund. Support is also provided for projects developed to address issues specific to that province or district. These foundations have legal personality; in fact, they stand out as a model of governance at the provincial and district levels.



Projects by Governors Targeting Vulnerable Groups



- January 10 is recognized as Governors' Day in Türkiye. In this context, celebratory programs are organized every year. As part of these programs, successful Governors are honored at the highest level of government.
- In 2025, following a call by the Turkish Association of Governors, 42 deputy governors and district governors were nominated for 5 awards based on the projects they carried out. A total of 586 projects and activities were included in the application files. Following comprehensive evaluations, the five successful Governors received their awards from President Erdoğan during the January 10, 2026, Governors' Day Program.

- Examples of projects targeting vulnerable groups, led by state territorial representatives and submitted to the Turkish Association of Governors, include the following:
- **1- “Sancaktepe My Teacher, Me, and My Friend (SÖBA) Project”**—This project, implemented in all public middle and high schools in the Sancaktepe district of Istanbul, aims to strengthen the connection to school for children who have dropped out due to absenteeism.
- **2- “+1 University Project”** – Implemented in the İnegöl district of Bursa Province. The project aims to help individuals with special needs aged 23 and older realize their educational aspirations by allowing them to experience the university environment through on-campus education.

- **3- “Are You Aware of Me?”** – Implemented throughout Afyonkarahisar Province. The project aimed to prepare individuals with disabilities and their caregivers for disasters, raise their awareness through disaster preparedness training, ensure the active participation of individuals with disabilities in disaster management processes, and involve them in the process rather than leaving them as passive recipients of aid. It is a project funded by the European Union (EU).
- **4- “Women Empowerment Project”** – Implemented in Hakkâri Province to support women’s employment and entrepreneurship. It was carried out by renovating a building that had originally been constructed as a small shopping center but had fallen into disuse over time, and repurposing it for the use of women entrepreneurs.

- **5- “Project for the Establishment of a Search and Rescue Association and the Promotion of Disaster Awareness”** – Implemented in the Çamlıhemşin district of Rize province. The project aimed to establish a volunteer-based search and rescue association, promote disaster awareness, strengthen the district’s disaster preparedness capacity, and provide equipment support.
- **6- “Disabled Social Entrepreneurship Center Project”** – Implemented in Hatay Province. Following the February 6, 2023 earthquakes, nearly 1,000 citizens in Hatay Province suffered limb loss. Consequently, the need for prosthetics and orthotics became a matter of critical importance. Since the center opened following the project’s implementation, it has processed 574 applications and delivered prosthetics and orthotics to 120 amputees.



- **7- “Healthy Women, Healthy Generations Project”** – This project was carried out in Van Province under the coordination of state territorial representatives. The project aimed to improve women’s health literacy, strengthen access to basic health screenings, and promote healthy lifestyle habits.



Conclusion



- Throughout Türkiye, state territorial representatives have implemented numerous projects aimed at enhancing the resilience of vulnerable groups. These projects demonstrate visionary qualities in critical areas such as education, health, youth and sports, production, women's employment, technology, and social development. Provincial governors and district governors have demonstrated effective coordination throughout all phases of these projects—from planning and implementation to sustainability.