

TIAFI 2017

2022

January - August





Foreword

I wanted to set up a centre whose aim was to support children and their mothers that had found themselves alone in Turkey, widowed by the war, or left in Turkey as their partners or family left to go to Europe, or stayed in Syria.

For us, I knew that we needed to be on the front lines, so to speak. That is why TIAFI is located in Tepecik, one of, if not the, poorest and most underserved areas in Izmir. We were going to work where we were needed, and be in direct contact with our community everyday. I knew that we would be a walk in centre where people would not need appointments to get help. I knew that we would not discriminate between migrants and locals, because poverty, and its effects, know no borders.

When we were first established in this empty warehouse, survival was the main issue. People had rights and access to services that they had no idea existed, so we would inform them, and help them to get access. People were hungry, so we were going to feed them. People were poor, so we were going to find ways to support them. Now, almost six years later, the need has changed. People are still struggling to survive, so we still, and will always, help them to access services, and feed them. But, the hopes that many people had of moving on from Turkey to Europe have faded, their life and future is here.

So we have focused on helping children with their education in Turkey, we support children with medical issues as part of our exercise and flexibility course, we offer daycare for children who mostly have been traumatized by having to flee their home country. We help refugee children with their homework so they can integrate into Turkish schools. And we even support children of refugee migrant farmers' families to learn basic reading and writing as well Turkish language basics.

But we also support the children's families, for the very most part their mothers, to provide them the capacity to support themselves. We offer professional education as part of the TIAFI academy, where (mostly) mothers but also fathers can learn "marketable" skills, so they can take control of their own futures in Turkey.

It has been hard, sometimes it looked impossible that we would be able to continue, but, six years later, here we stand, with our



amazing team, still working hard to create a world in which hope still resides, in which rights are respected and in which the future is still one of possibilities to thrive.

Founder Member

Anne O'Rorke

Childrens' Services

Patients on File	Total Appointments
142	2312

TIAFI's Exercise and Flexibility program is unique in Turkey. Physiotherapy is not available to Refugee children unless they have private healthcare. This means that across Turkey, thousands of children go without treatment for war injuries and conditions that could benefit from physical therapy.

Our Exercise and Flexibility program encourages parents, the overwhelming majority of whom are women, to learn physical therapy techniques. Our qualified physio therapists train the parents, and devise a program for them to follow at home. At least once a week each child is brought in to TIAFI and given an assessment so that their training schedule can be modified weekly depending on the individual requirements of each patient.

Throughout the day, our team organise for disabled children and their mothers to be transported to TIAFI, and home again after their consultation as they do not have access to public transport, due to physical and/or financial limitations.

Exercise
and
Flexibility



One of our proudest stories is that of young Mustafa Basmaji. He came to TIAFI in 2018. He suffers from cerebral palsy and when he first visited us, he had zero control of his muscles. He couldn't control his head or even roll over. Over the years, through the dedication of our team and his parents, Mustafa began to gain head control, meaning that he could eat and swallow by himself for the first time. He began to crawl. Throughout Covid, our team began online consultations and during this period, Mustafa began to learn how to stand supported. By the time that we began in person consultations, Mustafa was taking his first steps. Now, having graduated from our Exercise and Flexibility program, Mustafa can run, play, and climb, like any other child his age. These four years of dedication have transformed this child's future, and he is just one of our many success stories.



Homework Help

No. of Total Attendees	Lessons Given	Number of Registered recipients
1793	122	72

TIAFI's Homework Help program is very important to ensure that migrant children do not get left behind by the state education system. Turkish children have the right to go to Turkish state schools, but the demand on those schools to provide for millions of extra children has put a huge amount of pressure on the system.

Our Homework Help program helps to ensure that children get some of the extra attention that they need to be able to keep up with their peers. We provide an after school program to assist children in their homework, to improve their Turkish language skills and help to make sure they have the chance to thrive in their educational careers.



