

# Ben U Sen Diyarbakir



Potentials of evolution of a self built district

## Foreword

In Turkey, most cities are swiftly changing due to demographic and economic growth, and the increase of their standards of living. This urban development is led by private companies and by the Mass Housing Administration of Turkey, the TOKI. In this “housing race”, the regeneration of operations of squatter districts (qualified as unhealthy) the *gecekondu*, are quite often radical. The districts are demolished and their inhabitants are relocated at the periphery of cities, into 5 to 15 storey high buildings.

The city of Diyarbakır, one of the main cities of Southeastern Anatolia with a population of almost 1 million, has decided to reduce the *gecekondu* area, with the support of the TOKI. As the mayor of Diyarbakır’s recognizes the importance of this urban fabric, suitable for migrant populations’ way of life, he has decided to lead an experimental project in Ben U Sen, one of the oldest and main *gecekondu* in the city with an estimated population of 20,000. The district is located at the foot of the walls surrounding the historical center, looking over the market gardening farms of the Tigris valley and next to the cities urbanized area. The aim of this innovating operation is to maintain most of the current population in the area, and at a national scale, to experiment new ways to intervene in Turkish *gecekondu*.

This will is shared by the mayor of Yenisehir (district municipality, location of ben u sen), supported by the mayor of Rennes, whose city has been cooperating with Diyarbakır for almost 30 years, and by the French Development Agency (AFD). These partners have asked “Les Ateliers” to organize an international urban planning workshop with local and international professionals in order to work on the potentials of evolution of Ben U Sen, and to propose an intervention plan that will maintain the population on the site. The TOKI will be involved in this collaborative process, in order to produce a profitable contribution to the renewal of the national agency’s methods.

## Presentation of Les Ateliers

Every year, “Les Ateliers” organizes three students and young professionals workshops, one in Irkoutsk (Russia), one Porto-Novo (Benin) and one in Cergy Pontoise (France), about local or metropolitan planning issues. Local authorities and their partners also contact “Les Ateliers” to organize international professional workshops in France, Asia, around the Mediterranean sea, and more recently, in West Africa and South America.

## The aims of the workshop

### **Self-built housing, a major feature of contemporary cities**

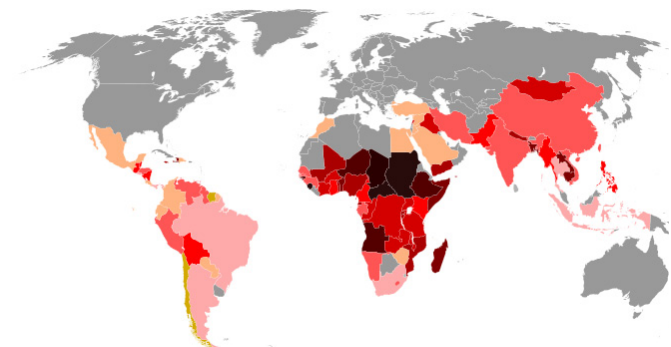
Slums, *gecekondu*, bidonvilles, kampong, favelas, townships, *katchi abadi*, butsee, *campamentos*, *barriadas*, *ranchos*, *colonias proletarias*, *villas miserias*, *ciudades perdidas* ... despite great specificities, all developing cities in the world are experiencing self-built and planning-free areas.

With now half of humanity living in town and cities, and two-thirds in 50 years according to projections, the development of these areas has become a major challenge. Pushed by rural depopulation, masses of urban poor suffer exclusion and poverty, limited access to basic needs and high levels of legal and natural hazard.

The most common answer to this squatting phenomenon has been eradication : eviction, destruction and relocation. However, this solution only displaces the problem and wipes out existing communities. After years of existence, these settlements got consolidated, received public and private investments and population created a social fabric. If destruction remains a necessity in some cases, it cannot be the universal answer as these settlements are no longer marginal ; they represent entire sections of cities.

NGOs and international institutions now both recognize this issue as a universal matter. UN-Habitat, organizing World Urban Forums, seeks to “bridge the urban divide”. During the last forum held in Rio de Janeiro in 2010, it laid the foun-

dations of a right to the city, organizing actors to provide basic urban services and emphasizing on the necessary participation and appropriation of the city by its inhabitants.



Ben U Sen, situated next to the old town of Diyarbakir and against its great wall, close to the center of the metropolis but physically separated from it, is one of the oldest and most populated squatting area (gecekondu) of the city.

In Ben U Sen, buildings are consolidated, social links are strong, and the authorities provided most of the basic services (sanitation, roads, a school, a dispensary ...). However, the level of equipment remains low, and the district lacks of integration to the city. The population suffers from high levels of poverty, insecurity and unhealthy housing.

## The work of the teams

The workshop seeks to change the vision of this gecekondu, from a problem to a potential. The goal is to strengthen the district and its sustainability, and to imagine new methods of up-grading which can inspire other cities of Turkey.

The integration of the district within its environment requires to think both at the city and district scale. The project aims to make this area permanent, and requires an appropriation from both the authorities and the population. The main issues concern :

## The buildings and the land status

What tools can allow an evolution of the existing housing stock and guarantee tenure security for the inhabitants ? What kind of architecture of buildings and public spaces would suit the district ? What can be done by the population ? Developing the area will probably increase the price of the land : how can gentrification be anticipated ?

## Integration within the city

On the one hand, integration to the city is a physical issue : the position of the wall between Ben U Sen and the downtown, the absence of public transportation, the lack of equipments ... On the other hand, it is an immaterial issue : how can the population of Ben U Sen feel part of the city, and be seen as true urbanites ? What is the role of this district within the city, situated in an area of tourism potential, and next to the Tigris valley ?



## Social development

Ben U Sen population lacks of prospect and economic resources, experience social problems and live in a degraded environment. How can life be improved in the district, and how can inhabitants participate in this development ? To answer these questions, the strong social relationships and the specific knowledge of the inhabitants (mostly rural) are strength, even if the population lives in great poverty.



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Photo by Emanuele Andreoli

# Presentation and credits

The analysis document was written by Zeynep Sıla Akıncı and Albin Lazare in July and August 2011, with the help of Marie-Marie Penicaud, Marc Errera, pilots of the workshop, and les Ateliers team, based on local actors, experts and inhabitants interviews.

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This document is available and downloadable in French, English and Turkish at [www.ateliers.org](http://www.ateliers.org)

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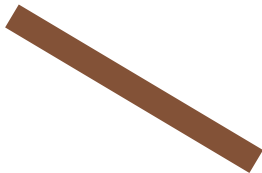
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# Diyarbakır inside Turkey

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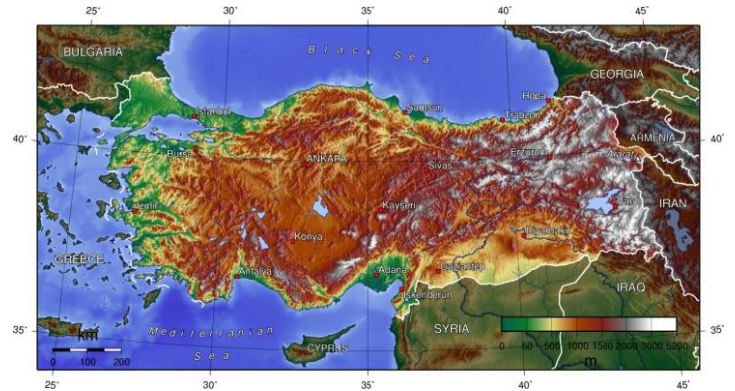
Diyarbakir inside Turkey

# Insights into Turkey

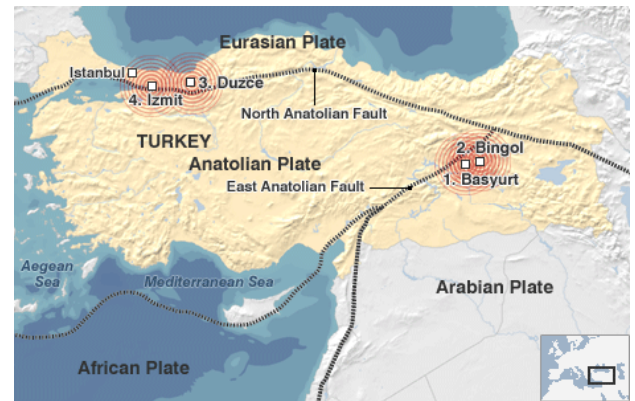
## and Southeastern Anatolia

### Turkey, at the boundary between Europe and the Middle East

The Republic of Turkey (Türkiye) is a transcontinental Eurasian country with a population of more than 73 million people (18th in the World). It's area of 783.562 km squares (37th) is located 97% in Asia, in the Anatolian peninsula, and 3% in Europe in East Thrace. In Europe, Turkey is the biggest and second populated country ; in the Middle East, it ranks fourth in size and third in population.



Turkey is at the boundary where the Arabian Plate and the African Plate are moving towards the Eurasian Plate. The North Anatolian Fault is more than 1000 km long, stretching from the Sea of Marmara to Lake Van. Because of this location, Turkey has been hit by major earthquakes. The most severe one in the last 20 years was the Izmit earthquake (north west). In 1997, this earthquake of 7.6 magnitude killed more than 17 000 people and left 600 000 people homeless.



The country is defined by two main types of climate : temperate on the coasts (Mediterranean, or Oceanic in the Black sea) and continental in the interior.

| Turkish cities (Regions) | Temperatures in January (aver.) | Temperature in August (aver.) | Humidity rate (aver.) | Rainfall (aver.) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|

|                                 |     |     |     |        |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Istanbul (Marmara)              | 5°  | 23° | 71% | 564 mm |
| Ankara (Central Anatolia)       | 0°  | 23° | 63% | 390 mm |
| Diyarbakır (Southeast Anatolia) | 2°  | 31° | 54% | 580 mm |
| Erzurum (East Anatolia)         | -9° | 20° | 60% | 570 mm |
| Antalya (Mediterranean)         | 10° | 28° | 64% | 706 mm |
| Trabzon (Black Sea)             | 6°  | 22° | 71% | 830 mm |

Diyarbakır inside Turkey



## Southeastern Anatolia, A land full of resources, in a strategic position

Southeastern Anatolia represents around 10% of Turkey territory and population. Most of the region is situated in Mesopotamia, the “land between the rivers” Tigris and Euphrates, continuing through Iraq and Syria to the Persian Gulf.

It is a place of high geostrategic importance, because of geographical location and resources. Oil is produced in the region around Batman, and dams are built on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, using its tremendous energy potential, but raising concerns of the countries situated outstreams.

South Eastern and Eastern Anatolia are located in a Kurdish culture area that includes North West of Iraq and Syria, and North East of Iran.

In Turkey Kurdish people are considered to be 13% of the population, originally located in the East but spread in the country during the waves of internal migrations. The biggest concentration of Kurdish population in Turkey is in Istanbul.



## History of Turkey and Mesopotamia

### Mesopotamia the birth place of civilizations

Diyarbakir is situated in the Mesopotamia, birth place of the earliest civilizations. The first human settlement were discovered around Diyarbakir in Cayonu, dating 9,000 BC. Houses were built with mudbrick walls and had an entrance through the roof. They were decorated with massive limestone pillars, surrounded by enigmatic pictograms.

This part of Anatolia was a part of the Fertile Crescent (map above) where agriculture was invented mre than 12.000 years ago.



Diyarbakir inside Turkey

Around 2,400 BC it was at the periphery of the Akkadian Empire, often considered as the first empire in History. This empire later separated into two parts: Babylonia in the South, and Assyria in the South. The Assyrian civilization remained here until Antiquity, even if they were conquered by the Hittites.

Far from Mesopotamia, the Trojan Battle in 1250 BC marks the beginning of the Greek invasion of Anatolia.

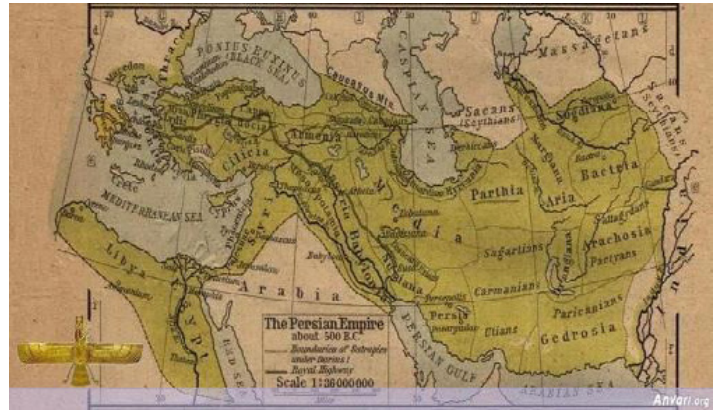
### Southeastern Anatolia inside the greatest Empires of Ancient History

Following the invasion of Cyrus of Persia in 547 BC, Anatolia became a part of the Persian Empire, the largest empire ever. Stretching from the Indus River to Thrace, it dominated 44% of the world population. This was a time of high development for Anatolia, where coinage was invented in the 6th century BC.

This period also witnessed the epic Greco Persian wars, when Athens and Sparta resisted the great Persian army. The empire would finally collapse under Alexander the Great march, who paved the way to the foundation of hellenestic kingdoms in all Anatolia. The region was to become Greek speaking until the Middle Ages.

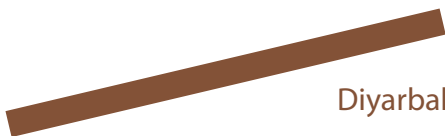
Greek domination slowly faded against Rome rise, and the region became a part of the Roman Republic in 130 BC. While the West was in the core of the Republic (and remained a "Senatorial province" under the Empire), the East was situated at the periphery, and was directly controlled by the Emporor.

After the near collapse of the Roman Empire in the 3rd century, Constantine the great chose Byzance (now Istanbul) as the capital of the Empire. Following the separation between the Western and Eastern parts of the Empire in 395, Anatolia became center of the Byzantine empire, reaching its peak in the 6th century under Emperor Justinian. Until the middle ages, the Empire was subjected



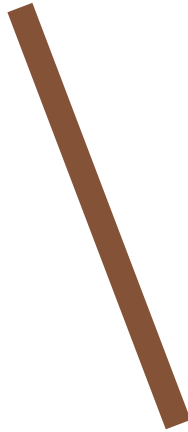
to arab raids.

When Christianity appeared, Anatolia became a center of the earliest churches. The Syriac still form a christian minority in Southereastern Anatolia, being Orthodox, Catholic or Protestant. Many churches are sill located on the original location and early version of the Bible are being read in Aramaic.



## From the middle ages to Modern times, Rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire

Between the 10th and 12th centuries, Southeastern Anatolia is ruled by Kurdish dynasties. During the 12th century the region is part of the empire created by Saladin, of Kurdish origins. Celebrated for his chivalry, he was the main opponent of the Franks and European crusades in Levant, conquering Jerusalem.



Turks started settling in Anatolia in 1071 under the Seljuk Sultanate. Defeated in the 13th century by Gengis Khan, they had a major influence in Anatolia, as the population started to switch from Christian and Greek speaking to Muslim and Turkish speaking. Southeastern Anatolia was conquered by the Seljuks in 1150.

The Ottoman Empire was founded in Western Anatolia in 1299 by Osman I, soon extending the borders of the Sultanate to the edges of the Byzantine empire. With the Conquest of Constantinople in 1453 by Mehmed II, the Ottoman Empire became the most prominent power at the east of Europe. Expanding between the 15th and 17th centuries, the Ottoman Empire ruled most of the Muslim world, and entered deep into Europe.

The Ottoman Empire annexed Kurdish provinces in 1514, installing the local chiefs as governors. Despite a number of rebellions, the Kurdish provinces enjoyed a great autonomy in the Empire until the 19th century



The Ottoman Empire maintained peace within its borders and strength outside them until the end of the 17th century when, following the defeat at the Austro Ottoman War, it started losing territories in Europe.

During the XIXth and early XXth century, the empire lost its European territories : Serbia became independent in 1817, followed by Greece (1829), Bulgaria, Montenegro and Romania (1878), Albania (1912), and finally Croatia and Slovenia in (1918). In the Muslim world, it lost Egypt control to the Great Britain (de jure in 1914), Algeria and Tunisia to France (1830 and 1881) and Lybia to Italy (1912).

Following territorial losses, the Ottoman State decided to modernize itself, taking the European Nation-States as models. Between 1839 and 1876 the Tanzimat era reorganized the State, seeking control over the former autonomous territories.

This period was also a time of Kurdish rebellions in Southeastern Anatolia.



