



## **Balsu Supports Children's Education through Partnership with Young Lives Foundation in the 45th Istanbul Marathon!**



Balsu participated in the [Istanbul Marathon](#) held on November 5, 2023, collaborating with the Young Lives Foundation to provide scholarships for the children of seasonal agricultural workers.

Over the past five years, the Young Lives Foundation has provided scholarships to a total of 496 students with the support of 1,867 donors through 84 different campaigns at the Istanbul Marathon. This year, within the "Support for Education" campaign during the 45th Istanbul Marathon, 155 children will benefit from the Young Lives Foundation Scholarship throughout the 2023-2024 academic year. As Balsu, we supported this meaningful effort by sponsoring the education of 30 children.







## Environmentally Conscious High-Yield Hazelnut Production

Following the 2023 harvest, we conducted 29 environmental training sessions in the Black Sea region, providing guidance on compost production to 573 hazelnut farmers. By advocating for efficient agricultural waste usage, we contribute to environmental sustainability while fostering regenerative farming practices and increasing productivity.

Through farmer training, we highlight the significance of soil analysis and offer free micro and macro analyses to support farmers. By devising fertilization strategies based on soil analyses, we minimize environmental impacts during production and enhance soil fertility. Moreover, in November, we provided 350 tons of organic fertilizer support to 936 farmers based on soil analysis results.







## Winter Term “Origin” Initiatives in Children Protection Program Planned



We continue our efforts for the upcoming winter season's activities under the "[In A Nutshell](#)" Project in collaboration with the Young Lives Foundation. Plans involving Monitoring-Follow-up and Intervention activities in regions experiencing seasonal migration for hazelnut harvesting, along with a calendar of activities for children, have been prepared.

Monitoring-Follow-up and Intervention activities aim to evaluate children's academic performance and determine their school attendance status. Additionally, case identification will be conducted through discussions with families. The objective is to boost school attendance and motivation among children of seasonal agricultural workers temporarily migrating for agricultural work such as hazelnut harvesting, through extracurricular activities in their 'origin' regions.

In this context, field teams in these origin regions will implement case management steps considering the best interests of the children. The Young Lives Foundation's Protection Experts, Project Coordinators, and Provincial Coordinators meticulously focus on activities like risk analysis, case sensitivities, and service mapping while crafting case management plans.





## Combatting the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

The increase in the [brown marmorated stink bug](#) population in 2023 in the Black Sea region has led to empty nut formation and the development of misshapen and spotted fruits, resulting in yield loss.

At Balsu, through our conducted trainings and informational meetings related to the pest, we impart effective combat methods to farmers. To minimize yield and quality losses, we continue sharing effective strategies for combatting the brown marmorated stink bug with farmers.

This season marks the most suitable time for mechanical combat against the brown marmorated stink bug. As temperatures drop, the pests migrate to winter areas. Mechanical combat conducted before they leave these winter areas will be a significant step in reducing the pest population in the upcoming period.

At Balsu, we persist in supporting our farmers to minimize yield and quality losses during hazelnut harvest by endorsing effective strategies for combatting the brown marmorated stink bug.

