

HATAY - April 2023

MaviKalem Hatay Girls' Status Report

Interviews with 15-18 Age Group Girls





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contents

1. Characteristics of the interview sites	5
2. Demographic information of the girls interviewed	6
3. Damage to the homes of the girls interviewed	7
4. Education level of the girls interviewed	8
5. Interviewed girls' communication with their teachers and friends	10
6. Interviewed girls' ability to study	12
7. Clothing and underwear need of the girls interviewed	13
8. Hygiene supplies needed by the girls interviewed	13
9. Ability of the interviewed girls to meet their personal care needs	14
10. Status Assessment	16

Report On Interviews With Young Girls In Hatay

Between 07.04.2023-09.04.2023, interviews were conducted with a total of 25 girls aged 15-18 in Üçgedik, Serinyol, Anayazı neighborhoods and the Container City (Qatar-Turkey Brotherhood Container City) in Büyük Dalyan neighborhood and the Tent City in the Old Animal Market in Antakya district of Hatay province. This research was conducted by 3 people: a field coordinator, a child development specialist, and a sociologist.

The aim of this research is to identify the gender-sensitive needs of girls aged 15-18 living in different neighborhoods in Hatay earthquake zone. For this purpose, in-depth interviews were conducted with 25 girls aged 15-18 in groups in different neighborhoods of Antakya. In these interviews, girls were asked about their concerns about education, their

worries, and shortcomings if they can attend school, and the problems and concerns they face if they attend university. In addition, contacts with the girls' friends and teachers were explored.

One part of the research focused on hygiene. Girls were asked about their hygiene problems, the acquisition of hygiene materials, how they fulfill their bathroom and toilet needs, the problems created by these needs and how they ensure menstrual hygiene. Finally, they were asked how living together in a small tent affected them and whether they had difficulty sleeping.

1. Characteristics of the interview sites

Serinyol, Anayazı and Üçgedik are the neighborhoods of Antakya district of Hatay province. In these neighborhoods in the north of Hatay center, the number of children is considerably higher than the number of elderly people. Children are at the top of the population ranking, young people are in second place, and the elderly are in third place.

While Serinyol was a municipality before 2014, it became a neighborhood of Hatay Metropolitan Municipality in the same year. It was a neighborhood that received migration even before the earthquake, for example from Samandağ, İskenderun and Mersin. Since Serinyol has the campus of Mustafa Kemal University, a brigade, and a hospital, it is a neighborhood preferred by students and civil servants who migrate from outside Hatay. After the earthquake, there was no damage to the houses where the students stayed, so those whose houses

were damaged in Hatay moved to this neighborhood.

Anayazı, like Serinyol, is a neighborhood on the outskirts of Antakya. Residents of this neighborhood mostly work in industry, greenhouse farming and agriculture.

Üçgedik was previously a mountain village but has now become a neighborhood in central Antakya. The inhabitants of this neighborhood are mostly engaged in animal husbandry and farming. Most of the population living in these neighborhoods are Arab, some are Turkish, and some are Syrian immigrants. These neighborhoods were selected for their different characteristics. The Container City (Qatar-Turkey Brotherhood Container City) in the Büyük Dalyan neighborhood and the Tent City in the Old Animal Market were selected as examples of settlements.

2. Demographic information of the girls interviewed

A total of 25 girls were interviewed, 6 of whom were 18 years old, 4 of whom were 17 years old, 5 of whom were 16 years old and 10 of whom were 15 years old.

As shown in the table, 6 of the girls stay in the tent between the neighborhoods established in Serinyol, 4 in the neighborhood tent established in Üçgedik, nine in the neighborhood tent established in Anayazı, 2 in the Container City established in Büyük Dalyan neighborhood, and 4 in the Tent City established

in the Old Animal Market.

In the neighborhood tents in Serinyol, Üçgedik and Anayazı and in the container city and tent city, 4 to 6 people usually stay in one tent/container, while one of the interviewees, a girl from Serinyol neighborhood, stayed in one tent with 9 people, a girl from Anayazı neighborhood stayed in two tents with 12 people, and a girl in the tent city stayed in two tents with 10 people. As a result, it was determined that girls stayed in tents and containers with 4-6 people.