In June we got to see the results of the childrens' end of year exams, and we are very proud to say that a number of our students did incredibly well. Hele Mansurani came top of her class in IT with 97.5%, and beat most of the Turkish children in Turkish with 95% and 98% in music. Hussam Afash managed a perfect 100% in IT to top his class, 89% in foreign languages and 98% in mathematics. Sidra Hannan scored 95% in religious studies and 100% in Visual art and design. We were also extremely happy to welcome back many of our old students from previous years that wanted to show their results to our teacher Derya, and thank her for her years of hard work and dedication. With the help of Derya, TIAFI always tries to find ways to support our older students in continuing their education and further education. For many families, these children are the only hope for their family's future and their only path to a better, sustainable, future.

Play for a Day

Total Children using Service	Total Play for a day Attendees	No. of Play for a Day Sessions
61	1364	165

Our Play for a Day program is one of our most vital services, without which TIAFI could not meet its goals. This program allows a safe and educational space for our team, volunteers and service users to leave their children when they come to TIAFI.

For many women, their childcare responsibilities are the biggest barrier to their capacity building. Many of them have been widowed by the war, their extended families are often still in Syria and now they are the sole provider for their family. The provision of TIAFI's Play for a Day service means that women can access all of TIAFI's services, knowing that their children are well looked after. Many of these women are alone and receive no help with childcare, finding it very difficult to attend hospital appointments, attend interviews, find work or provide for their families.



The children participating in our Play for a Day program, many of whom have been traumatized by their refugee experience at very young age, benefit not only from having a daily routine. They greatly benefit from social interaction with other children outside of their home, a warm meal every day as well as being attended to for their psychological needs.



Art Workshop

The TIAFI Art Workshop is a multi functional space. Due to the number of children and young adults suffering from secondary trauma, and the recognised therapeutic benefits of art, we decided to set up our own art workshop.

We can use the space during play for a day sessions, and with the help of Adnan, our resident artist, he can run art therapy sessions for children. He directs them in therapeutic art sessions, and helps them to let their imaginations run wild. For those that show real artistic talent he can focus them on technique and style in the hope of making a new generation of artists.

Twice a week we also run open sessions for young adults to come for art sessions with Adnan. These are much more focussed sessions and Adnan teaches them how to draw, about perspective, technique and design. We currently have a group of young women that regularly attend these sessions.



Barbershop for Children

Once a Week we invite Yasser, our resident barber, to take over the hair salon. He provides free haircuts to children in the community. On an average day he will have about 18 children sit in his chair, under the supervision of their mothers, and they have the opportunity to take advantage of our food service at lunch time. This service really helps to reduce those small costs to families, which really add up if you have a large family. It also helps to promote social integration as we have a young Syrian barber giving haircuts to Turkish children from our community.



Charity Shop

Our charity shop is how we organise and distribute clothes donations. We receive clothes donations from all over, individual donors, the local government, and once even a movie production company donated their entire wardrobe department after a shoot had wrapped.

Everything is washed, dried, and organised into our charity shop and then people can come and take up to five items, completely free of charge, of their own choosing. This is extremely important for families, and the need for childrens' clothes is always extremely high, especially at the start of the school year and at the start of winter.



Torbali Report

The situation in Torbali, a town one hour outside Izmir around which a number of refugee camps are scattered, is a uniquely challenging one when it comes to education. Whilst Turkish children have the right to go to Turkish schools, for many refugee children their families subsist as migrant labourers. They are now forced to travel the country following the farming seasons and may only stay in one place for a few weeks, to a few months, working extremely long hours, for very low wages.

As access to government systems is tied to provinces, this means that if a refugee family has travelled outside of their registered province, they only have access to emergency healthcare and cannot register their children for the education system. As a result, most of the children of the migrant seasonal labourers live outside of the government systems, and receive no formal education. The literacy rate amongst this population is extremely low and due to low levels of interaction with the Turkish population, very few of them speak Turkish.