Diyarbakır inside Turkey

The Young Turks, a modernist political movement, established the second constitution in 1908. The Republic can be considered as a heir of this movement.

## The Turkish Republic : the building of the Nation State

During the World War I, the Ottoman Empire decided to join the central powers against the allies. The war was the scene of “the events of 1915” : what happened to the Armenian population is still a controversial issue in Turkey.

Losing the war at the Armistice of Mudros, the Ottoman Empire was dismembered by the Treaty of Sevres in 1920, giving territories to Greece, creating an Armenian State, while great portions of Turkish territory were occupied by the allies.

The liberation war, lead by Mustafa Kemal, started in 1919 and ended in 1922 with the Treaty of Lausanne who gave Turkey its current continental borders.

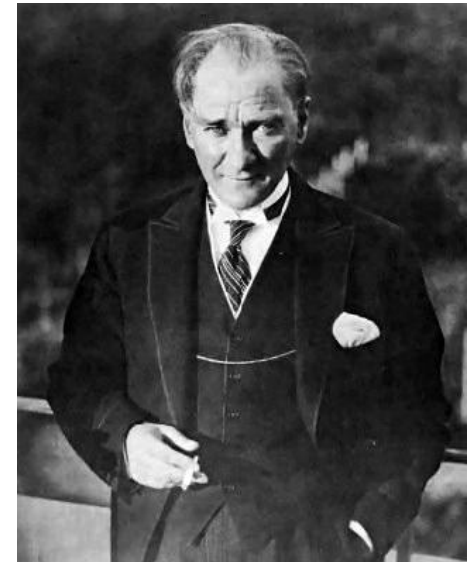
In 1923 the Sultanate was abolished and the Republic created. Ankara becomes the capital, and M. Kemal starts implementing Republican reforms, aiming to create a Turkish Nation State. During this period, Turkey sought assimilation : population was exchanged with Greece, and Kurdish provinces, who expected autonomy after participating in the liberation war, rebelled.

A new Constitution is established, followed by new penal and civil law. The Ottoman Turkish alphabet is changed to Latin alphabet. In 1934 full political rights were granted to women, and secularism was later written in the Constitution. In 1938 Mustafa Kemal “Atatürk” (“father of the Turks”) dies. İsmet İnönü becomes president until the first multi-party election of 1950.

## The post-war era : Turkey allies with the West

Turkey joined the allies at the end of the war and aligned with the West during the Cold War. Turkey received Marshall Aid and became a place of high strategic and military importance, sharing borders with the USSR. It joined NATO in 1952.

Turkey got also closer to Europe, joining the European Council in 1949, and signing trade agreements with Europe in 1963. It first applied to be part of the Union in 1987, and is accepted as a candidate in 1999. Negotiation started in 2004.



# Turkish contemporary politics

## Turkey political scene since the 2000s

Turkish politics are dominated by the AKP (*Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi*, Justice and Development Party party). The conservative muslim party rules the country since 2002, and experienced 3 victories in a row at the general elections.

The other parties represented at the Assembly are first the CHP (*Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi*, Republican People's Party), main opposition during the 2000s. Founding party of the Republic, the Kemalist party portrays itself as social democrat, statist and defender of secularism. The third main party is the MHP (*Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi*, Nationalist Movement Party).

CHP and MHP were both banned after 1980 military coup, but could reform themselves since..

2011 also witnessed a breakthrough of the BDP (*Barış ve Demokrasi Partisi*, Peace and Democracy Party). The Kurdish party experienced electoral success in Southeastern and Eastern Anatolia. In order to avoid the 10% rule of minimum national representation to have the right to seat in the Assembly, their candidates came as "independant" to the election. The former version of the party was banned for alleged links with the PKK, and in 2010, several leaders of the BDP faced a trial for similar charges.

Since the 1997 referendum, Turkey is experiencing a shift to "presidentialization" : the President of the Republic is directly elected for 5 years, for a maximum of two terms.

## The Turkish military weight in politics

The military was engaged in 3 military coups in Turkey, in 1960, 1971 and 1980, reintroducing democracy after a few years of power. The 1960 coup was carried out in order to protect secularism, and the Prime Minister was executed. The two following ones happened in a period of harsh political conflict between the extreme right and the extreme left. It was also the period when Cyr-

pus was invaded (1974). Its last major manoeuvre was to force the Islamic oriented prime minister elected in 1997, N. Erbakan, to resign in a "post-modern coup". The army stated that it was ready to intervene to defend the "inchangeable characteristics of the Turkish Constitution", meaning secularism.

During the late 2000s, 2 plots were revealed : the Ergenekon, an ultra nationalist group convicted of terrorism, and the Sledgehammer plot, aiming to overthrow the government. In both cases, some generals were implicated.

## Secularism in Turkey

One of the main political issue of contemporary Turkey is secularism. The Constitution grants freedom of religion and religious communities are put under the protection of the State. However, they cannot be involved in politics and no party can claim to represent one religion (even though many parties have a religious sensibility). Two parties were closed by the Constitutional Court for this reason : the Refah (Welfare Party) in 1998, after winning the general elections, and the Fazilet (Virtue Party) in 2001, both for "attempting to redefine the secular nature of the Republic". The AKP, having prominent ancient members of these two parties in its ranks, refuses to be considered as an Islamic Party, but defines itself as a conservative party with a religious sensibility (like many other european parties).

This issue remains a tension in the Turkish society, between advocates of suppressing limitations to religious liberties in the public space (for instance wishing to allow the veil in the University) and defenders of the Kemalist tradition of secularism.

## The Kurdish Issue

In South and East Anatolia the PKK (Kurdistan's Workers Part), created in 1978 and listed as a terrorist organization by the European Union, starts insurgency against the Turkish army in 1984. The army deployed, installed Village Guards (militia) and destroyed between 3,000 and 4,000 villages

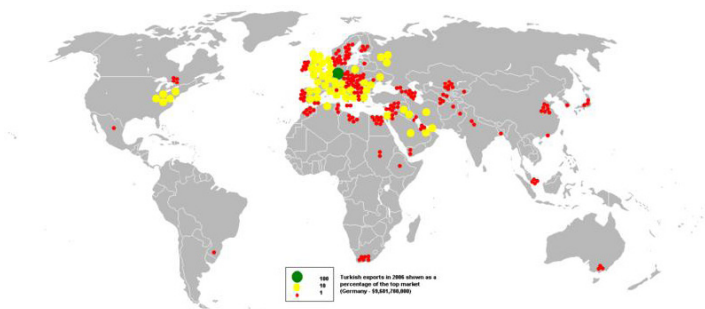
in the region in order to cut the PKK from potential bases of operation. Between 1987 and 2002, state of emergency was declared in the region. In 1999, Abdullah Öcalan, leader of the PKK, is arrested. During the 2000s, cease-fires from the PKK suspended the conflict, but skirmishes still happened.

Turkey landed several attacks against the PKK headquarters located in the mountains of the autonomous region of Kurdistan, in Iraq. The situation on the borders is still very tensed.

The conflict depopulated rural areas of South and East Anatolia, producing a massive migration to all of Turkish cities. Around 380,000 people were directly displaced by the conflict. In 2002, cultural allowance was granted to the Kurds (allowing to speak in Kurdish) as a part of the democratic package of laws implemented by the AKP to get closer to EU standards. However, Kurds are still facing discriminations in Turkish society.

## Foreign relations

Abroad, Turkey decided to break from its tradition of isolationism with the Middle East. Its energetic diplomacy uses soft power (trade and culture), also towards the central Republics of Asia which languages share similarities with Turkish. Turkey being dependant from its neighbors for energy supply, it seeks to diversify their sources by participating in large pipeline projects.



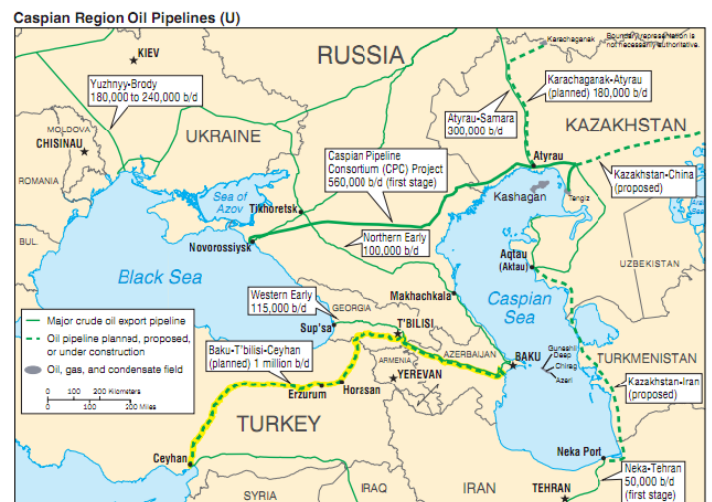
## Turkey and Southeastern Anatolia economy

### The weight of Turkish economy in the World

The country has the 15th largest GDP (nominal PPP) in the world and is part of the G-20 major economies. It is a founding member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In 2010 Turkey's growth was 8,2%. Its GDP per capita is around 45% of EU average. With its important growth rate, exports rise of manufactured goods and increase in international capital influx, Turkey is considered as a New Industrialized Country.

Turkey signed free trade agreements with the EU in 1995. Its main trading partners are Western Europe countries (59% of exports and 52% of imports are made with the EU), the United States, Russia and Japan. 85% of its exports are manufactured goods.

Turkey is one of the largest producer of agricultural products in the world and is self-sufficient since the 1980s. In Industry, Turkey is the second supplier of cloth in Europe, has a large and growing automobile industry, mainly located in the Marmara region, and has one of the most dynamic construction industry of the world. Turkey is also a popular tourist destination, concentrated in the "Trukish riviera" around Antalya and Muğla.



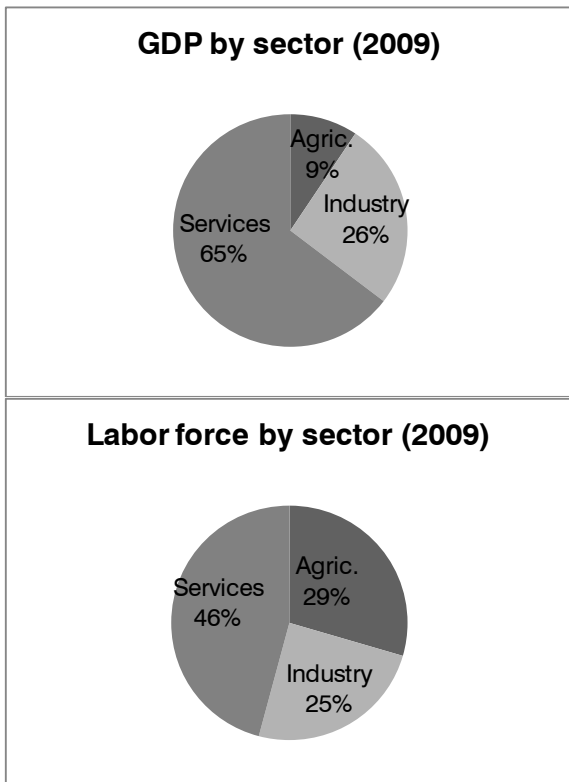
In its economic policy, Turkey has shifted from a Statist approach to a more private sector, market-based model in the 1980s. After the financial crisis of 2001, economical reforms (including large privatization and market liberalizations) were realized to improve the confidence of investors. The country earned stability, even though its economical model is dependant on foreign trade and vulnerable to external shocks. Every slowdown of global demand has harsh repercutssions on the country, increasing unemployment and decreasing growth.

### Turkey's energy needs

Energy needs are covered at 60% with imports from Russia, the Middle East and Algeria (first item is fuel). Turkey is a producer of oil and natural gas, but does not absorb its needs.

Turkey is situated at the end of some of the biggest pipelines in the world. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyan pipeline delivers oil from the Caspian sea to the Mediterranean sea, providing the European Union.

### Turkish economic sectors



Turkey's economy is increasingly driven by its industry and service sectors.

Agriculture still counts for 30% of employment and remains uncompetitive. The productivity is low (only 10,3% of the GDP in 2007) as agricultural lands are relatively small and family work remains important. Even though there is almost no unemployment in rural areas, these family jobs are put under threat with worldwide agriculture competition. In this context, a growing of rural depopulation could produce high unemployment in cities, as migrants would be considered as unskilled workers.

Informal workers were in 2006 48,7% of total employment (counted as "non registered in public insurance fund").

In 2011, the minimum wage in Turkey was 630 TL.

### The West-East divide in Turkey

In Turkey, most of the wealth is concentrated in the Northwest and West. The part from Istanbul to Antalya is industrialized, while Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia are late in development. Public investment remains under Turkey average in these regions. More than 80% of the added value is generated in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, and big western cities. Marmara, representing a third of the population, is producing 37% of the GDP of the country.

Southeastern Anatolia is producing only 5% of the national GDP (for 10% of the population), and Eastern Anatolia 4% (for 8%). Several projects, including the GAP and Ekosep (co-financed with the EU) seek to reduce these disparities.

Human development ratios are also lower in the East of Turkey than in the West. South Eastern Anatolia and Eastern Anatolia are experiencing high rates of emigration.

Great territorial disparities can be found too within Southeastern Anatolia. Gaziantep is the industrial core of the region, and Batman the center of oil exploitation, while the city of Diyarbakır has an underdevelopped industry.

## The GAP, Regional development program of Southeastern Anatolia

The Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) is a multi-sector regional development project in terms of sustainable development for the 9 million people

(2005) living in Southeastern Anatolia. Its aim is to eliminate regional development inequality by raising the population's income and living standards.

The development program includes : irrigation, hydraulic energy, agriculture, rural and urban infrastructure, forestry, education and health. The water resources development component of the program plans the construction of 22 dams and 19 hydraulic power plants, for a production of 27 billion kW/h and the irrigation of 1.82 million ha of land

However several dam projects are being criticized as they would lead to population displacements and destruction of historical heritage. The Roman site of Zeugma, next to the Euphrate, was partially flooded in the 1990s, and Hasankeyf, next to Batman, is forecasted to disappear the same way.



### GAP İLLERİ

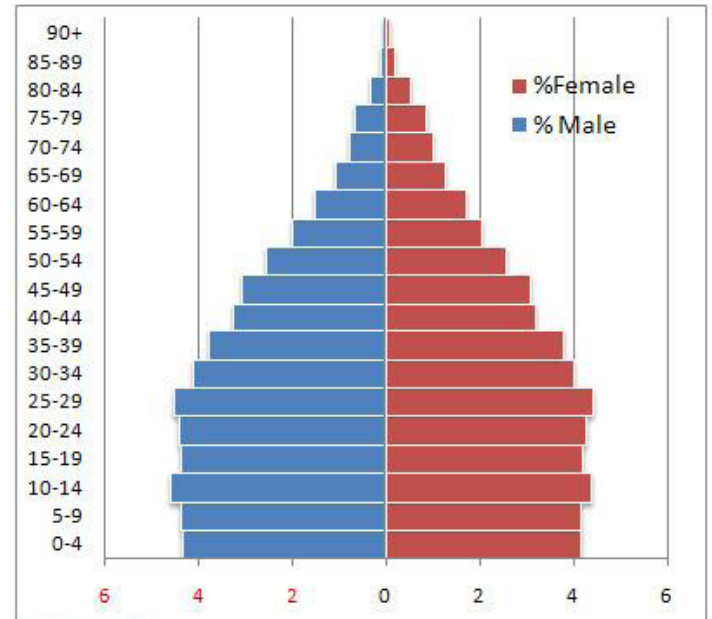


Diyarbakir inside Turkey

## Turkish population

In 2010, an average of 70% of the Turkish population lived in urban centers. The three main cities in Turkey are Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. Population projections for 2020 foresee 84 million of inhabitants.

Turkey has a young population : in 2005, 56% of Turkish people were under the age of 29.



Source: Turkstat

## Poverty in Turkey

In 2008, for a household of four persons, the monthly food poverty line was estimated at 275 TL, and the monthly complete poverty line was 767 TL.

Poverty risks increases with :

The size of households : 38% of household of 7 or more people were under the complete poverty line, and "only" 8,5% for 3 or 4 people households.

The type of employment : agricultural workers have a poverty rate of 38%, while this rate is 9,7% in industry and 6,7% in services. Regular work protects from poverty compared to casual work, family work and self employed, all sharing a rate around one third of poverty. The area where people live : 35% of inhabitants of rural areas live under the poverty line, and 22% of urban dwellers.