Location of the interview	No. of People Interviewed
Serinyol neighborhood	6
Üçgedik neighborhood	4
Anayazı neighborhood	9
Tent city in the Old Animal Market	4
Container city in Büyük Dalyan	2

3. Damage to the homes of the girls interviewed

It was determined that the houses of 6 girls living in Serinyol neighborhood were slightly damaged, the houses of one girl living in Üçgedik neighborhood were slightly damaged and the houses of the other three girls were heavily damaged, while the houses of two girls living in Anayazı neighborhood were heavily damaged and the houses of the other 7 girls were slightly damaged. It was determined that the houses of one of the girls staying in the container city were slightly damaged and the other one was heavily damaged. It was determined that the houses of the girls staying in the tent city were slightly damaged, but two girls could not go to their houses because their houses were in Kurtuluş neighborhood and rocks had fallen in that area due to the earthquakes and this danger persists.

4. Education level of the girls interviewed

As seen in the table, it was determined that two girls living in Serinyol were 12th graders and one of them had attended a preparatory school before the earthquake, while the other two were high school graduates and worked at a hairdresser before the earthquake. It was learned that one of the other girls was in 11th grade and another girl was in 10th grade. It was determined that two girls living in Üçgedik neighborhood were in 12th grade and they were attending a preparatory class. It was found out that one of the girls was a high school graduate and worked as a hairdresser before the earthquake, while the other was in the 11th grade. It is also among the data we obtained that a girl living in Anayazı neighborhood is

in 10th grade and the other 8 girls are in 9th grade. It was determined that one girl in the container city was in the 11th grade and had attended a course before the earthquake, while the other was in the 8th grade. It was learned that one of the girls staying in the tent city was in the 11th grade, her sister was in the 10th grade, one girl was in the 12th grade and the other girl was a high school graduate and was preparing for an exam.

GD, who lives in the Serinyol neighborhood, said, "My biggest dream was to become a doctor and I was studying hard for this, even now, before you came, I was studying again, but now I don't think I can get into the medical faculty. My education life has been disrupted, I fell 50 points behind, whereas

The Region where Interviewees reside	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade	Grad Preparing for Exam	Attending Prep Class	Working in a Job
Serinyol	-	-	1	1	2	2	1	2
Üçgedik	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	1
Anayazı	-	8	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tent city in the Old Animal Market	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-
Container city in Büyük Dalan	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

This table is multiple choice. Girls whose grades are indicated can also be included in the last three columns.



my peers, those who did not experience this earthquake, can study comfortably and we will all take the same exam. I think I will write nursing because my mother is also sick, and I need to earn money as soon as possible.” “Before the earthquake, I was going to a preparatory

course and preparing for law school, but now I can neither go to school nor to a preparatory course. I do not think I will be able to get into law school in the first year, this semester is over,” said IK, who lives in the container city.

5. Interviewed girls' communication with their teachers and friends

It was determined that three of the six girls living in Serinyol neighborhood cannot communicate with their teachers even via phone, while they could communicate with their friends via phone. It is learned that one of the other two girls could not communicate with either her teachers or her friends, while the other girl could communicate with her teachers but not with her friends. It was also determined that the girl who graduated from high school communicated with her friends via telephone. However, it was found out that none of the girls in the Serinyol neighborhood were able to meet face-to-face with their friends after the earthquake. It was determined that one of the four girls living in Üçgedik neighborhood communicated with their teachers over the phone but could not contact their friends because most of them had passed away. Among the other three girls, one of them was in contact with her friends, one of them could not contact her teachers but could contact her friends, and the other one could contact both her teachers and her friends. However, it was found out that these 4 girls did not meet their

friends face to face after the earthquake. It was determined that two girls living in Anayazı neighborhood could not communicate with their teachers over the phone, but they could both communicate with their friends via phone and meet face-to-face, while the other 7 girls communicated with their teachers over the phone and could both communicate with their friends and meet face-to-face. It was learned that one of the girls staying in the container city could communicate with her teachers and friends by phone but could not meet face-to-face with her friends, while the other girl could not communicate with her teachers by phone but could communicate with her friends by phone but could not meet face-to-face. It was found out that 4 girls staying in the tent city could not communicate with their teachers by phone, could communicate with their friends by phone but could not meet face to face. It was found out that the fact that girls had difficulties in reaching their teachers and friends, whether by phone or face-to-face, made their situation even more difficult.



6. Interviewed girls' ability to study

During the interviews we conducted, it was determined that except for one girl living in the Anayazı neighborhood and one girl living in a container city, the other girls did not have an area where they could study. It was learned that the girl living in the Anayazı neighborhood is studying in the cookery department and can use her own kitchen for cooking, so she does not need a study area. It was learned that the girl who stayed in the container city could study because her parents went to the field, and only herself and her brother remained in the container. In terms of course materials, except for one girl (studying cookery), all other girls lacked resources. It was also found out that they could not participate in online classes due to the lack of internet, and when they

wanted to study on online platforms, they encountered internet problems again. It was observed that girls staying in tent cities do not have an area where they can study and are constantly exposed to a noisy environment. Education is provided in the tent cities established in certain parts of Antakya, even if not in the neighborhoods, but girls do not participate in this education and the reasons for this are as follows.