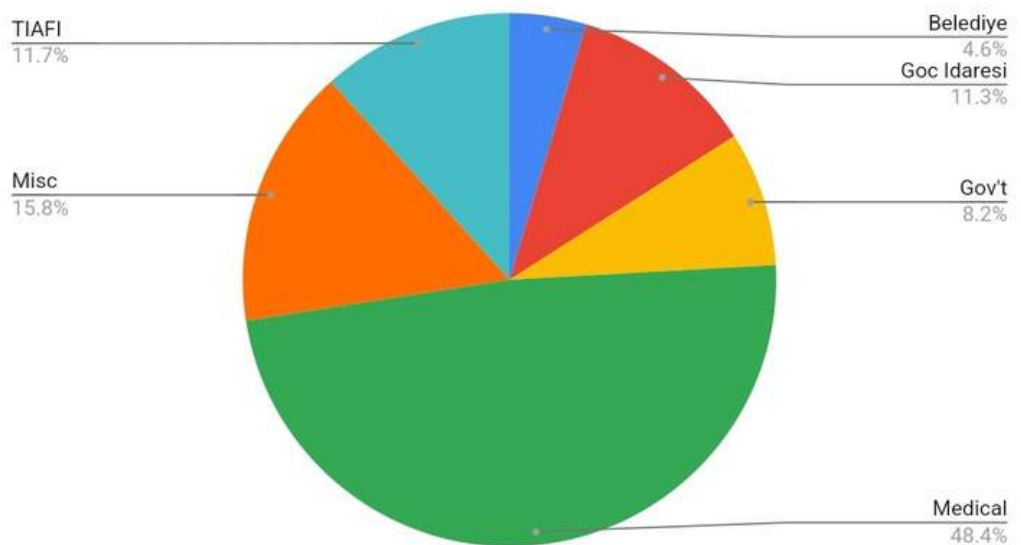
The goal of TIAFI and Avicenna's Torbali program is to provide some education to children when they are staying in the camps in and around the Torbali area. Ibrahim, a qualified teacher, teaches the children basic reading and writing in Arabic, science as well as mathematics. A Turkish teacher visits the camp regularly as well. In addition, there is a support class to teach the very young kids who cannot attend the regular classes. As families come and go, their children can join and leave the class.

We have found that now many families are choosing to spend the winter, when there is no work in the country, near Torbali so that their kids can attend class during the off season. When we started this project, in partnership with Avicenna, the schoolroom was in an abandoned building, with no doors, and no windows. We have transformed this room, with doors, windows, laminate flooring, heaters for winter and fans for summer, into a functioning classroom. Our student numbers fluctuate, as is the nature of this project, between 45 and 70 students, dictated largely by the work available in the surrounding area.



Total Enquiries	% of enquiries by women	Hospital Appts. booked
4,439	78%	1912
Immigration Appts. Made	Gov't Services Accessed	Social Media Impacts
673	173	50,171

TIAFI Info Desk 2022



The Information Desk is TIAFI's outward face to the community. It is the source of our Arabic language social media (FaceBook, YouTube, WhatsApp). Its main aim is to inform people about, and connect them to services to which they have a right. On a day to day basis the Information desk team will; book hospital appointments; register people for local and central government services; book appointments with the immigration department; get people access to legal aid/advice; assess people for cash based interventions; teach people how to use all of the online systems; apply for birth certificates; inform people of the ever changing laws regarding refugees; and much more.

We also have a translator that regularly works in tandem with the Info Desk, to attend hospital appointments, court dates, assists people at appointments etc.



There are a variety of reasons that people use TIAFI to access so many of these services. Language is a huge barrier to accessing government services. Most registration systems are in Turkish, and whilst some people can now speak Turkish after years in the country, the majority cannot read or write Turkish, some are completely illiterate. Technological illiteracy is also a big issue, almost all of the government systems require multiple online registrations and passwords and appointments can only be made online. Many people have never had to work with online systems so much and need help negotiating all of these different systems. Many families have no access to mobile phones, computers, or internet access at all.