Poverty is also concentrated in the Eastern parts of Turkey, experiencing higher rates of poverty, both in cities and rural areas.

## Migrations in Turkey

Most of rural migration to cities happened between 1950 and 1980 in Turkey. The peak was in the 1950-1960s, when Marshall aid pushed off rural labor force to the cities, as agriculture was mechanizing and small farms integrated. These migrants were at first marginal in the city as they were unskilled workers. However, the new economic model of industry and construction required high level of cheap labor, bringing integration for the migrants.

During the 1980s, the new privatisation based,

export oriented model had disruptive effects on the urban labor markets. Migration to the city for economic reason was restrained. From the 1980s until nowadays, most of migration within Turkey happens between cities.

During the conflict in Southeastern and Eastern Anatolia, between 950 000 and 1,2 million people migrated, with a peak between 1991 and 1996. The migrants were fleeing the violence and the policy of burning down villages. Most of them arrived without resources and came to live at the edges of the cities, both in the affected province and in major Turkish cities (see map) producing a new kind of urban poverty. Relatively few of these migrants came back to their village (around 150,000) despite the Return to Village and Rehabilitation Project started in 1994, aiming support the return of displaced populations and rebuild villages.

Figure 8 IDP Concentrations



## The place of women in Turkey

The situation of women is improving in Turkey, but remains problematic.

If women were granted the right to vote in 1934, ahead of many Western countries, their representation in the Assembly remains limited, at 14% after the last election. The employment-to-population ratio is low for women, at 22% in 2008, and 4 million of them are illiterate in Turkey. However in the three cases, the gap with men has decreased over the past years.

Women also experience high rates of domestic violence. According to a research of the General Directorate of the Status of Women, 42% of women face physical and sexual violence : the rate is higher for low income groups of the population, but also affects high income families. Honor killing is rare but still happens : they were 1,126 in 2009, the highest number ever registered. In order to avoid jail for the perpetrator of honor killings, a member of the family, some women are pushed to commit suicide, leading to unusually high women suicide rates, in particular in the region of Batman.

# Local authorities and Decentralization in Turkey

## Local authorities in Turkey

The smallest local authority in Turkey is the village, or in urban areas, the mahale. The second level is Municipality (2950). The 81 provinces are subdivided into 923 districts (kazas, or ilçes). 7 regions were created for statistical purpose.

Provinces are ruled by two organs : the governorship (decentralized State), and the local authority, elected. Provinces are in charge with economic matters and state services.

Metropolitan Municipalities can be formed now if a city has 1 million inhabitants and at least 3 district municipalities in its territory. They share with the District Municipalities, put under their tutelage, local services and urban planning.

## History of local authorities

Since the 2004 laws in favor of decentralization, the picture of local authorities in Turkey has changed. When elected the AKP, whose leaders had a strong experience in local government, sought to implement the principle of subsidiarity.

This decision was breaking with the tradition of the Turkish State. Indeed, the Ottoman State got strengthened in the XIXth century by subjecting territories to its authority, radically moving away from a system where "regions" enjoyed a great autonomy. During the reorganization of the State (Tanzimat Era), the French system of the prefect was implemented, creating small provinces overriding cultural and economic specificities. The vali, still at the head of the province and named by the government, was representing both the State and the local administration.

Strongly affected by the breaking up of the Empire after World War I, the Republicans usually considered local autonomy claims as potentially secessionist, refusing to implement decentralization.

The 1980s reforms were a first step to allow more autonomy to cities, and in particular for the newly created Metropolitan Municipalities, obtaining the competency of urban planning. At a time when Turkish economy was to be more and more driven by construction, this autonomy led to some abuses. The level of the debts was particularly high in the 1990s, and private contractors started to enjoy a great role in local politics.

## Decentralization in Turkey since the 2000s

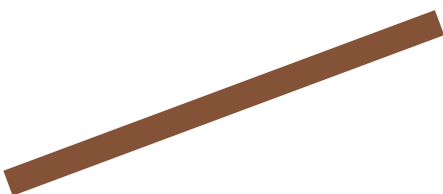
### *Metropolitan Municipalities*

If Metropolitan Municipalities were granted new competencies and tutelage over the District Municipalities, they still do not have a "general competency", as their responsibilities are listed.

Metropolitan Municipalities are responsible for Strategic planning and Masterplan (1/5000 scale) while District Municipalities are in charge with the plan of land use (1/1000 scale) and construction permits. Metropolitan Municipalities share competencies with the District Municipalities in terms of urban services, social development and culture. They can also act in economical development. The Metropolitan Municipalities act as harmonizers of local policies implemented on their territory ; therefore, they are to approve the budget of District Municipalities.

Metropolitan Municipalities can delegate their competences in urban services to the private sector, or buy services from it. Water management, sanitation, waste, or transportation can be privatized. They can also create private companies on the municipality domain of competences, which would not be registered in the local budget.

Half of their revenue comes from State transfers, and their total dotations have been improved in 2008. 80% of these transfers are done according



to the population, and 20% depending on the state of development. Metropolitan Municipalities also receive a share of taxes raised locally.

Even if Metropolitan Municipalities were granted new competences, Provinces kept most of them, raising a risk of overlapping and conflict between the institutions. In such cases the “vali” is the referee. He does not have a power of veto over the Municipality decisions (unlike the one he has at the provincial level), but can decide to sue it if felt necessary.

Municipalities are controlled by the State for compliance with the law and on their budget. Since 1986, the masterplans do not need to be approved by the Ministry anymore.

In Diyarbakır, the Municipality and the Province are having good working relations, which is not always the case in Turkey : even when they are both from the same party, some Municipalities do not dare to use their new competences, and maintain a relationship of submission with the vali.

### *Provinces*

The special law on administration of the province (il özel idaresi) ended the confusion between the local authority and the decentralized state. If the vali (governor) is no longer the head of the elected council, he still presides the permanent commission, approving major decisions. Some competencies were transferred to the local authorities, mainly in local services management.

### *Regional Development Agencies*

Regional Development Agencies were created on the new regional territories produced by the transition to EU statistical system (the NUTS). Thanks to important financial and human dotations, they became a major actor in local development.

The agencies are coordinating the regional development plans (bölgesel gelişme planı), are missioned to stimulate and rationalize private in-

vestment, and act as an interface with foreign aid through calls for proposals. They support local initiatives, but do not implement them.

Regional agencies are part of the deconcentrated State : the head of the organ of decision is the provincial vali. However, the board of directors includes the Mayors of the two main municipalities of the area, the Presidents of the provincial councils and two Presidents of the Chamber of Trade and Industry.

The evolutions at the local, provincial and regional levels show that Turkey is evolving towards more subsidiarity. However, Turkey experienced at the same time an opposite trend of recentralization. The TOKI for instance, the mass housing administration, has great powers in housing and urban renewal, and is directly linked to the Prime minister office.



# Living in Turkey

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# Housing in Turkey

Construction in Turkey is a speculative economy, driven by the supply side. This trend is made necessary because of the housing shortage in Turkey, but it contains a risk of non adequation with the demand. 3 million people are currently working in construction and Turkey, and this figure can be increased to 5 million when counting the side works (subcontracting, etc).



## History of housing in Turkey

Since the 1950s, in an era defined by expansion of the urban industry and rapid migration, Turkey has been facing a housing shortage. At that time a quarter of the population lived in cities ; now the ratio is about two thirds, and migration from rural areas is still ongoing.

As the governments were unable to satisfy the needs of housing of the poor, it was de facto provided by the gecekondu. The first migrants built their gecekondu houses themselves on the outskirts of the city. With the expansion of the service sector, development of the city centers and urbanization, the middle class request for housing increased. The value of the land surrounding the cities started to grow, and gecekondu started being destroyed and replaced by multy-storey apartment blocks, the apartkondu.

In the 1980s, when the boom in construction and land speculation was intensifying, the new Constitution created a “right to shelter”. In order to provide large scale housing in Turkey, the Mass Housing Administration (TOKI) was created in 1984. With the Mass Housing Law, the State changed its role, from regulator to provider of housing.

The housing sector grew fastly during the 1980s and 1990s, but the lack of an accessible housing loan system, and economical instability, prevented low and middle income families to access to better housing. With the restoration of financial and economical stability in the 2000s, Turkish banks got enabled to borrow from international credit markets at low rates. The increase in the housing activity was then considerable, and the public sector was actively involved in it. TOKI has a major role to play to provide housing, as the housing stock is still precarious 10 million of residents in Turkey are considered to live in informal areas, and half of the housing stock requires renovation according to Un-Habitat. However the main problem for the population is still to manage to buy a house, as home loans remain expensive.

## Construction in Turkey

### *Land status*

In Turkey, land has three statuses. The first one is the land which is not part of the cadastral survey. The second status is field, non building land part of the cadastral survey. The third one is building land.

The price of land depends on these statuses, and is set by the Municipalities in the Masterplan and the Plans of Land Use. For instance, in Diyarbakır, a new building area of 2670 ha has been forecast for the future development of the city (2010-2014), and building land are usually traded around 40 TL (18€) per meter square.



Some private developers try to speculate on these different statuses by allowing gecekondu tenants to settle there, making it de facto building land, which greatly increase the value.

In Turkey, most of the land is under the responsibility of the State, partly as part of the TOKI (Mass Housing Administration) domain, partly in the Ministries and State domain. However, the State started selling its formidable amount of land in the context of the 1990s crisis.

### *Type of construction*



The most common type of construction is lead by private entrepreneurs. They usually acquire the land in an exchange excluding money, based on trust. The owner is paid with the retrocession of several sotreys of the building, and the system also works with the craftsmen. Once the building is finished, most of the owners sell the apartments, or rarely rent them. There is also a variant of the system called “Yap-Sat” : apartments are sold as they are built, decreasing the necessary amount of cashflow to build.

The second type of construction is the Cooperative, where costs of construction are being pooled between contractors. Most of the land acquired by cooperative are situated on State land, sold for cheap. It is an important part of the Turkish housing stock, historically supplying the needs of the middle classes. Apartments are usually owned, or can be rented non-for-profit. There are in Turkey 61,551 housing co-operatives, though many are now inactive. Cooperative housing represents 25% of the total stock in Turkey, with over 1,4 million housing units.

Some cooperative merged into big scale project, such as Batikent in Ankara. Undertaken by the

Kent-Koop Union, 70,000 dwellings were built on a 1,035 ha land, providing housing to 250,000 individuals. However since 1993 the fund dedicated to cooperative decreased, leading to a significant reduction in access to this type of construction. Lately, cooperatives lost their original aim when private contractors started using this status to get a cheaper access to the land.

The third type of construction is self-building, the only way to access housing for poor people. Indeed, social housing does not exist in Turkey, except for members of the military and civil servants who have access to the “lojman”. TOKI supplies state housing in a homeownership process, but poor populations with sporadic income cannot repay the loan on a regular basis.

## **Housing behaviors in Turkey**

### *Home ownership*

The features of the construction system in Turkey lead to a great dominance of home ownership : it represents 72% of households in 2003. Only 20% of the population is currently renting.

Access to homeownership is made difficult by the lack of a housing finance system but this problem is overcome by family or interpersonal borrowing. In 2005, only 3% of home owners had loans provided by financial institutions (Capital Markets Board of Turkey). In 2007, the government sought to asses this issue with the Law on Housing Finance, allowing mortgage loans and leasing companies to provide loans. This system does not provide alternative for the poorest populations, living in gecekondu. Many gecekondu tenants also believe that if they wait for a sufficient time, it is very likely that they will get legalized. They can be considered as homeowners, even if they experience a great uncertainty, risking to lose everything, or on the contrary, having a chance to form a reserve of money.

## Social habits of households

Single person households are rare in Turkey, existing mostly for people moving away to work or to study. In most cases, if children still live in the same city and are not married, they stay at their parents. It is not rare that three generations cohabit in the same house (19% of the households in 2003).

Leaving the family usually happens when marrying. These habits are really different from western societies, where it is really common, starting at the age of 18, to form private household. In most cases, housing careers starts with renting in the west, while in Turkey, the priority is to own a house. Turkish people marry in average at a younger age though (22 for women, 26 for men).

It is difficult to know whether Turkey will follow the Western trend of children leaving home early, but it would have a massive effect on housing. Currently 50% of the Turkish population is aged under 24, and only 1% of them are forming independent household.

## The TOKI, Turkish Mass Housing Administration

### History of the TOKI

TOKI (The Mass Housing Administration of Turkey) is nowadays the main public actor in providing housing in Turkey. Created in 1984, its role TOKI remained minimal until 2001, year when its fund was transferred to national budget to allow a reorganization.

During the 1980s its subsidies were targeting co-operative housings and middle-class income families. The role of TOKI decreased during the 1990s due to financial crisis.

After the collapse of the Real Estate Bank of Turkey in 2002 and the closure of the Land Office, TOKI got directly administered by the Office of the Prime Minister, and received all immovable assets of the



former Land Office (64,5 million square meters were added). It received new powers to acquire, transfer and expropriate land.

TOKI can make partnerships with private firms, realize gecekondu transformation and make the plans for these areas (cooperating with municipalities). It has access to national and international credit. TOKI is currently also acting abroad, specially in Eastern Europe, North Africa and South America.

### Objectives of the TOKI

The TOKI's aim is to pursue the Constitutional right to housing.

*"The State shall take measures to meet the needs of housing within the framework of a plan which takes into account the characteristics of cities and environmental conditions and shall support mass housing projects".*

Its goal is to reduce 5 to 10% of the nation housing shortage (estimated at 2,5 million units).

Between 2003 and 2010, it built 462,582 housing in Turkey. 193,456 were for lower middle classes, 125,277 for poor families, 72,942 for upper classes, 53,547 for preventing illegal housing development, 13,311 after disaster housing units, and at least 4,501 for rural areas (Urban Observatory of Istanbul). The TOKI also sells important portions of its land to allow private developers to build their own projects, not counted above. It's target for 2011 is achieve a total 500,000 units.

As many inhabitants end up settling in gecekondu areas and as a large number of households would not have the means to purchase or rent a housing within nowadays situation, affordability is a major issue for TOKI. In order to finance housing for lower income families, TOKI has a "revenue-sharing model" (or "profit sharing"). Private construction companies pay for the right to build apartments for middle and upper income groups on public land, in order to allow the TOKI to finance housing for the poor.



However, the price of TOKI housings remains high : in Istanbul, a family has to own 2600 TL a month access a TOKI housing (Urban Observatory of Istanbul).

TOKI's mass housing are most of the time bought by the occupants : 10% to 40% of the cost of the house is initially collected as a down payment, and the remainder is being spread over a maturity ranging from 75-240 months (monthly repayments are indexed on the wage increase in the public sector). TOKI acts as a guarantor for the repayments of the apartment, however the purchaser will only receive the title deed after entirely repaying its home.

During the transformation of housing areas and



gecekondu, residents are expected to come to an agreement with TOKI to either move to a TOKI housing, or to receive compensation for the expropriated house. However, with the rise of the prices in the real estate market, it often appears hard for lower income families to manage to get a new housing. In case of dispute, houses are compulsory purchased on the basis of "the right to the eminent domain". In a second model, inhabitants remain in the area but are temporarily moved to another part of the city, the cost being paid by the municipality.

TOKI's vision for the future strives to create a model framework for quality low-cost housing, prevent real estate speculation, offer low and middle income groups the opportunity to finance their home, collaborate with municipalities in urban renewal projects, and to create financial opportunities to finance social housing projects.

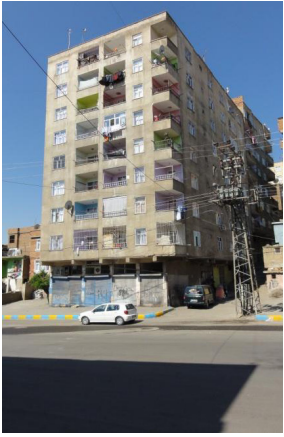
## The gecekondu phenomenon in Turkey

The term gecekondu (gece, at night, kondu, placed) was coined to describe the "self-built urbanization" that appeared during Turkey's industrialization and rural migration, between 1945 and 1985.

Gecekondu are commonly seen as fragile and unhealthy housing, but they are actually very diverse. When some houses are in danger of collapsing, most of the stock is solid, even if they are subjected to seismic risk. The common vision of gecekondu is also that they are rural places in the city, but they also have interesting urban features, including squares, stairways, shops...