1. The education provided is not for them, but for students preparing for exams such as 8th grade and 12th grade.
2. It was determined that it was difficult to get used to the teachers' style of expression because the teachers changed once a week, and that the education given was not stable and efficient.

7. Clothing and underwear need of the girls interviewed

While girls staying in the tent cities continue to need all kinds of clothing (tracksuits, sweatshirts, summer clothes, slippers, shoes, underwear, especially bras), girls staying in other regions need underwear and summer clothes.

8. Hygiene supplies needed by the girls interviewed

The girls said that although they had the opportunity to meet their needs with the opening of markets in Antakya, Hatay they had difficulty in obtaining these needs due to their poor financial situation. It was determined that the aid did not include materials such as wax, razors, and depilatories and that they either went home to buy these materials by their own means or obtained them through relatives coming from outside.

It was also found out that since the tents in Serinyol, Üçgedik and Anayazı neighborhoods are tents between the neighborhoods, aid rarely reaches the girls staying there. It is also among the findings that the girls living in the container city and the tent city, especially in the tent city, have difficulties in meeting these needs, and their hygiene kit and underwear needs continue.

9. Ability of the interviewed girls to meet their personal care needs

It was determined that one of the problems of girls who had no private space after the earthquake was to take personal care (showering, cleaning body hair, hair/face care, etc.). At this point, although the girls we interviewed were in different regions and conditions, they had a common characteristic. All the girls stated that they could not take care of their personal hygiene in the first weeks and were not able to think about it anyway, but later they tried to fulfill these needs while taking a shower. It was determined that the girls in Üçgedik neighborhood built a shower out of a tarp and showered there, and that they either waited with their mothers or sisters while they showered and took care of their personal hygiene in the meantime. The girls said that they had their eyebrows and moustaches plucked by one of them because she works at a hairdresser and that it made them feel good to be able to have their eyebrows and moustaches done. It was

determined that girls living in Serinyol and Anayazı neighborhoods take showers either in their own homes or in the homes of their relatives and that this is the only way they can do their personal care. It was determined that they supply the water they need for showering, using the toilet and washing clothes from the river, and that they meet these needs after boiling the water in a cauldron. Two of the girls staying in Anayazı neighborhood said that they started to get water from the tanks of their houses which were slightly damaged, while the other 7 girls said that they still get water from the river. In the container city, on the other hand, it was found that these needs were met relatively more easily, at least girls were more comfortable to meet these needs in showers in a closed area. In the tent city, one of the biggest problems for girls was going to the toilet and shower, and they could not go alone by no means. Since men's and women's toilets and bathrooms are



next to each other or very close to each other, girls have difficulty in meeting their basic needs. Another issue that worries girls is the low number of toilets and showers (10 toilets for women and 10 toilets for men, 10 showers for women and 10 showers for men). In addition, it was observed that girls avoided showering in the tent city and turned to other options due to the unhygienic conditions of the toilet and shower areas and the lack of proper locking of the doors. For example, it was determined that ÇE and DE girls who stayed in the tent city went to their houses to take a shower even though their houses were far away, and their houses were at the foot of the mountain (there was a risk of landslides due to the earthquakes). In addition, the girls said that it was difficult to find hot water in the tent city and that the electricity was cut off in the evenings, and that they could only take a shower during the day. Another issue that makes the girls in the tent city uneasy is that

they are exposed to the disturbing looks of men.

It was determined that girls who said that they had difficulties in personal care under unfavorable hygiene conditions had great difficulty in maintaining menstrual hygiene, especially in the early stages. It was determined that due to both stress and inadequate hygiene conditions, girls experience delays, irregularities, and severe abdominal pain during menstruation. However, it was found out that they did not go to the hospital despite irregularities and abdominal pain, which was difficult at first and they could not express this. It was learned that girls put their pads in black bags and throw them in the garbage. DA in Üçgedik neighborhood also stated that garbage was not collected in the early days and therefore they burned the waste (pads).

10. Status Assessment

1. It is thought that most of the girls aged between 15 and 18 will not be able to go home for a long time even if their houses are slightly damaged and that the problems we have identified will continue, which will negatively affect the psychology of girls.