The overwhelming majority of the users of the Information Desk are women, even in families in which the men are not working, the duty of organising the family falls to the women. These services are of vital importance to families and women especially.

Registered Recipients	Total Portions Distributed	Daily Average Portions
1065	60,104	387

The food distribution service in TIAFI has exploded over the last 12 months. The economic situation in Turkey has worsened so dramatically and rapidly that more and more people have fallen into food poverty.

Since January, our daily average has hugely increased and we are regularly providing over 450 meals every day, with one day hitting 528 meals provided.

This service is provided in partnership with Izmir Büyük Şehir Belediye (local government), they provide 300 portions of food everyday, but they are at their production capacity. As such, TIAFI has to meet the ever growing demand as more and more people fall into food poverty. We are very proud to be the only food distribution centre that is assisted by the Belediye, that is not itself Belediye owned and operated. With official inflation figures at 80%, and inflation on food much higher, we expect that the demand for food distribution services will hugely increase in the coming months.



Art Studio

TIAFI has established a studio space for resident artists. The goal of this space is to provide a free working space for artists that although they may be established in their craft, are vulnerable in their position in society. With commercial rental prices going through the roof, this gives artists the opportunity to work on their pieces without the constant worry of eviction. Through our network of contacts across the world, we can help these artists gain notoriety, find a market for their work, and get them on a more stable financial footing in the hope that they can move on in the future.

Once an artist no longer needs the assistance of TIAFI, they can move on, and we can open the space up for other artists to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.





Project's for mothers and women – The TIAFI Academy

One of TIAFI's main goals is not to just help children and their families to survive, but to find a way to see them thrive in the future. Together with the help of Avicenna and German BMZ (Bundesministerium für Zusammenarbeit) we have therefore created the Tiafi Academy. The goal behind all of our courses, focused on mothers and parents in need to support their families, is to provide the participants with "marketable" skills. Of our five adult courses offered at the Academy, four have 100% female participation, the remaining course (Mobile Phone Maintenance) always has at least 50% female enrollment. For the Mobile Phone Maintenance course we ensure that all male participants meet specific criteria to qualify for enrolment; disabilities, single fathers, caring for family members etc. Our aim in providing these skills is to empower women into financial independence in fields of work that are free from exploitation.

No. of Total Attendees	Lessons Given	Registered Participants
1228	112	36

There are many sewing workshops teaching migrant women how to sew shirts on industrial machines. At TIAFI our goal is not to teach women how to make a single item of clothing so that they can get a job in an industry that is rife with exploitation. TIAFI's Tailoring Workshop does not only teach women how to use a sewing machine. We want to teach women how to run a tailoring business. So far this year we have run three courses, with the third entering its final weeks.

Our instructor teaches the women how to set up, and maintain a variety of machines; sewing machines; overlocking machine; cutting machine; industrial iron, so that they know how to use the machinery needed for every stage of the manufacture process.

Tailoring
Workshop



Participants are also taught how to make templates; work with a variety of materials (denim, leather, cotton etc.); how to modify garments; and all of the necessary skills to construct garments from beginning to end. The final two weeks of the course are taught by a volunteer fashion designer from London. She teaches the women how to take their skills in garment construction and show them the basics of fashion design.