Continuous gecekondu construction since the 1940s make them a major part of Turkish cities. It is often considered that more than half of the housing stock in Turkey are gecekondu. However, as this term is used in really different situations, it is hard understand what is the reality behind such statistics.





had nothing to do with the ones used at the time in the countryside. Most of the first wave gecekondu looked like traditional rural houses though, but smaller: around 30m, with 2 rooms inside and a bathroom outside, and a small courtyard.



## Defining gecekondu : the evolution of a concept

Gecekondu are a cultural phenomenon in Turkey, uneasy to understand for foreigners. They represent a great part of Turkish cities, and carry multiple images.

The meaning in the word itself is not so clear, referring to different situations. We will try to define it with the explanations of JF Pérouse, former head of the Urban Observatory of Istanbul [Deconstructing the gecekondu].

The first definition given of a gecekondu is its legal relationship to the land : Gecekondu are buildings built with precipitation, usually lacking the most basic comfort conditions, violate the laws of construction, regardless of the rights of the owner of the land they settle in (Fehmi Yavuz).

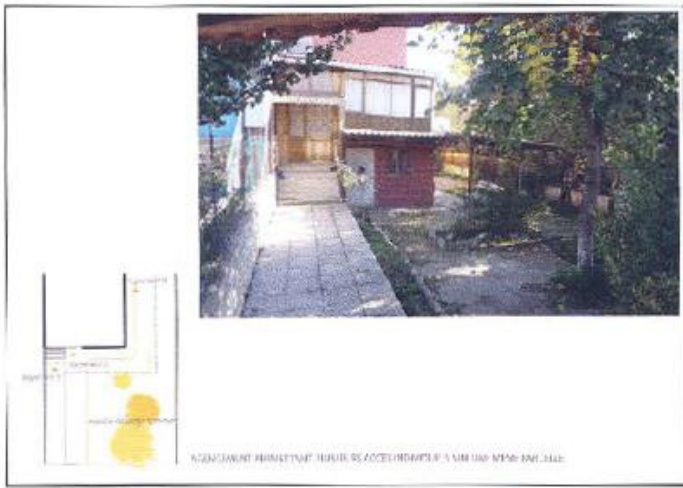
Gecekondu are defined by a double inequality: the land is not owned, and the construction is illegal. However through time and amnesty laws, pre-title deeds, full title deeds or “right to stay” were given to gecekondu inhabitants. It is then possible to live in a gecekondu and be a legal owner. The juridical status alone cannot define gecekondu areas.

The second definition given is architectural; Originally a gecekondu is a precarious housing, rough, low and deprived from basic equipment. However it is evolutive, as owners usually add storeys or rooms depending on their needs. They were considered as a “non-urban” type of housing, therefore “rural”, even though the raw materials

We can consider them as an alternative form of urban housing, with transformability and reversibility features. It has comparative advantage : gardens, trees, potential of evolution of its architecture, low price and strong social relations ; and also flaws : natural disaster hazard, unhealthy conditions, limited security, risk of eviction, lack of infrastructures and services.

However this first wave gecekondu tends to disappear in Turkey. Thanks to amnesty laws, owners started to add multiple storeys to the original house, or even speculate on their newly acquired land by building multiple storey buildings. The first generation of gecekondu builders became landlords for the second generation of gecekondu tenants. The new kind of building, called apartkondu, is easy to build with reinforced concrete beams and brick filling.

These buildings remain illegal as few of them have construction permit. Many of them cannot be considered as “self-built” anymore, first because they might be built to be rented or sold, and not inhabited by the builder. Secondly, even if the construction of informal, the techniques used can be professional, either because the builder has working experience in construction, or because he hires a foreman. When walking in Ben U Sen, there is a striking difference between old low gecekondu and some new apartkondu, looking similar to any building in Diyarbakir.



Shared access and a courtyard :  
arrangements allowing several  
accesses to the same plot  
[Aysegül Cankat]

First wave gecekonddu are also vanishing as Municipalities and State programs are renewing these areas, destroying gecekonddu and building apartments instead. To conclude, a gecekonddu settlement can still be considered as such even if it lost its architectural specificities.

As the “original” gecekonddu started to vanish, they remained in collective imagination. There is then a third definition of gecekonddu : gecekonddu are “a metaphore of illegality”. Depending on different periods of time, gecekonddu have been praised for being a place of mutual aid and solidarity, or disregarded as dangerous and unhealthy. Gecekonddu are increasingly seen as the dangerous periphery of the cities, the *varos* (ghetto), specially because they are now mainly populated, at least in the west, by minorities (Kurds or Roma people). However, many NGOs and activists consider gecekonddu as a place of resistance, where people struggle to survive and challenge the consumerist way of life.

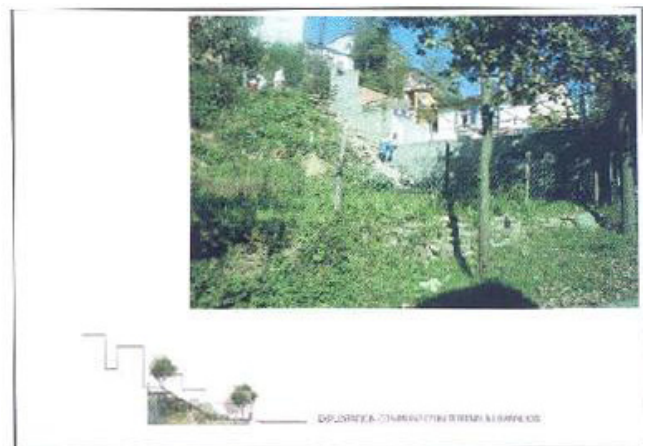
In popular culture, gecekonddu are present in films, tv shows or songs, portraying a complex micro society of poor people importing rural lifestyle in the city, but evolving and changing the city by their presence. A good example of the influence gecekonddu population had on Turkish culture is the Arabesk music style. Music of the poor and the masses, it is often seen attached to the gecekonddu culture.

## History of the gecekonddu

How did gecekonddu became that important in Turkey ? A first answer is that the development was made possible by the availability of public land in the periphery of cities, and that when the State decided to react, gecekonddu areas were already too big to be destroyed. We can also consider that “*even though it was illegal, gecekonddu were tolerated by the governments as it passed the cost of mass housing on the migrant themselves*” (Orhan Esen, Istanbul gecekonddu). Demolitions and conflict with authorities did occur, but new homes were quickly built nearby, and some gecekonddu received political support and clientelism.

Gecekonddu appeared at a time of emerging industry. For the tenants, working in nearby factories and growing food in the courtyard reduced the cost of living in the city. People were given the ability of living in a town that had both rural and urban features.

The first law concerning gecekonddu appeared in 1948 and applied for Ankara. 70 000 people were living in it, making it already impossible to be destroyed. The aim was to tolerate gecekonddu on some conditions : the time spent there, family size ... In exchange, inhabitants had to improve



Slopegarden: joint exploitation of an  
abandoned land [Aysegül Cankat]

their dwellings. The land was bought by the municipality and sold for cheap to inhabitants, in order to “normalize” these areas and get public control back in it. The following laws of amnesty (starting nationwide in 1966) continued this trend.

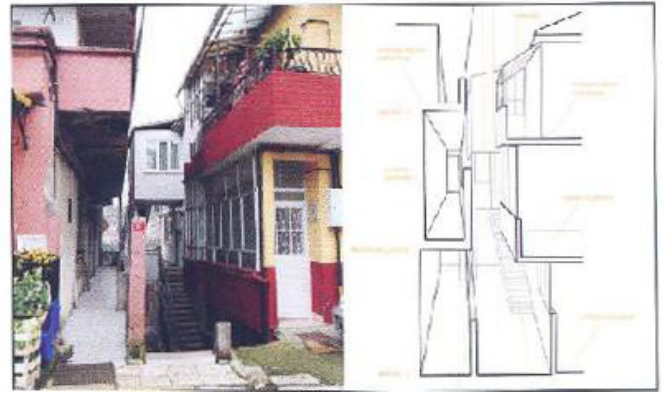
However these laws failed : the State never managed to get control back in these areas, and instead of integrating them in the city for normalization, the gecekondu expanded. In the 1980s, the first wave of apartkondu appeared. An informal real estate market appeared, managed by landlords. In some gecekondu areas there is a system of taking public land, building on it and renting it to newcomer migrants. Turkish authorities have a limited control over these areas.

For poor people, settling in a Gecekondu house is cheaper, easier and of safer risk than entering the formal sector : mortgage of formal loan can be a heavier burden than the risk of losing its gecekondu home. Holding an illegal housing could deliver financial gain on a speculative point of view, as the price of the land might increase in a context of massive urbanization in Turkey.

### **Sociology of the gecekondu**

Gecekondu are a place of social fragmentation in the city, forming a “psychological border”. Some parts of the city are “not accessible” for gecekondu inhabitants, who experience exclusion and discriminations. Gecekondu inhabitants are also now often part of minorities (Kurds, Roma) and considered therefore as a potential political threat. Gecekondu areas are sometimes the only place where the urban poor can exist and be granted a sense of belonging in the discriminatory city.

Gecekondu are seen as the villages that have to be integrated in the city. The modernization theory of Turkey (Republican era, oriented toward the West) created a dichotomy between urban and rural areas. Chain migration describes Turkey, so migrants tend to cluster according to their village origins to get jobs and shelter. In order to obtain these services, many of them may decide to emphasize on their rural identity.



Offset verticalities : privacy despite proximity [Aysegül Cankat]

Gecekondu areas have a different social life : it is a place where neighbors know each other and share more than usual urbanites, and where most of the people have relatives living nearby. During celebrations, food is shared between the inhabitants of the same street, and in daily life, several house tasks are done collectively. Tandouris were imported from the country side : these collective bread ovens are used by different families, and can become place of socialization. Drying of vegetables or gardening can be done together. The concentration of poor people in the same area, mostly coming from a rural background, emphasizes solidarity. The difficulty of their situation leads to a necessity of mutual aid ; the services asked can be really basic, like when a neighbor asks for help to move an ill person as streets are too narrow.

This rapid description of daily life in a gecekondu shows that even if some rural habits were introduced by the gecekondu inhabitants, they also live an urban life. Squares, public spaces and green areas are as much important here as in any Turkish city. Streets of gecekondu areas are full of children playing and women talking, while men spend time in cafes, drinking tea or playing “tavla” in terraces covered with creeper.

Nevertheless, the traditional solidarity of the village evolved in the city. Even if they live in a gecekondu area, they are citizens, and life tends to be more self-oriented in the city. Relationships with



the neighbors remain frequent, but the contiguity of the houses appears more like a problem. Families seek privacy within their family. Solidarity will not be continuously granted for people who do not participate with the community, and trading votes has become common in many gecekondus.

Gecekondus are a housing alternative for poor population. Apartments might be praised as they are modern and comfortable, but for the population, life is more restrictive. They might have rules, for instance forbidding inhabitants to leave shoes outside the flat, or to lay in the green areas around the building.

In apartments, the size is limited and not evolutive, noise is less accepted than in a gecekondu where celebrations are usually shared, and neighbors relationships less important. Some gecekondu tenants also have animals they could not bring in an apartment.

### **Gecekondu tenants and their relations with rest of the city**

The relationship of gecekondu inhabitants to the city may be conflictual. According to Tahire Ergan, they may not feel as “urbanites”, but as “villagers” for ethical or social reasons. Some would never consider themselves as true urbanites as their social relations are with the “villagers of the city” (or because they have a different accent, etc.), even though some might have left to live in apartments.

However, this does not mean gecekondu population do not have the ability to adapt depending who they are talking to, emphasizing on their rurality or their urbanity, changing posture and accent.

Money allows some to distance themselves from the gecekondu and break with their community when it is felt as oppressive. But without money, the only way to distance itself is “psychological”. Women seem to have a more conflictual path to urbanity than men, as their life is often limited to the house, the neighbors and the market, while men experience the city when they work or go to anonymous public spaces.

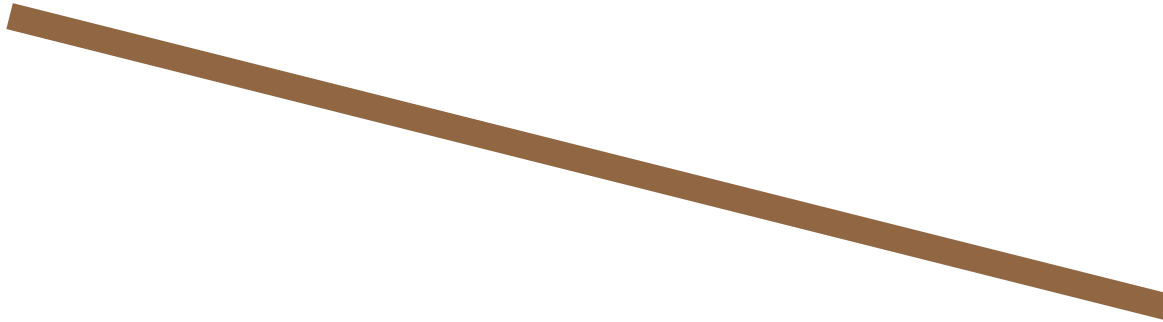


Women experience a strong social control through their neighbors and the visits of villagers.

Coming in the city is a potential of evolution for women: it frees them from field work and the village community. However, the most accepted social role for women, especially in gecekondu area, is still to stay at home, and the incentive of low paid jobs in the city is low. If the first generation of gecekondu inhabitants were rather “optimistic” and focused more on their own inadequacy to the city, many of the youngs believe there is no place for them in it. They grew up in the city, however they experience discriminations and feel they will never be fully accepted.



# Portrait of Diyarbakir



## Geographical info and location

Diyarbakır is situated on the banks of the River Tigris in upper Mesopotamia. The city is settled in the west of the plateau that is formed by the volcanics from Karacadağ and the altitude is 650m. It is the largest city in South-eastern Anatolia Region with the surface area of 15.355 km<sup>2</sup>.

According to the 2000 census, the total population (city center+villages around) is 1.528.958. An essential city in South eastern region and also it is different than the others in terms of rapid increase in the population and the process in urbanisation.



## Climate and Geology

Mediterranean typed continental climate is dominant in Diyarbakır. The average precipitation is 500mm and 400mm. It only rains in winter and spring. Because Taurus Mountains surrounded the north side of the city, the inclement weather cannot penetrate into the city. The weather is generally mild in winter and dry and hot in the summer. Diyarbakır has the hottest days in summer in Turkey.

- The average wind speed is 2.4m/sec.
- The maximum measuring was recorded in July (3.3m/sec) and the minimum was in November and December (1.6m/sec)
- Annual average temperature: 15.8C
- Annual highest temperature: 22.5C
- Annual lowest temperature: 8.8C

## Natural Energy Resources

### Solar Energy

(Source : Meteorology Regional Directorate Inventory Study 2004)

Although the city has pretty long sunshine duration, solar energy is only used to heat water, by the water barrels located on top of the roofs of some buildings. Also there is a sun-house located in Sumer Park. This house products all of the energy it needs (including heating and cooling). The aim of this project was to educate children, warn people about the importance of sustainable projects. But the building cost was pretty high so another one cannot be built yet.

### Natural Gas

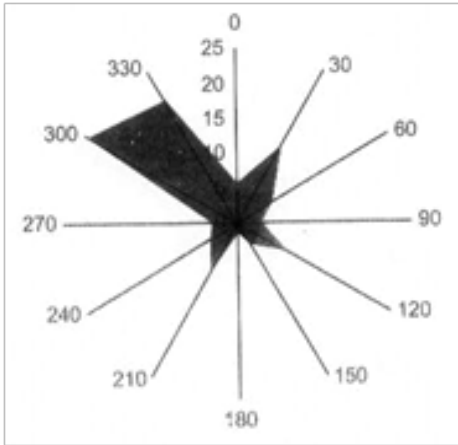
There is a natural gas reserve in Kocaköy district in Diyarbakır. There is no official declaration about the size of the reserve. It is now used for electricity production by a private firm.



| Average Sunshine Duration (hour) |      |          |           |       |       |      |      |      |         |       |      |      |      |
|----------------------------------|------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|------|------|------|---------|-------|------|------|------|
| Sta-tion                         | Year | Janua-ry | Fe-bruary | March | April | May  | June | July | Au-gust | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
| Diyar Bakir                      | 2001 | 4,6      | 5         | 5,6   | 8,2   | 9,2  | 13,1 | 12,2 | 11,6    | 9,2   | 7,4  | 6    | 2    |
|                                  | 2002 | 5,7      | 6,7       | 5,1   | 5,7   | 11,3 | 12,5 | 12,5 | 11,9    | 9,7   | 7    | 6,9  | 4    |
|                                  | 2003 | 2,8      | 3,9       | 4,7   | 5,3   | 10,4 | 11,9 | 12,5 | 11,8    | 10    | 7,6  | 5,6  | 3,6  |

## Wind

The average speed of the wind between the years 1991-2002 is 2,40m /sec. Wind energy is not used as an energy resource in Diyarbakır. The first dominant wind direction is North-North- West (NNW) and the second is North-West (NW) The humidity average in the city is %54.