2. It was determined that all but three of the girls we interviewed were continuing their education, but they were worried about the disruption of their education and the fact that they were behind in their lessons. It was observed that girls who could not communicate with their teachers even over the phone and could not get information about their schools, and girls who communicated with their teachers over the phone but determined that their teachers had been transferred out of the city had no idea what to do and were worried about the future. Similarly, girls who lost their friends,

who could not meet their friends face-to-face or communicate with them by phone, had no one to commiserate with, which caused them to withdraw into themselves and they could not go through the mourning process. It is seen that the loss of girls' social environment and support at school makes them lonely. For this reason, it is thought that it would be beneficial to increase and maintain psychosocial activities in earthquake regions. Especially activities that support girls' acquisition of a new social environment will strengthen them. At this point, the words of CY, who stayed in the tent city, about the psychologists who came voluntarily for a day, "One day, a few women came to us, we were gathered around a fire in the evening, and we were talking. It was very good!" and the approval of the other three girls are examples of this need.

3. The girls we interviewed still need clothing, especially underwear and hygiene kits. It was determined that these needs are urgent, especially in the tent city, and that although they can access panties, they cannot access bras and the need for bras is urgent. In this regard, meeting the needs of girls such as bras and bralettes stands out.

4. Both the fact that they are in tents in between neighborhoods and therefore no distribution is made there, and the fact that not everyone staying in these tents can go to the distribution points cause the hygiene kit needs not to be met. For example, it was found that girls in Serinyol, Üçgedik and Anayazı neighborhoods were not able to access these aids, and therefore people staying in tents in between neighborhoods tried to meet these needs with their own means. In addition, earthquake survivors felt ashamed to go to the distribution points. For this reason, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of delivering the distributions to the places where the earthquake survivors live. It was determined that these needs continued in the container city and the tent city and that in the beginning they met these needs from the materials left over from the aid they received. However, it is from the data obtained that they now must meet these needs of the markets, but they will have difficulty in meeting these needs financially. At this point, it was

determined that there were difficulties in procuring necessities such as underwear and hygiene kits and it was concluded that initiative should be taken to procure these materials. In addition, it was determined that materials such as razors, wax, wax cloth, depilatories were not included in the hygiene kit and that girls also need these materials, so these materials should be included in the hygiene kit.

5. During the interviews we conducted, it was determined that in addition to all these problems experienced by girls, they are also unable to meet their personal care needs (such as showering, cleaning body hair, hair/face care) or they try to meet these needs under very difficult conditions. It was observed that both girls staying in tents in the neighborhoods and girls staying in the tent cities can only meet their toilet and shower needs when their mothers, sisters or girlfriends are with them. Regardless of whether they were staying in tents in the neighborhoods or in tent cities and container cities, girls could only take their personal care while taking a shower. Therefore, bathrooms and toilets need to be provided in a way that meets the needs of women and girls and are safe spaces. The girls we interviewed did not have any health problems other than menstrual irregularities and severe abdominal pain. However, it was thought that it would be useful to

inform the girls about this issue since they could not maintain menstrual hygiene in the early periods and experienced the above-mentioned health problems.

6. It has been observed that girls staying in the neighborhoods try to keep the places where they use the toilet and shower as clean as they can, but the toilets and showers they use are not very clean under the current conditions, which makes them feel uneasy. For this reason, it was determined that women and girls staying in tents in the neighborhoods need portable showers and mobile toilets and that this need is essential.

7. It was found that girls staying in tents in the neighborhoods bring water from the river and boil it in boilers to use for toilets, showers and washing clothes. For this reason, it was determined that it was women who washed the clothes by hand, which increased the workload of women and girls. It is believed that such situations reproduce gender inequality and should not be ignored. At this point, it is envisaged that it would be useful to establish collective laundries, such as those in tent cities and container cities, especially for women whose houses have been destroyed or heavily damaged, who cannot enter their houses

and therefore must do their laundry by hand.

8. It was determined that one of the biggest problems of girls, whose private spaces were lost, and social environment was lost or changed with the earthquake, was the loss of social circle. Except for the girls staying in the Anayazı neighborhood, it was observed that none of the other girls could meet their friends and spent all their time with their family and relatives, while the girls we interviewed in the tent city met and became friends there; they took walks together, braided each other's hair, and plucked their eyebrows and mustaches. Based on this, it is thought that workshops should be organized for girls and that this would create an environment where they can both make new friends and make use of their time.

9. Based on the information that 3 of the girls we interviewed work in hairdressers, it is envisaged that these girls (women and girls who work in any other craft or line of work as well as hairdressers) could be provided with internships in hairdressers to be opened in container and tent cities, which will both compensate for their lost jobs and provide them support in the field of education. ■

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