



# WKD 2023 Report

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**Name:** Ilmay Bilge, MD

**Organization name:** Division of Pediatric Nephrology, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, Koc University

**Country:** Turkey

**Number of events organized/collected in your country:** 1

**Activities of note (please give a brief description of the activity with links to online sources that mentioned it):**

The ISN (International Society of Nephrology) and IFKF-WKA (International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance) Joint Steering Committee announced the catchword “Kidney Health for All - Preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable!” for World Kidney Day, 2023.

This slogan, chosen for the COVID-19 period, became meaningful for the 6th of February earthquake that caused great destruction and pain in Turkey and Syria. Koc University, School of Medicine, Pediatric Nephrology, Nephrology, and Transplantation teams, while working on World Kidney Day, before March 9, were alerted after the earthquake that affected the whole of Turkey in the morning of February 6th.

More than 850 million people worldwide are affected by chronic diseases. In extraordinary circumstances, these patients' access to appropriate diagnosis, treatment, and care is greatly compromised, and they are particularly affected by these disruptions. Due to lifelong, complex, and regularly coordinated treatment needs, they often become the most vulnerable people in society during disasters.

As of October 2023, thousands of people in Turkey are waiting for a kidney transplant, and about 15% of them are children. These numbers increase every year both in our country and in the world.

Koc University Pediatric Nephrology and Organ Transplantation Department organized an event for our children who came to our hospital, who were victims of the earthquake, and who had kidney transplants, to emphasize the meaning and importance of kidney health and to give morale to our children.

Our children who had kidney transplants, made this special day meaningful and enjoyable with their singing, dance performances, poems they read, speeches they prepared, some with football marches. Families shared their experiences. Physicians played music, making our children who had kidney



transplants and earthquake victims happy. On this special day, happiness increased as we shared. At the end of the day, our children flew balloons for the people we lost in the earthquake.

Koç University Pediatric Nephrology and Organ Transplantation team, which always says “A New Kidney, A New Life” accompanies their patients and their families on this journey with this belief.

**List of media that published WKD press releases or mentioned WKD related activities (newspapers, magazines, online publications, TV, radio, etc..) – please provide link to online sources: N/A**

**If you have created a World Kidney Day local website, Facebook page or Instagram account, please provide analytics such as: number of followers/number of site visits in March/ content most requested/ page views/ posts most liked/ hashtag reach, etc....**

<https://www.worldkidneyday.org/event/kidney-health-for-all-10/>

**List of celebrities involved and short description of their involvement: N/A**

**Description of advocacy activities: N/A**

Attach representative pictures