## Biogas / Biomass

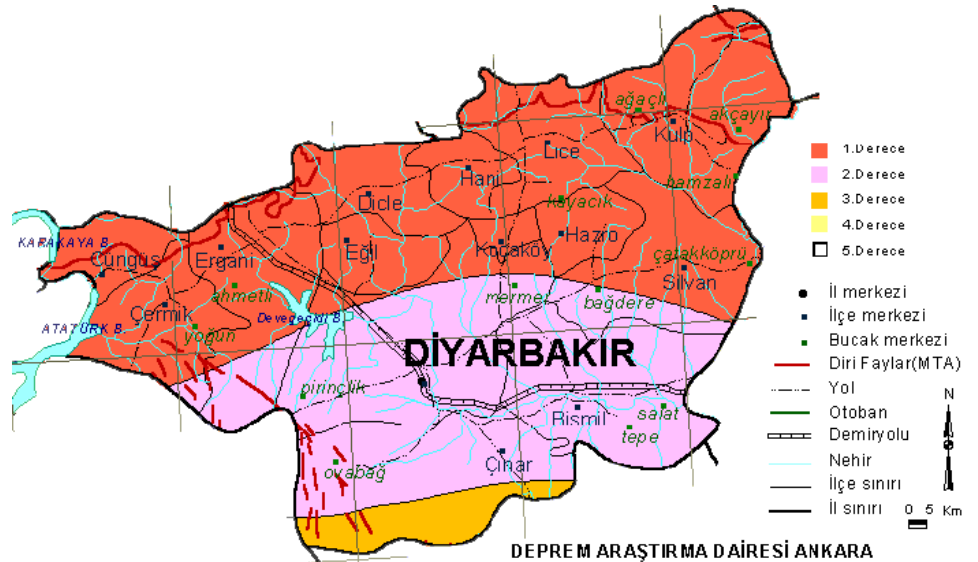
Biogas is not used for energy producing, but in the district centers or in villages, people use the animal excrements/ droppings for heating.

## Geothermal Areas :

There is a thermal spring in 3km distant district, Çermik-Hamambaşı. The heat of the water is 45C and it is in the group of hipothermal, sodium, bicarbonate, chloric water.

## Eartquake map

The city center is on the secondary risk level of eartquakes. Although some districts of Diyarbakır is on the primary risk area, only **one big earthquake** was recorded in Diyarbakır Lice in 1975, and the intensity was 6.6.



Portrait of Diyarbakır

## Landscape

Diyabakır, with its morphological advantages and natural features, is one of the most important cities in South-eastern Anatolia region. And also its an essential passage between Middle east and Caucasian. Green area quota per capita is 1,6m2. The total active green area is 195.700m2 and pas-sive green area is 1.800.000m2 in the city.

The proportion of the forest areas to the total area is %24.3 in Diyarbakır. This is so close to the ideal proposed proportion of %25. But the forests in the city are generally of low quality and should be rehabilitated. They are mostly formed by *Quercus infectoria* species. But in higher parts *Cupressus* sp. is dominated. The general tree population consist of these species: *Cupressus* sp., *Pinus nigra*, *Platanus orientalis*, *Juglans* sp., *Salix* sp., *Populus* sp. and *Pistacia terebinthus*.

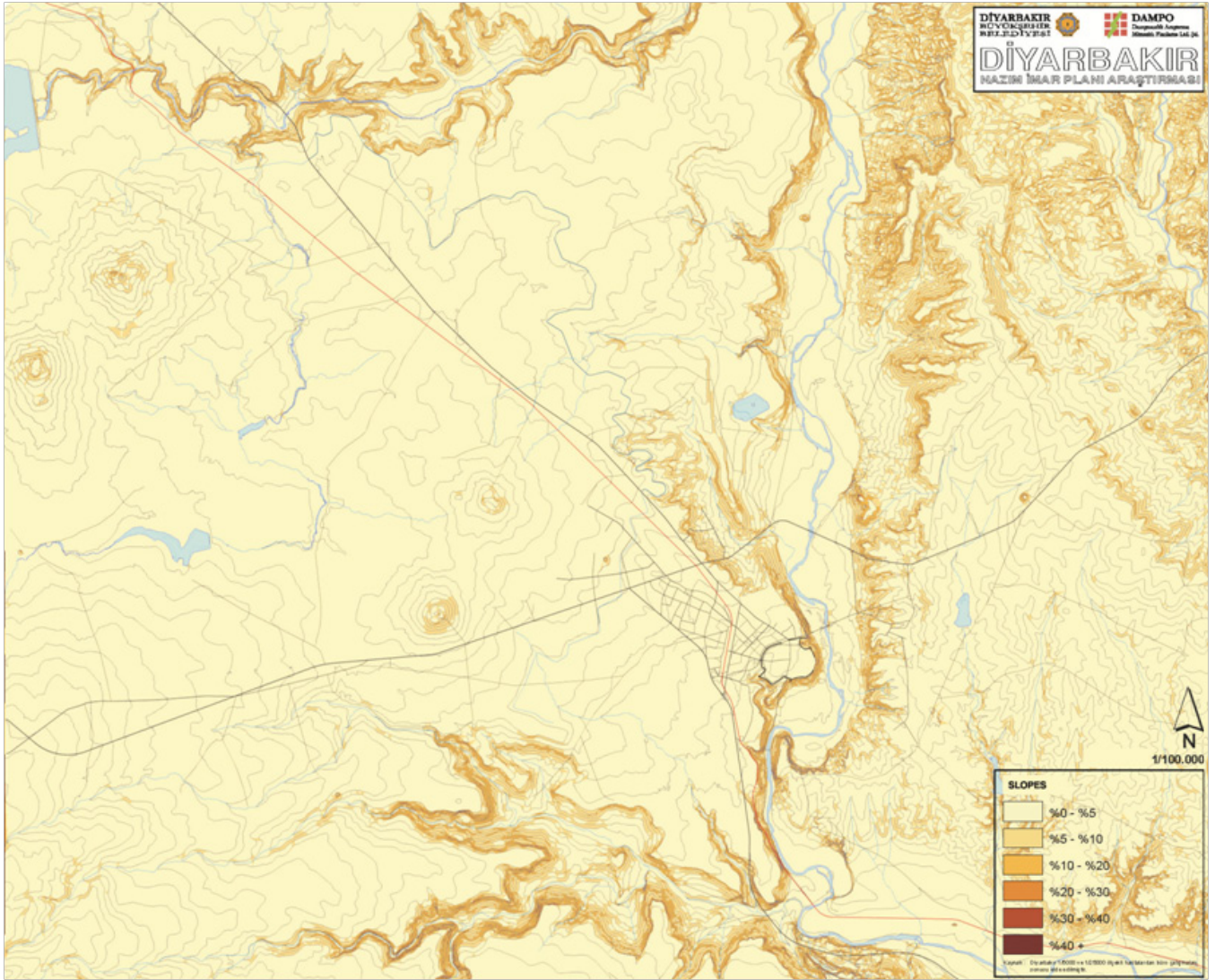


## Topography

Topography of Diyarbakır is also a definer for city's extension direction. The city is located in the Upper part of Mesopotamia, surrounded by South-eastern Taurus Mountains, on an eroded volcanic plateau. Karacadağ Mountain is located nearly 40km west of the city center, and its highest point is 1957m. The city is settled 100m high from the Tigris(Dicle) River.

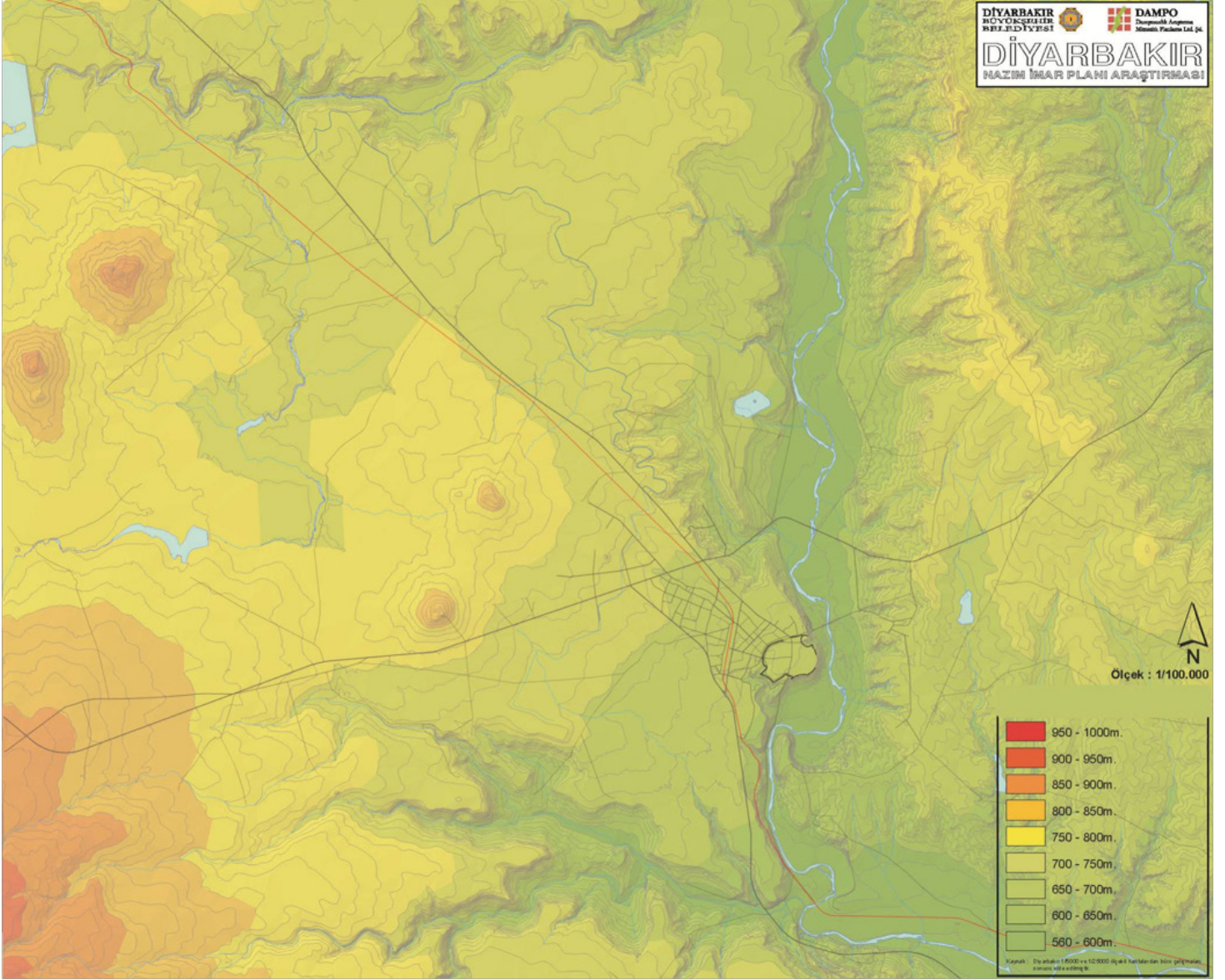






## Topographic Tresholds

The planning area is generally on a flat surface except the lands located on the little valleys created by Tigris. The slope areas are the sides of Tigris Valley, the valleys which connect to Tigris Valley and the rough areas located in the south of Tigris. The existing settlements are located on flat surfaces and the slope has an essential role on the extention direction of the city. The west sides of Tigris Valley is not suitable to settle.



Flora



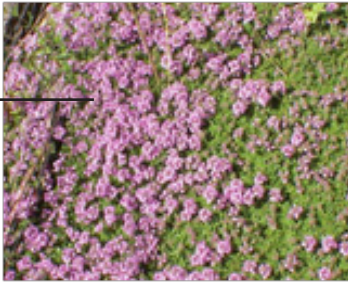


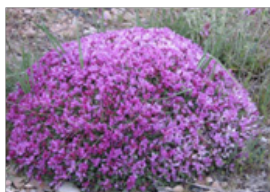
Southeastern anatolia region is so rich in terms of different species but some of them are endangered because of the uncontrolled pest control, unplanned new fields, construction of dams, urbanisation and destroying the green areas and erosion.

Diyarbakir basin starts from Bafra gulf and continues to the Taurus skirts, is located in the north of the most productive area near Palestinian. The forests in Diyarbakir are so poor and xerophytic because of the mediterranean based continental climate.

The basic species that can be found in the area:  
(The whole list will be given if needed)

- Quercus sp. (the most common one is Quercus infectoria)
- Salix sp.
- Platanus sp.
- Populus sp.
- Pistacia sp.
- Velbuscum s
- Astragalus sp.
- Delphinium
- Eryaglum sp.
- Euphorbia so.
- Gentiana sp.
- Silene sp.
- Trifolium sp.
- Thymus sp.

- Achillea sp.
- Morus sp.
- Bromus sp.
- Cupressaceae
- Nymphaeaceae
- Rosaceae
- Capparaceae
- Oleaceae
- Verbenaceae
- Asteraceae
- Liliaceae
- Poaceae

Endemic and endangered plants [Vulnerable ( V ) Rare ( R ) Insufficiently known ( K )

MAGNOLIATAE (DICOTYLEDONEAE)

1. Ranunculaceae

- Anemone coronaria ( V )
- Nigella Arvensis var. caudata ( R )

2. Fabaceae ( Leguminoae)

- Astragalus caspicus ( R )
- Astragalus garaensis ( R )
- Hedysarum kotschyi ( R )
- Hedysarum pannosum ( R )

3. Apiaceae ( Umbelliferae )

- Hippomarathrum scaprum ( K )
- Pimpinella eriocarpa ( K )

4. Euphorbiaceae

- Euphorbia craspedia ( R )
- Euphorbia pyhsocalos ( R )

5. Caryophyllaceae

- Minuartia formasa ( K )
- (The whole list will be given if needed)

## Soil

There are so many big soil type groups in Diyarbakır due to the climate, topography and primary material changes. And also there are some types of lands that are lack of groundcover (in terms of soil).

Some types of soil can be found in Diyarbakır:

**Alluvial soil:** It allows all kind of plants to grow, generally found around Tigris (Dicle) River and Batman river. Has no problem with salt and alcalicity.

**Colluvial soil:** Can be found generally in skirts of steep slopes and valley mouths. It occurs with the help of landslides, runoffs on the materials carried with secondary rivers. They drain the water perfectly. No problems with the salt or sodication/alcalicity. They are highly productive if there is enough rain or irrigation.

**Brown forest soil:** They occur on the rich lime lands. Well-drained. Generally used in forests and pasturages. The ones that are used in farming are highly productive and can be found in every district in Diyarbakır.



## Water bodies

**The Rivers:** The most essential one is the Tigris river and the other ones are its reaches/branches. They emerged in the upper Tigris basin, merge and leave the plain in one point.

**Lakes and Ponds:** There are no natural lakes in Diyarbakır. The first artificial waterbody is Devegeçidi Dam Lake. The most important ones in the city boundaries are: Karakaya Dam Lake, Atatürk Dam Lake, Kral kızı Dam Lake, Dicle Dam Lake and Göksu Dam Lake. The total reservoir area of the lakes in the city is 127ha. Although the city is located next to Tigris, it has nearly no connection with the river. But there were some architectural competitions focused on Tigris Valley aiming to change city's attitude towards Tigris.



## Water Sources Capacity

Overground Water: 6905hm<sup>3</sup>

From Tigris(Dicle) Basin: 6520 hm<sup>3</sup>

From Euphrates (Fırat) Basin: 385hm<sup>3</sup>

Underground Water: 350hm<sup>3</sup>

Total Water Potential: 7255hm<sup>3</sup>

Potable Water Usage Potentials:

Diyarbakır City Potable Water

2nd Phase: 71,40hm<sup>3</sup>/year

Diyarbakır City Potable Water

1st Phase: 71,40hm<sup>3</sup>/year

Gözeli Catchment

(Municipality): 12,50 hm<sup>3</sup>/year



## Hevsel Gardens

This area is one of the most agriculturally productive areas of the city. It is located on 3000 decare area in which nearly fifty families make agriculture. The gardens were used to meet the vegetable and fruit needs of the city, but with the the usage of wastewater of the city for irrigation and environmental pollution, the productivity of the gardens decreased. A project was conducted by Directorate of Rural Services in 1980s but could not be applied but then another irrigation project was done in 2000.



