

## “Every Woman Can Stand on Her Own Feet”

Born and raised in the Savur district of Mardin, Sila is a 27-year-old woman and a mother of four. She has dedicated most of her life to her family. “I couldn’t have a profession because I got married at a young age,” says Sila. But that didn’t mean she gave up on her dreams.



*Sila, collecting eggs in the poultry house, Savur - Mardin, February, 2025 - TKV, © Şerif Arslan*

When Sila heard about the fruit growing course offered by the Development Foundation of Turkey (TKV), the desire to create, which had always been hidden inside her, was reignited. She applied immediately. During the training, she participated in a multifaceted program supported by agricultural engineers, psychologists, and child development specialists. “Everything was well thought out,” she says. “A kindergarten was even set up for our children. While we were receiving training, they spent time there.”

After attending the course, Sila noticed that her interest in agriculture had increased, and when she saw the grant support announcement by TKV, she wanted to take another step. Among the options, poultry farming caught her attention. It was a model she could pursue with her children, and she already had a garden.



“I live within a vineyard and garden. I am already surrounded by nature. Poultry farming was a path where I could be close to my children and also achieve economic gain.”



*Sıla and her children feeding the chickens in the garden, Savur - Mardin, February, 2025 - TKV, © Şerif Arslan*

After the training, Sila became the owner of 150 chickens with the grant support she received from TKV. This support marked the beginning of not only an economic but also an emotional and social transformation.

“Since I have young children, I couldn’t work outside. I applied for this project so I could take care of my children while also running my own business.”

She collects nearly 60 eggs a day, and on some days, she earns 700-800 TL. “Before, when my children wanted something, I couldn’t buy it. Now, when I sell a box of eggs, I make 200 TL. I’m earning my own money.”







*Ali playing with the chickens in the garden, Savur - Mardin, Şubat, 2025 - TKV, © Şerif Arslan*

The children quickly adapted to this process. Spending time with the chickens became both fun and educational for them. Sila shares that her children's love for animals has grown, and they now go to the poultry house together first thing in the morning. "They gave the chickens names. We collect the eggs together. Growing together in the garden has brought us even closer," she says.





She now also sells her eggs to the food community supported by TKV and WHH. The eggs produced in the garden, safe and healthy, are receiving great interest from consumers. The demand is growing every day.



*Sıla holding the eggs she collected, with chickens in the background, Savur - Mardin, Şubat, 2025 - TKV, © Şerif Arslan*

"I used to think, 'Can I really do this?' at first, but now I feel like the boss."

Sıla's greatest desire is to inspire courage in other women as well:

**"Being a woman is tough, but we must keep going without giving up. I'm setting an example for my children. Life can be hard, but no matter what age, women should never give up on their dreams."**

Today, Sıla is a symbol of production, hard work, and courage. As TKV and WHH, we are proud to stand by many women like her.

\*The name of our client has been changed in accordance with privacy rights.