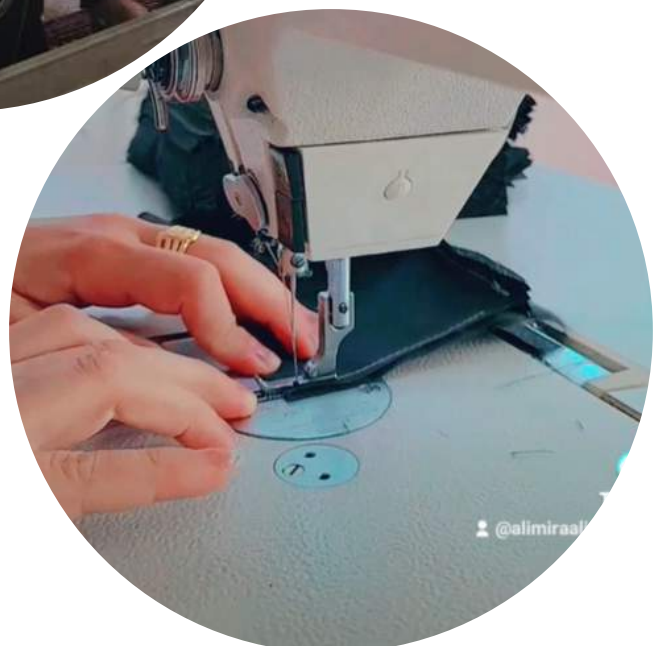
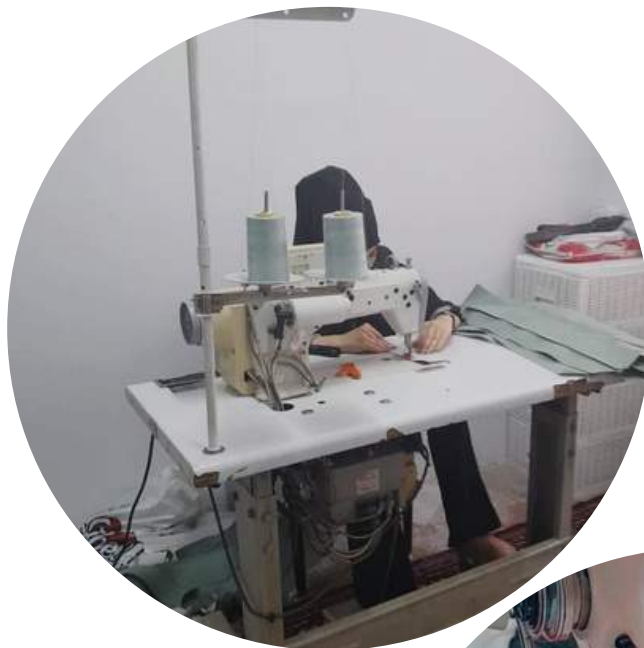


As an example of one of our many success stories we have sisters, Qamar and Dima. Qamar came to our Tailoring Workshop, and was an exemplary student. She went on to begin working with her brother. He would arrange work for her, but take an enormous cut of the profits, as a finder's fee. Six months later, Qamar's sister, Dima joined the course. She was, likewise, an exemplary student. After graduating a volunteer decided to buy a sewing machine for them. They have now begun to work for themselves, finding their own commissions, and doing custom work.



With their profits, they were able to buy another second hand machine, and have vastly increased their workload. Qamar is specialising in making bags, and Dima mostly makes dresses. The pair have begun to make up to 6,000tl per month each, independent of their brother. They are building their own small business by word of mouth, and using social media to promote their work.

Whilst this is our most impressive example from our tailoring course, we have others that have gone on to working in factories, to set up repairs businesses in their own homes, and have begun to generate independent income. We make sure that once a graduate has completed a course, we endeavour to follow up with them and offer support in their business endeavours.





Mobile Maintenance

Total no. of Attendees	Lessons Given	Registered Participants
817	115	34

The Mobile Phone Maintenance course is an amazing program, with no parallel in Izmir. This course, which we have run twice so far in 2022, aims to teach participants how to repair broken mobile phones and tablets. Whilst we hope that this course helps to reduce some of the E-waste produced by society, we will arm people with skills that are future proof. Participants have to learn the absolute basics of working on mobile devices, learning how to read generic schematics, to be able to navigate the complex machines. They then go on to learn how to use a series of tools to be able to disassemble, diagnose, repair and reassemble the devices.

Through lots of practice, the participants learn how to translate these generic schematics to the many different types of device that they come across during their course. By the end of the course the participants are able to completely repair the vast majority of issues found in Android and Apple devices.