Poplar, cotton and vegetable growing still continues in the gardens. 1000 decare of the area is left for the poplar, 300-500 decare for cotton and the rest is left for the vegetable growing. The families working on the gardens are generally using the man-power of their relatives but the income from agriculture is hardly enough for their livings so they cannot make any savings.



# History of Diyarbakır

## The civilisations

The city is called with many different names in the history. There were approximately 30 civilisations lived and because of their rich history and cultural identity, the city became an essential center for the region. Every new civilisation blended its culture with the previous ones and made a richer culture everytime, so this made the city "An Open Air Museum"

Four essential human settlement areas (10.000- 8.000 years before) are located in Halam Çemi, Çayönü, Demirci Mound and Körtik Hill located in Diyarbakır. These areas are not only important for Mesopotamia or Anatolia, but also for the world civilisation history. The village Çayönü, located near Ergani, is one of the best examples of agriculture based communities lived in between 7500 BC- 5000 BC because in neolithic era, people first started to settle down instead of migrating and they started producing food instead of hunting in this area.

The city is commanded by many civilisations:

Hurri-Mitannis, Assyrians, Aramians, Roman, Sassanid Empire, Byzantines, Umayyad Caliphate, Abbasid Caliphate, Hamdanid Dynasty, Marwanid, Seljuks, Artuqid dynasty, Ayyubid dynasty, Mongols, Aq Qoyunlu, Safavid dynasty ve Ottoman Empire



Amid **Amed**

Dikranagerd Kara-Amid

Diyar-ı Bekr Diyarbekir **Diyarbakır**



Diyarbakır in 1939

**Portrait of Diyarbakır**

There is also a mound located in İçkale which is accepted as the first settlement but the area is located in military zone, so the archeological excavations cannot be operated.

The buildings in the city generally belong to Roman, Marwanid, Christians and Ottomans. The tablets, ornamentation, figures, doors or towers on the side of the city walls reflect the history of those eras.

The formation of Diyarbakır city was made in Late Roman Era in the middle of 4th cent. Romans made Diyarbakır as the capital of Roman Mesopotamia, the city grew with the trade and governmental activities.

In 1515, the population was 50.000 in Diyarbakır, but after joining the Ottoman Empire, and with the trade development in the city, the population increased to 100.000. But after that because of the epidemic illnesses and migration, the population decreased to 21.372 in 1870.

## Economy Sectors

Diyarbakır is under the spotlight for both local and foreigner entrepreneurs and enterprisers, not only because of its potentials and advantages and also because of being one of the most important application areas of GAP Project. There are approximately 190 industrial companies in Diyarbakır. The industrial areas are generally located in the center but also there are some in Ergani, Silvan, Çermik, Bismil, Lice and Çınar districts. Raw materials necessary for industry are produced in or near the city. The main industrial sectors are: food, chemical and plastic, textile, wood and forest products, metal objects and machine, stone and soil based industry and mine (especially marble, basalt and travertine) Some factories (tobacco, brick) are closed due to the economic crisis and as a result of this so many people lost their job and became unemployed.



## Agriculture

Agriculture is another important sector for the city. Wheat, barley, lentil, cotton and rice are produced in different parts of the city. Vegetables and fruits were produced in Hevsel Gardens before, but now because of the wrong irrigation techniques, use of some chemicals for pests, the productions from these fields are only enough for the inhabitants.

The illegal economy in the city is not calculated by the government but can be seen in the streets. Smuggled tea and cigarette are the most popular ones in the whole city.

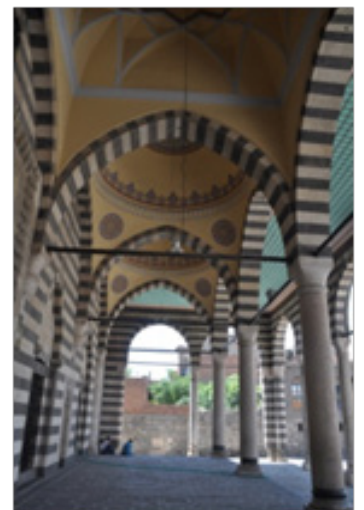


## Unemployment and Poverty

The 23.2% of the population in Diyarbakır does not have any income. The majority of these people (51.9%) are the members of the immigrants migrate because of economical problems, 14.3% of the population does not have a wage-earning employment. In between the ages 18-64 only 24.1% of the people have a wage-earning job. (%6.5 of women, %58.3 men) 21.5% of the migrants moved because of the conflict and the ones that migrate because of the possibilities of the city has the lowest rate with 11.4%. The families, which do not have any income, mostly (49.2%) dwell in Bağlar district. 22.2% of them live in Yenişehir district and 12.4% live in Sur and Kayapınar districts.

## Tourism

Anatolia is used by many civilisations, they were settled and ended here. Diyarbakır is the intersection point of these civilisation so there are many historical pieces (like castles, caravanserais, bridges, “han”s (little caravanserais), mosques, churches...) in the city. Also the inhabitants’ manners and customs increase the cultural value of the area and provide many opportunities for cultural tourism. Also Business and Congress Tourism, Cave Tourism and Thermal Tourism can be counted as other types of tourism in Diyarbakır. In 2004 there are 121.907 domestic and 11.027 foreigner tourists come to Diyarbakır. But because of the conflict, some countries put Diyarbakır in the red list sometimes.



Portrait of Diyarbakir



# Sociology

| Economic   |  | Indicators of Diyarbakır |         |         |         |
|------------|--|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| INDICATORS |  | 1990                     |         | 2000    |         |
|            |  | D.BAKIR                  | TÜRKİYE | D.BAKIR | TÜRKİYE |
| 1          | Population Growth Rate(‰)                      | 31,70                    | 21,71   | 21,87   | 18,28   |
| 2          | Population Density (person/ km <sup>2</sup> )  | 71                       | 73      | 90      | 88      |
| 3          | Average Household Size                         | 6,9                      | 5,0     | 6,8     | 4,5     |
| 4          | Total Fertility Rate                           | 4,7                      | 2,7     | 4,5     | 2,5     |
| 5          | Number of Students per Teacher in High Schools | 15                       | 13      | 21      | 16      |
| 6          | Literacy Rate (%)                              | 56,26                    | 80,49   | 69,59   | 87,32   |
| 7          | Number of Beds in Hospitals per 10 000 Person  | 427                      | 454     | 473     | 433     |
| 8          | Gross Domestic Product (Per person) (\$)       | 1 908                    | 2 655   | 1 313   | 2 146   |
| 9          | Unemployment Rate (%)                          | 11.5                     | 5,4     | 14,2    | 8,9     |
| 10         | Number of Personal Cars per 10 000 People      | 86                       | 292     | 205     | 896     |

## Poverty

A survey was conducted by the association named “Sarmaşık” on urban poverty in Diyarbakır. It was conducted in four poor districts of Diyarbakır (Gürdoğan - Yenişehir, Fatihpaşa – Suriçi, Huzurevleri and Peyas – Kayapınar and Körhat – Bağlar).

In these areas, more than three fourth of the households are living under the poverty line (around 500 TL in 2007), and most of workers earn less than the minimum wage (630 TL in 2011). If the great majority of households had a least one person working, 15% are completely unemployed. Jobs for poor people are of very low qualified : half of them had temporary jobs, working in construction for a few days a month, in fields or in the street. During the summer, many families leave the city for hard work in the fields, often making children missing school.

According to this survey, the biggest need of the population is food, leading the association to create a food bank. Facing too many applications, they can only accept unemployed people, and help in priority single parent families with under aged children.

This survey showed that almost 30% of the population of these districts is illeterate, and that within the households, 78% of the illeterate persons were women. A majority of girls of school age do not attend school, partly because after primary school, the cost of education increases, and partly because the family decided so (19% of households declared it is shameful to send girls to school). However, this trend is decreasing, and girls are more and more sent to school.

Poverty is also linked with migration. A majority of the population comes from rural area fleeing the conflict. Arriving in the urban working market, their agriculture skills become useless. Therefore, children often have to work. therefore often have to work. In 2003, 30,000 children were working in the streets of Diyarbakır, often not going to school (a third of them) and struggling with drug dependence.

In a context of high poverty, the priority need of the inhabitants is to own a house (half of them are owning their home). However many of them are lack of proper title deeds, and living in unhealthy conditions. For the other half renting, prices range mainly between 50 and 150 TL a month.

## Migrants

The common house has 3 rooms, with access to water and electricity. Wood is the main source of heat. 90% of households own a television and a fridge, but only a half have an oven, a washing machine or a telephone. Most of the people expressed a discomfort in their housing (80%), mentioning the absence of sanitation, exposure to social risk and the absence of a pleasant environment.

The main service the population needed is the opening of training classes in their neighbourhood. However, their vision of the future is quite dark ; most of them do not expect any change in their situation.

51,6% of the immigrants cited regional conflict as the basic reason for displacement. 30,5% cited economic reasons (but more than finding opportunities in the city, people were fleeing a rural economy severely damaged by the conflict and emergency rule, including a food embargo, bans on the use of pastures, restrictions to mobility). 14,6% cited educational possibilities (limited access in the country side). Among households displaced in 1990 and 2000, the main resource of income was agriculture and animal husbandry based (92,5%). But when they migrate to cities they could not find proper jobs for themselves and also in the urban economy most of them are considered as unskilled/unqualified workers.



# Population

Diyarbakır is placed near the top in terms of population size within all cities in Turkey. It is also one of the third most densely/crowded cities in the South-eastern Anatolia Region with the population density of 90 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

The population comparison of the cities of GAP (Southeastern Anatolia Project) in terms of population size and growth

Diyarbakır had the 1.4% of the total population of Turkey according to the census in 1950 and according to the census in 1990, the city had a population of one million people and had the 1.9% of the total. And in 2008, it reached to a population of 1.493.000 people and has the 2% of the population. The population growth has always been over the average of the country.

Concentration of population is explained by a continuous rural depopulation progressively taking place since the beginning of the 20th century. The rural world, organized around breeding, collapsed with the interdiction of transhumance in 1987. In South-Eastern Anatolia, the conflict evicted officially 378 000 people from their villages (destruction of almost 3500 villages – Stéphane de Tpia, CNRS). Farmers were forced to migrate to cities.

In the last sixty years, the population growth of Diyarbakır was multiplied 5.1 times, whereas for the country it was 3.4. The years that have the most rapid increase in population for the city was the period of 1965-1970 with a rate of ‰40.

Starting from the second half of 1980s, due to the conflict in the region, the population growth had a rapid increase by immigrations. The people coming from the villages started to settle in the city, and the urban population moved to different cities or regions in 1950s and in 1970s this tendency became more rapid, and in 1980 and 1990s it had a different acceleration. The cultural, religious-ethnic pattern of Diyarbakır has changed in those times. Especially in 1990s the immigration number was increased due to many different social dynamics. The mass migration caused some problems in the city, the migrants cannot assimilate with the urban life, on the contrary, the urban areas were turned into rural/ghetto areas and the infrastructure – which even was not enough for the inhabitants – was totally became useless.



|    |            | Total population (million) | City Center and districts (%) | The rate in population growth (%) (1997-2008) |
|----|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
|    | TÜRKİYE    | 71.52                      | 75.0                          | 13.10   |
| 1  | İstanbul   | 12.70                      | 99.0                          | 9.76  |
| 2  | Ankara     | 4.55                       | 96.6                          | 18.23   |
| 3  | İzmir      | 3.80                       | 90.9                          | 15.03   |
| 4  | Bursa      | 2.51                       | 87.9                          | 27.52   |
| 8  | Gaziantep  | 1.61                       | 87.5                          | 32.91   |
| 11 | Diyarbakır | 1.49                       | 70.4                          | 21.75   |

Source: TÜİK (ADNKS 2007 ve 2008)



| Order | City       | Population (total) | City and District Center | Annual population growth (‰) (2007-2008) |
|-------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1     | Gaziantep  | 1.612.223          | 87.5                     | 32.91                                    |
| 2     | Şanlıurfa  | 1.574.224          | 56.3                     | 33.02                                    |
| 3     | Diyarbakır | 1.492.828          | 70.4                     | 21.75                                    |



In consideration of the data on population, especially the development after 1960s, the devastating change in the population can be seen that the most settled areas have been Diyarbakır Municipality Adjacent area.

According to the data of 2008, 76% of the population was living in the city. The ratio of urban areas to rural areas is 70,4%. The population of the four district municipalities is 55% of the whole city and it had a rapid increase among the years 1990-2000. If the population growth is examined after 1990s, it is easily seen that it increased rapidly. The population growth is more than the average, not only in the region but also in the country. The rapid increase in Diyarbakır's population is mainly explained by high fertility rate. Even though it is decreasing in Turkey and getting closer to European average (2,53 in 2000), in Diyarbakır it remains very high (4,51).

The population of Diyarbakır differentiates from Turkey because of the high rates of children aged between 0-9 and 10-14. This situation generates big problems like; unemployment, child workers –especially on the streets- and lack of education. If the population is screened in terms of age groups, it is clear that Diyarbakır has a young population. 0-4 aged group has 12%, 5-9 age group has 13%, 10-14 age group has 12% and 15-19 age group has 11% of the total population of the city. The percentage of women in Diyarbakır is 49.3, and men is 50.7, nearly equal.

Having so many children and not being economically powerful /healthy, cause many problems on the lives of the young people. The children generally do not go to school and this lead them to substance addiction, violence, early marriages and not having a healthy life during pregnancy causes physical or mental disabilities in the new generations.

According to the research, women get married between the ages of 10(min.) and 23(max.). 75.2% of the women get married when they are 10 or 17 and the rest gets married inbetween the ages 18-23.

## **Density of the districts**

Density changes highly depending on districts. When some parts of Surici and Bağlar can exceed 900 inhabitants by ha, Yenisehir stands between 100 and 250 inhabitants by ha, and Dicle Kent under 100.

The new districts, including Dicle Kent, are using much more space and advance on rural land. On one lot, 40% of the space can be used for green areas and services. The new settlements on the other bank of the Tigris also show a really low density. Urban sprawl is a major trend of Diyarbakır urbanization. This type of development, with low density, needs larger amount of land, raising the operating cost of infrastructures (water, sewer, electricity) and creating car-dependant communities.

## **The features of the households and the houses**

The quantitative and qualitative structure of the houses give essential clues about the social structure and social life in Diyarbakır. In 1995, the average household size was 6.1 person per house, whereas in 2000 this number increased to 6.8 person. The average household size in the country was 4.5 in 2008. Diyarbakır was over the average with the amount of 6.18 person/house. The research shows that 53% of the families are consist of 6-10 people, 42% have 1-5 people and 4.7% have 11-18 people in their houses.

# Migration

The Turkish population is mostly generated by the immigrants. There are two essential eras for Turkey; the first one is between 1945 and 1980 in which the migrations were generally from the village to the city. The second era is beginning from 1975 and comes to today; which is specialised because of the migrations between cities. The rate of migration between cities is two times bigger than the migration from rural areas to urban areas.

However, Diyarbakir migrations are really complex. If rural depopulation explains the concentration of population in Diyarbakir, it's net migration ratio remained negative since 1960, and particularly between 1985 and 2000, when immigration reached its peak. One explanation is that rural population arriving in Diyarbakir left soon, but mainly that population originally from Diyarbakir massively moved to other cities (mostly to Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir). As rural populations settled in Diyarbakir, they replaced the former inhabitants. In the period of 1995-2000, Diyarbakir is located in the very first place in the list of the cities which have more immigrants moved from the city than the ones come to the city. And in between these years, citizens of Diyarbakir mostly emigrated to Istanbul (17.7% of the migrants)

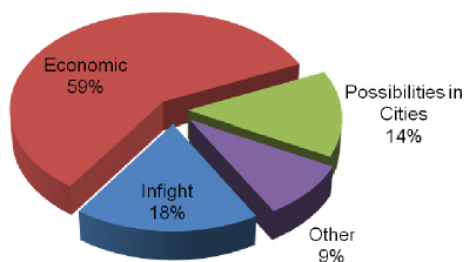
## The sociological structure of the immigrants

The rapid change in the amount of population in Diyarbakir caused economical and social problems for the city. There also had been big difficulties in the social structure because of the struggle between the immigrants and the citizens.

