

Hüsnü M. Özyeğin Foundation Rural Development Program





What does the Özyeğin Foundation do in Turkey?

- Founded in 1990 in Istanbul by the Özyeğin Family in an effort to contribute to the social and economic development of Turkey
- Has focused on education, health and culture as its main areas of work
- Built 27 girls dorms for elementary school students in addition to 16 primary schools, and 8 high schools around the country
- Provided a total of 10,000 academically successful low-income university students with scholarships.
- Founded Özyeğin University in 2008



Özyeğin Foundation Rural Development Program Where do we work? And WHY do we work there?



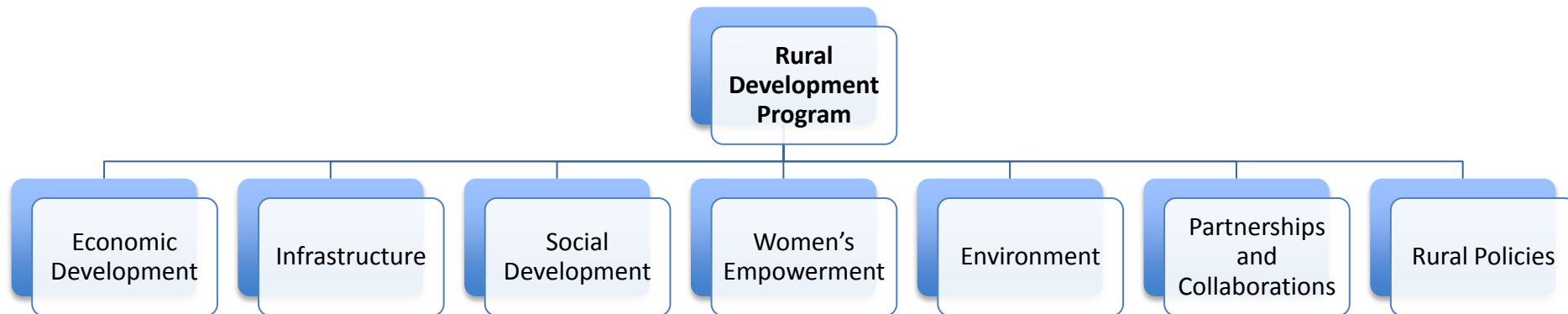


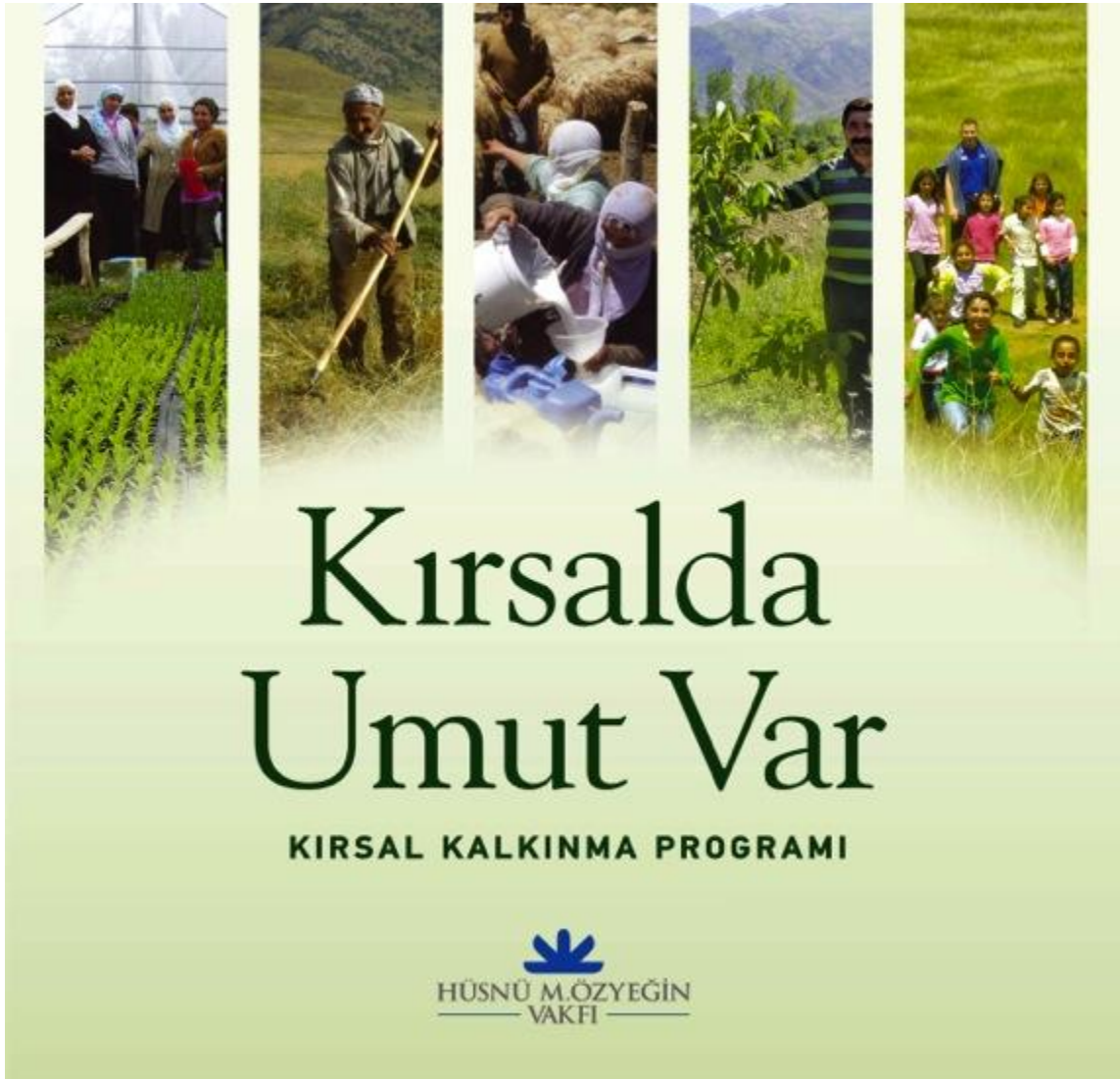
- The project villages are the poorest and socio-economically disadvantaged villages of Turkey.
- **Selection Criteria:** the level of poverty, the existence of youth population and the potential for project ownership by the local community as well as the local government.
- Officially started in the autumn of 2008 with the launch of the “**Kavar Basin Rural Development Project**” in 6 villages and 5 hamlets of Bitlis. (Population: 2.000)
- In 2011 the Foundation started the “**Ravanda Basin Rural Development Project**” in 8 villages of Kilis. (Population: 2.200)

What kind of “development”?

Community-based Participatory Development

- aims to reach the **poorest populations in rural Turkey** and contribute to the improvement of their life standards in a **measurable and sustainable way**
- defines the right to development as a **basic human right**
- adopts a **holistic approach** to development which embraces **all the needs and potentials** of the rural life
- has a **unique model** which provides the common basis for a **wide range of project activities**, each designed for the specific conditions of the local environments





FILM (Kavar Rural Development Project)

Rural Development Impact Evaluation System: Özyeğin Model as an Example

Aim;

- ⊕ To collect household data from all the project villages before the launch of the 5-year program.
- ⊕ To systematically measure the change generated by the development program
- ⊕ To realize how the program can create a viable and successful model for development in the long-run.

Method;

- ⊕ A survey research will be conducted in all project villages 3 times during the implementation of the program: before the launching of the project, 2 years after the start of the project, and 5 years after the start of the project. The data will be analyzed and written as a report each time.

Qualities of the Evaluation System;

- ⊕ Both quantitative (household surveys) and qualitative (focus group interviews) are used for measurement of change.
- ⊕ The areas to be measured and evaluated include education, healthcare, women's empowerment, agricultural production, social networks, sustainability of natural resources and land use, participation in decision-making mechanisms, happiness and subjective well-being, and community organizing.
- ⊕ The impact of the program is evaluated both at the local and the macro levels.



Thank you!



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VAKFI**