We feel that completing this course is only one aspect of TIAFI's involvement, we have been able to provide the basic tools required to perform this job (worth USD 300,- each) to 6 of the outstanding participants from the first course and we intend to do the same for graduates of the second. Our workshop is always open to graduates to come and use the larger, more expensive tools so through TIAFI graduates have access to all the tools they could possibly need to go on to generate income.

We continue to follow up with these graduates as they have begun to build their own small businesses.

So far in 2022 we have completed two course, with a third scheduled to start in September.



The majority of the graduates of the Mobile Maintenance Course have gone on to make some income from this course. Many of them were bringing in broken phones from neighbours and fixing them during the course for a small profit. But, we have a couple of real standouts.

Ayman, broke his back whilst working on a construction site and had had no income ever since his injury. He will need to use crutches for the rest of his life and cannot walk unaided, and as such it is almost impossible for him to get a job. After completing the course, TIAFI was able to supply him with the basic tools to begin working. He has since set up a small workshop in his living room and is now making a living from the skills he learnt on the course.

Fatma is a young, intelligent woman and proved to be an exemplary student on the course. After graduating the course and being given basic tools, she has spent most of her spare time in the instructor, Bilal's, shop, continuing her education. She has also set up a small workshop in her bedroom and is making an income.

TIAFI will continue to support them to grow their businesses.





Turkish Classes for Women

No. of Total Attendees	Lessons Given	Numer of Registered Reecipients
690	98	75

Turkish language courses are vital for the migrant community in Turkey. This is especially true for women. Most of the young children have picked up the ability to at least speak Turkish from the street and consumption of media, men often have a basic understanding of Turkish from interactions in the workplace and social spaces like mosques. However, for the majority of migrant women, their social interactions are largely limited to other migrant women, and only a very small minority have learnt anything other than the absolute basics of Turkish. This means that they are largely cut off from the host society through limited means of communication. Therefore, many of them are also cut off from social services, from economic integration and their ability to interact outside of the migrant community is severely limited.

TIAFI also provides childcare opportunities, and in some cases we allow children to sit with their mothers during class. We also provide food for the participants and their children. If the situation requires it, we can support participants' travel expenses.





Hair and Beauty Salon

No of Total Attendees	Lessons Given	Registered Participants
623	79	11

In March this year, TIAFI, started our first Hair and Beauty course. Many Syrian women, back in Syria, would visit the homes of other women to get their hair cut and styled. Whilst this is much less common in Turkish cities, it is something that the Syrian community have continued. This provides an opportunity for women to set up businesses in their own homes, free from exploitation.

Our instructor, Nour, has taught the women everything they would need to know to set up their own businesses from home, and operate a hair and beauty salon from their homes, or even rent a place to start their own salon.

As of August, the first course is about to finish and we hope to be able to help the graduates get the basic materials that they would need to start making an income.

Part of the appeal of this course is that it would allow women to work from home, without their childcare responsibilities stopping them from earning an income.

We believe that this first course has been a success and as a trial, taught us many useful lessons about the requirements of such a course. We will definitely be running the course again, hopefully with more participants, more times a week.





Computer Class

No of Total Attendees	Lessons Given	Registered Participants
360	51	37

For the vast majority of our participants on the computer course, they have never had dedicated time using computers and really have to start from scratch. The first time that we ran a trial course, we discovered that we really had to bring everything back to basics.

As a result of this we began to run short, 3 week, introductory classes. These classes really focussed on the basics, how to set up the hardware for a desktop computer; connect the mouse and keyboard; how to turn it on; log in to Windows; and the absolute basics of using Microsoft Word.

If participants show further interest we are working on a more advanced course that will take a much more thorough view on the programs of Microsoft office, and train people on the most common web apps, like the Google Drive system. All things that they would likely encounter in a work environment, or need to start their own businesses.

We will also offer graduates of other courses, that want to start their own businesses, courses on how to use computers to keep track of accounts, stock, payment requests and other, business focussed programs.

The computer room is also open to children after school who, under the supervision of TIAFI volunteers, use the computers to complete their homework, do research, and maybe, they play a game or two before they go home.