Most of the population settling in Diyarbakir are poor, and landless farmers. With the destruction of around 3500 villages during the conflict, rural population had to flee to cities. The arrival of this new population, replacing the former, has led to a mutation of the sociology of Diyarbakir population.

The children working on the streets of Istanbul are generally (75%) migrated from Diyarbakir. 47% of those children migrated because of the terror, whereas the others (43%) pointed the unemployment as the reason of their migration. And 43% of those children do not continue their education when moved to Istanbul.

The Reasons of the immigration to Diyarbakir



## Way of Life

The inhabitants generally spend their times outside their houses. They go to cafes, walk in the streets, or spend time in parks, even they do not have any money to spend on leisure activities, they choose to sit in their balconies or in front of their houses especially in summer.

Some districts like Ofis (especially “Sanat” Street), which is full of cafes, tea houses, restaurants and shops, are crowded not only during the day but also during nights. The cafes are generally preferred by young people, they meet their friends, have tea and narghile (waterpipe) and chat.

Also there are some shopping malls located near newly-developed districts. People spend their times after work or weekends there shopping.

Social and neighbourhood relationships in the city are so strong. So some people visit their friends or neighbours for dinner, or for tea after meal. It is not accepted as kind to take someone outside for a dinner instead of cooking them at home.

## Parks in Diyarbakır

Due to the hot summer days, people cannot go out and walk in the streets easily in day time, so they generally prefer to go the parks (generally after sunset) located in different parts of the city. Those parks give people the opportunity to spend their times outside their houses, be involved in the city life, socialized and be in contact with the nature in the city. Some of these parks are public but some are semi public, some parts are owned by a cafe or restaurant and some are private.



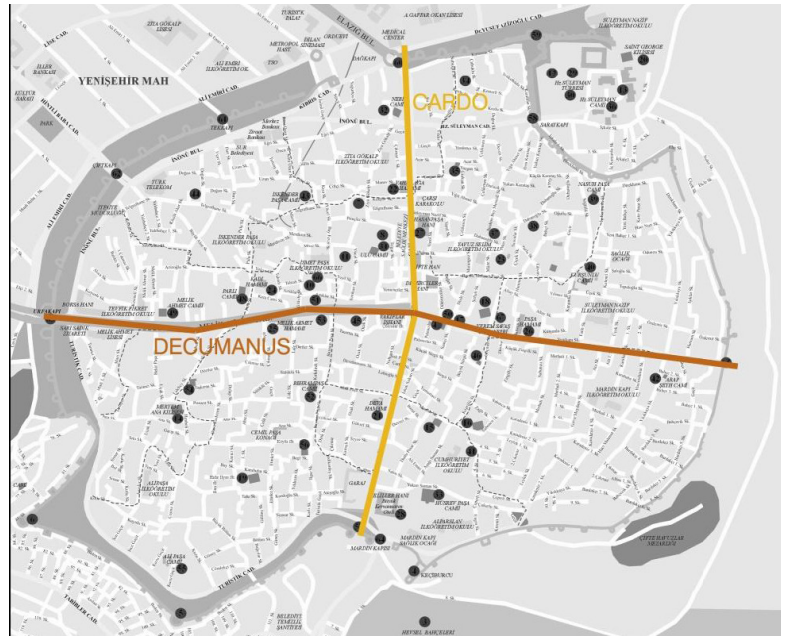
# Living in Diyarbakır



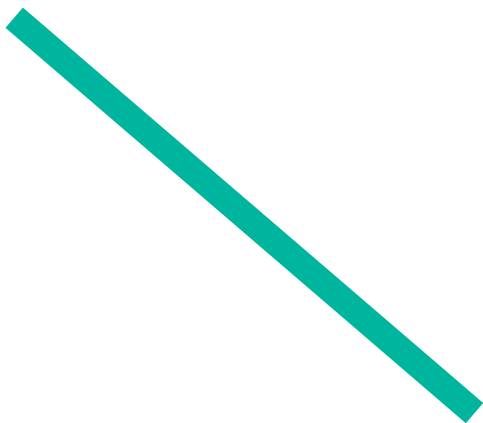
## The districts and spatial structure of the city

The city center landed on an area of 598ha with 66.500 buildings located on. The studies about the old town reveals a plan of Roman origin, linked to the walls and characterised by one cardo (north-south axis) and one decumanus (east-west axis) leading to four gates . The secondary road network is irregular, made from a fragmented and heterogenous system. Some streets have a typical medieval urban form, with houses with wood façades.

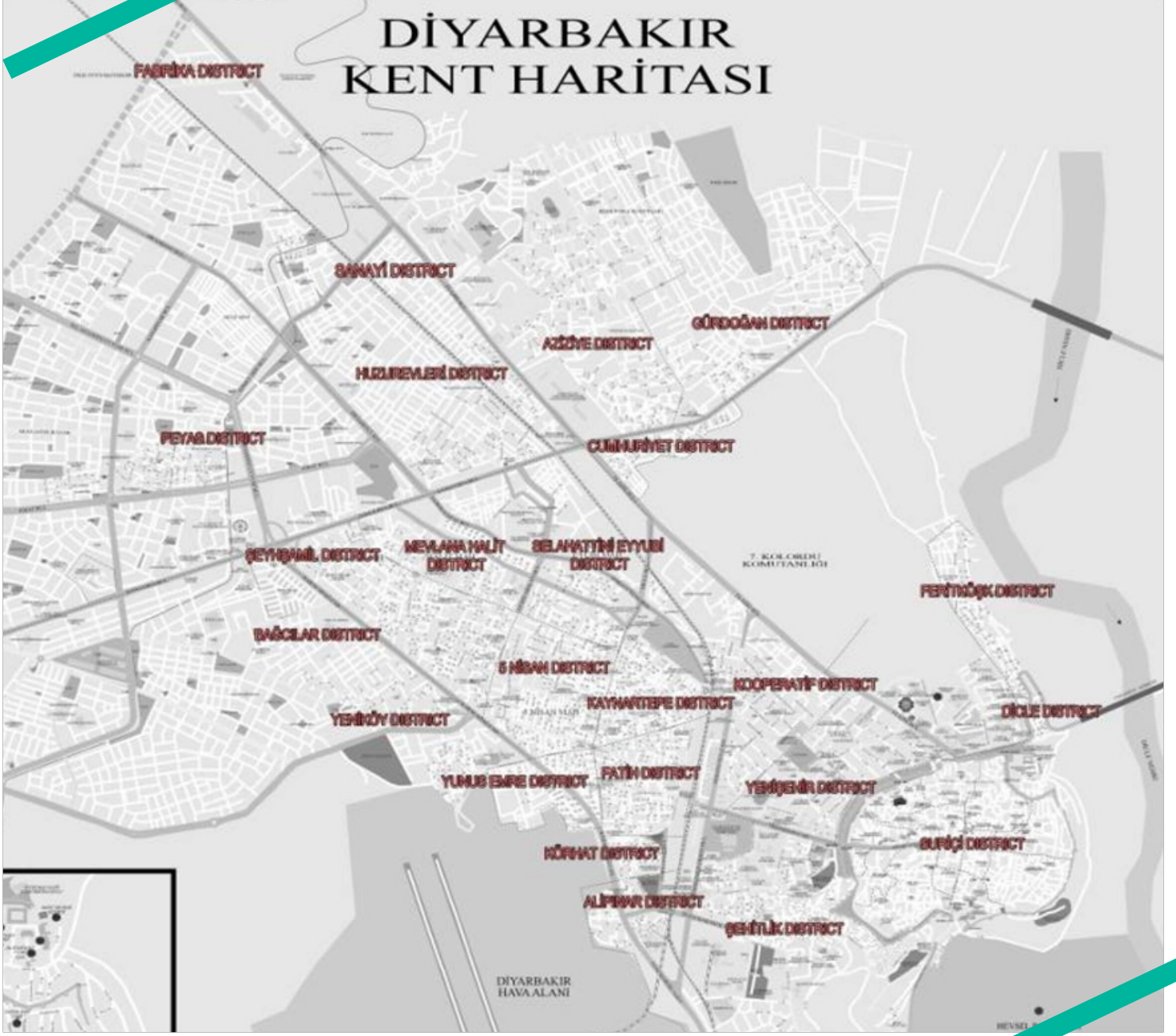
24% of the houses are located in 15 neighbourhoods inner city walls, and the rest is located outside of the old town in 15 neighbourhoods that emerged after 1930. The proportion of person per kilometersquare was 13 p/km<sup>2</sup> in 1927, whereas that number increased to 90 p/km<sup>2</sup> in 2000. In the city center, this amount is 15 persons/km<sup>2</sup>.



The “out of the walls” development of the city starts with 1937 urban plan, creating a first inner suburb north west of the old town. At the same time, the Ministry of Defense decides to install on two zones a garrison (North-East) and the military airport (South-West). Since its beginning, the expansion of the city is canalized on a North West scheme. The 1965 plan continues this trend, absorbing the outskirts of the city (Bağlar). The urban explosion starts in the 1980s, overwhelming planning efforts. A residential area is developing above the East West main roadway since the 1990s, with buildings from 7 to 14 storey high. On the right bank of the Tigris, the University campus is using only a small portion of the total State land. The rectorship has started developing suburban allotment on these lands.







The map of districts

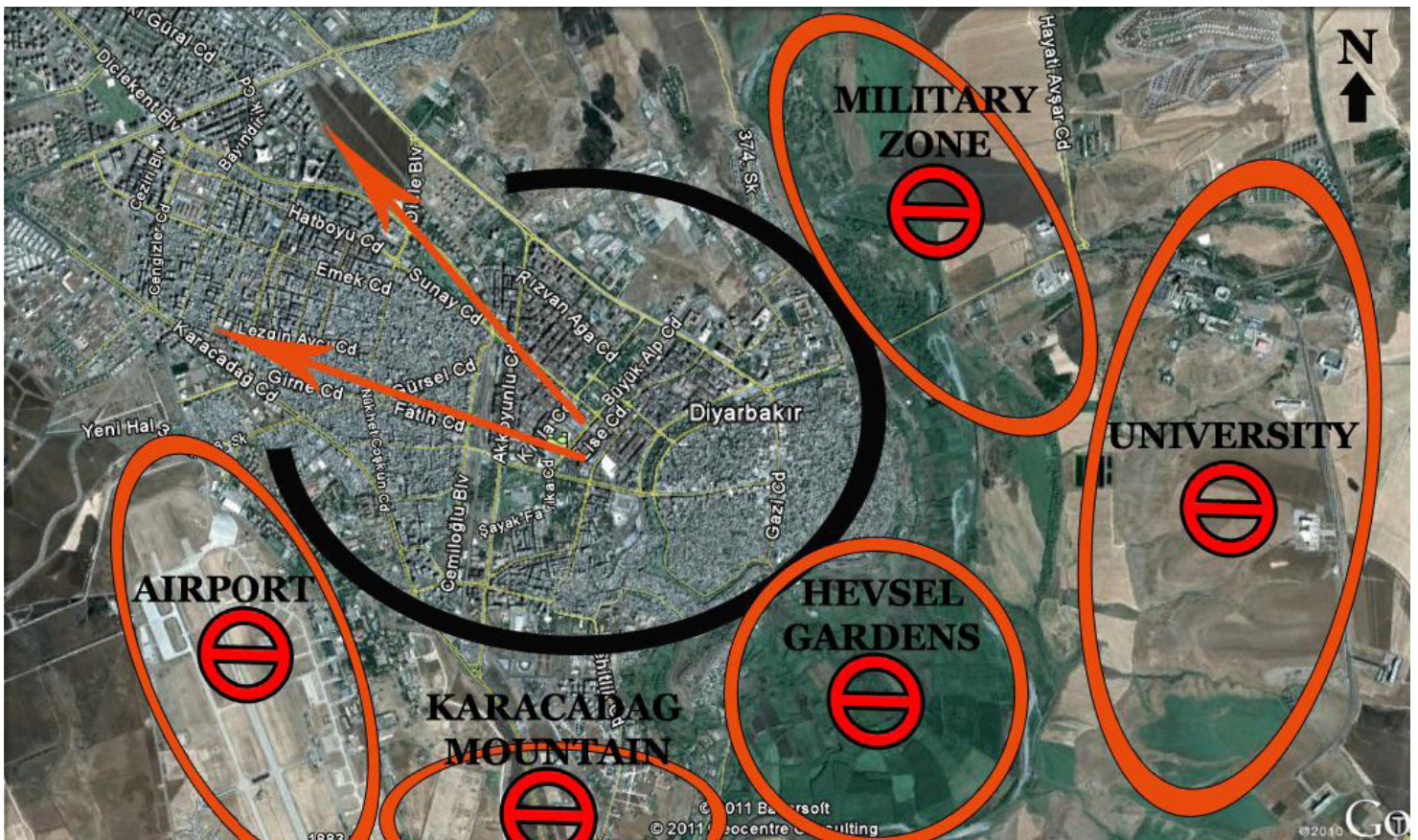
## Spatial Structure

The reason that Diyarbakir had a rapid growth is not only because of being a center in the region, but also the migration during 1990s. The reasearch conducted in the urban areas in Diyarbakir shows that the four district municipalities have differences in terms of population, the distrubution of population and spatial structure.

## The Development of Urban Spaces

The spatial structure of the city was formed by the factors like; geography (Tigris River, topogra-phy), history (the city walls), planning decisions (zoning and master plan) and investments. The city walls, as well as an important historical and architectural heritage for the city, is an important threshold in shaping the structure of space.

Diyarbakir, located on the plateau in the western part of Tigris Valley, has continued its spatial development to the west /north-west side of the valley due to the lack of appropriate places to settle down in the hills of the valley in the historical period.

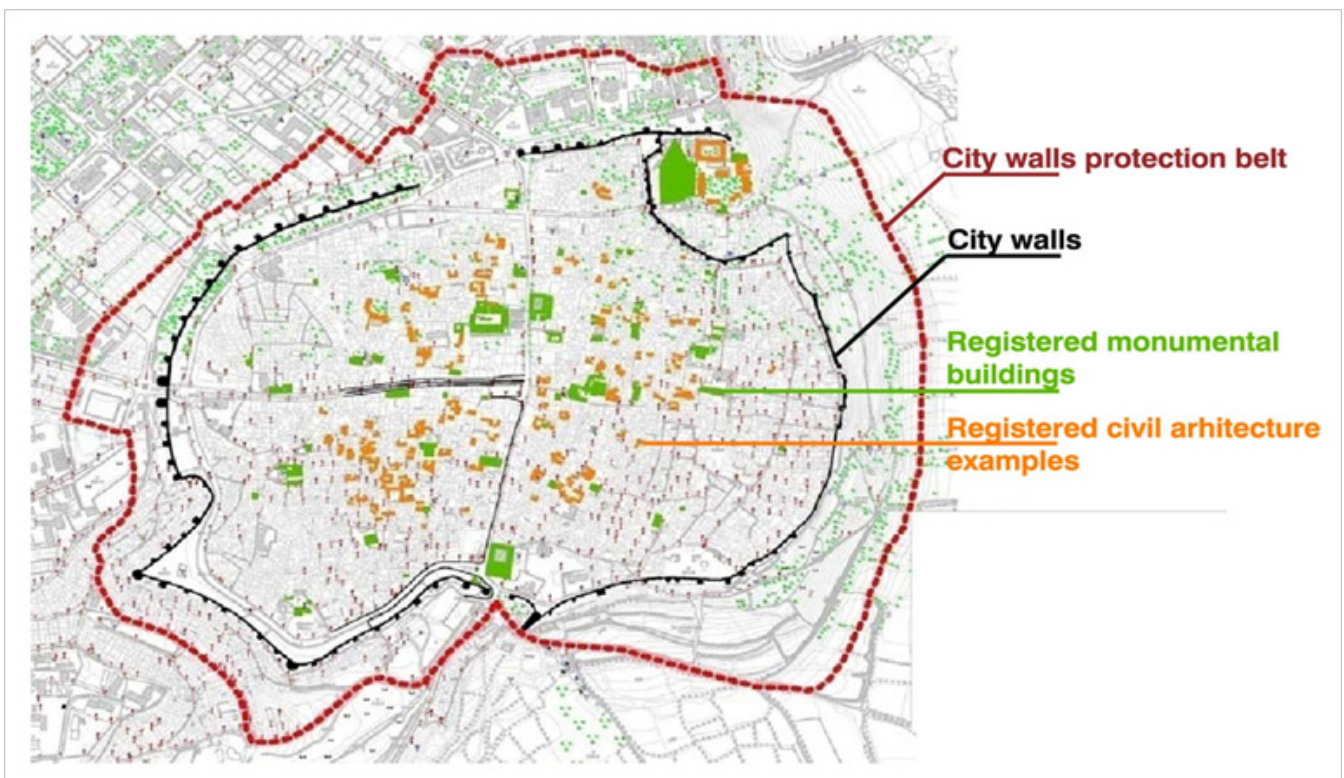


## Districts

Suriçi (Inner city walls/ historical core), besides its traditional pattern and architectural identity; still has its traditional structure with the settlements, social structure, the center and the commercial usage of space. The area changed and regenerated several times but Suriçi is still a district that reflects the history of Diyarbakır.

The Old town (Suriçi), which is surrounded by the city walls, is neglected today. But there are some protection plans, done by private firms under the control of the municipality. The first protection plan for the historical core of the city was made in 1990, but then it was not found appropriate and enough, and changed in 2008. The new protection plan aims to keep the population level stable (by not suggesting new buildings), tries to have a standard for the façades of the building (the size of windows or doors), the materials (traditional ones which will go well with the historical buildings), to make green belts next to the city walls (50-100m from the city walls), to prevent illegal housing (with the TOKI projects going on in Alipaşa District) and to strengthen the quality of not only the houses but also the infrastructure.

Yenişehir, which starts from Suriçi and limited by the railway in the west, was planned according to the “garden city” approach and developed and settled in a systematic way in the early years of republic -1930-. At first, the district generally was full of low-rise and low-dense buildings with gardens, public buildings and public facility areas but then it turned into a trade center. In 1970s, the buildings were destroyed and high-rise apartment blocks (7 to 14 storey high) were built and the district became denser. Ofis, the most popular neighbourhood, is also located in Yenişehir district.

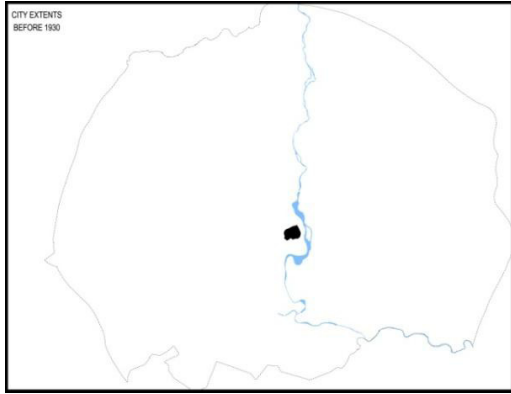


Bağlar, which is a settlement of a different era from Suriçi and Yenişehir, has a different development process, is located in the west side of Railway station, and limited by the railway in the north and highway in the west and north. In 1960s it was full of vineyards but starting from 1963 it was structured in an unplanned and irregular way. First, the settlements were more like “gecekondu” but after then because of the population growth (immigration) the buildings became “apart-kondu”. This area is one of the most problematic districts of the city in terms of social and technical infrastructure, population density and socio-economy.

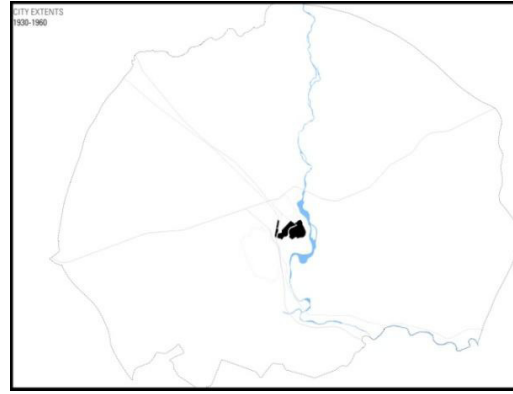
A similar construction process can be seen in Şehitlik district, southwestern outskirts of the citywalls, Ben-U-Sen district and Industrial area. These are constructed by occupying the public lands or shareholded parcels. But in these districts, the constructions are generally formed as one or two-storied “gecekondu”s. Nowadays, the thresholds of the city is like a mosaic which is formed by planned and unplanned settlements. In the second half of 1990s, another development process was seen in Seyrantepe and Aziziye districts, these were the mass houses which were built to stop the “gecekondu” settlements. From 1994 to today, 3586 houses were built in three stages in this redevelopment process.

Recently, especially after 1990s, the redevelopment projects were moved to Kayapınar district, which is located between Elazığ and Şanlıurfa highways. The unplanned settlements around this area was tried to be taken under control in 1985 zoning plan. Low-density housing cooperative; Diclekent, and similar complexes in this area tried to increase the attractiveness of the district and encourage the planned settlements. However, by the revisions made in the zoning plan in 1994 and the subsequent ones; the density of the area became three times bigger than it was in 1984. This district is one of the most essential extension areas of the city and its main problem is the density.

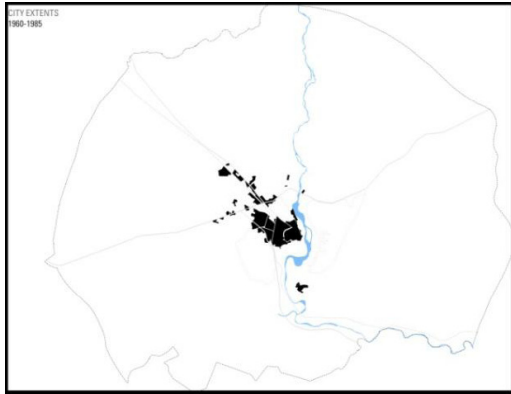
## Historical Development of the City



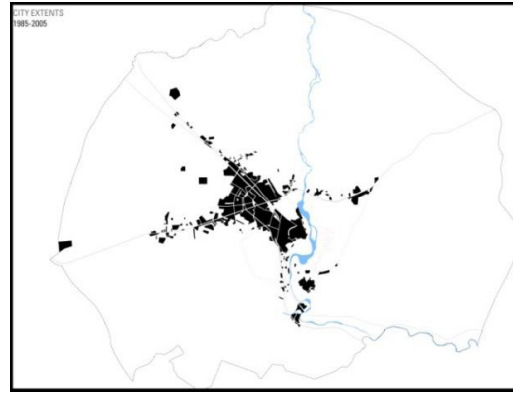
Diyarbakır before  
1930



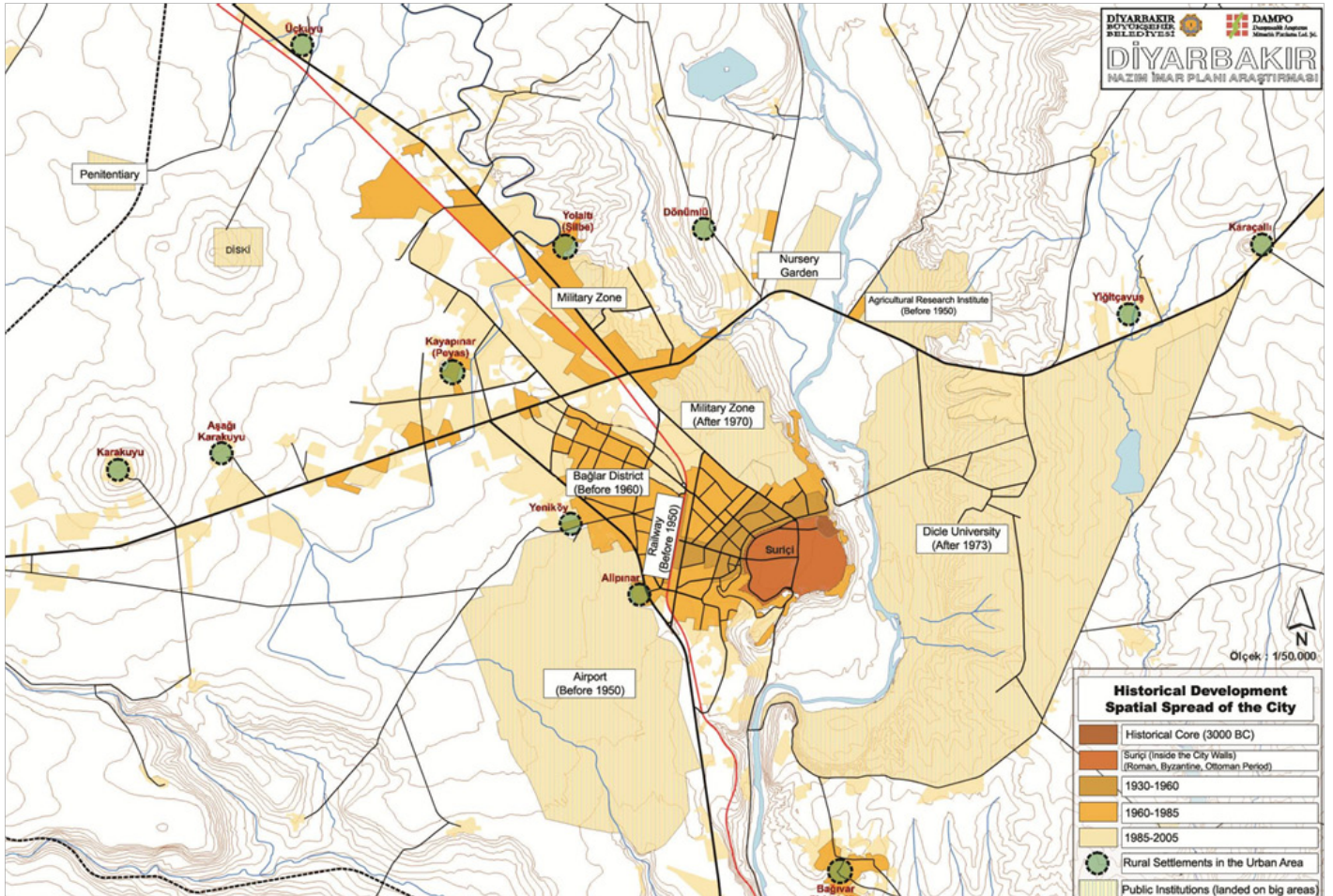
Diyarbakır in 1930-1960



Diyarbakır in 1960-  
1985



Diyarbakır in 1985-2000



Living in Diyarbakır

Sanliurfa, Elaziğ, Silvan and Mardin highways are the most attractive areas of the city in terms of the possibility of different urban usages, and accesibility. The borders of the city is formed according to the developments on these roads. On these roads; there are fuel and service stations, outlets, industrial areas, storage facilities, public institutions and different urban residential areas are located. Two of these roads; Elaziğ and Şanlıurfa, are attractive in terms of dwelling because of the microclimate in these areas.

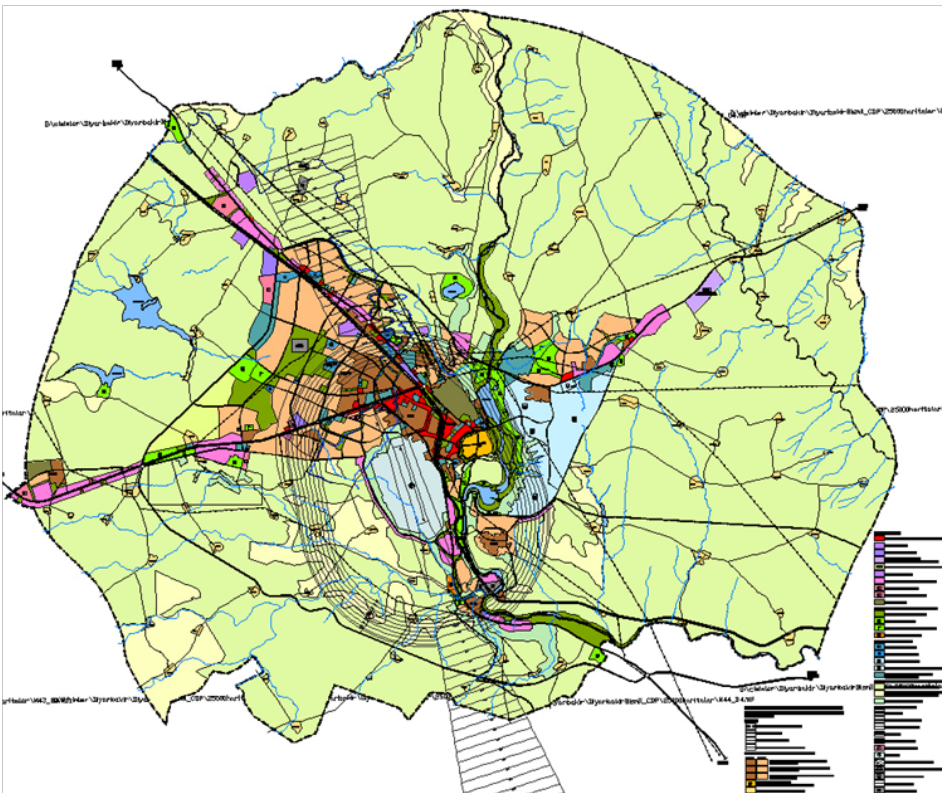
Determinations on the housing typology show that; 42.9% of the barrack-type housings are located in Bağlar district, 21.4% is located in Yenişehir and Kayapınar, and 14.3% is located in Sur district.

In the city's infrastructure-related problems, only water is a subject that the inhabitants does not complain about. The biggest complaints of the citizens are; sanitary sewerage, quality of the roads, garbage collecting, public transportation, urban lightning and lack of open green areas.

## Masterplan

The masterplan is produced by the Metropolitan Municipality, in an area of 20 kms around the city center. District municipalities use it as a reference to produce 1/5000 and 1/1000 plans.

The latest masterplan was made in 2006-2007. There were so many problems (high migration rate, lack of infrastructure, borders, etc.) in the city, so the masterplan tried to answer those needs. Till 2008 (except the "Suriçi protection plan") masterplan was finished and approved by the municipality.



# Cultural Heritage

## The city walls



One of the most remarkable architectural piece in Diyarbakır is the city walls. It is the second longest in the world after the Great Wall of China. The certain time of construction is not clear, but there are some clues on the towers; motifs and tablets on the city walls. Also it is known that the city walls that can be seen today, is renewed/reconstructed in the period of Byzantines. The walls are important cultural documents which have every civilisation's marks on them so they can be accepted as world heritage.

The walls are approximately 5.5km long and has a shape like a "turbot". There are 82 towers and 4 main gates. The height of the towers change between 10-12m and the thickness of the walls is around 3-5m. The most popular towers are: Keçi Tower, Yedi Kardeşler Tower and Ben-U-Sen Tower.



There are three main “holes”

in the walls.

### **Kharput Gate (Dağ Gate)**

(300m long, located in the west)

is formed with a demolition by dynamite in 1931 by a governor who wanted to let the air blow in the city.

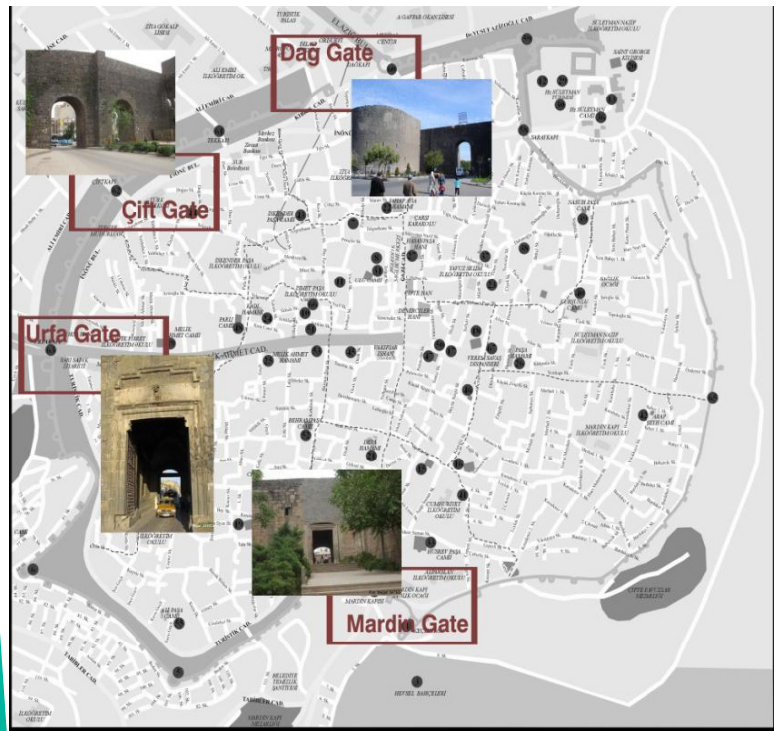
### **Mardin gate**

(located in the east),

50 metres long and was destroyed in the 1930s to build a road

### **Yeni gate**

(located in the south) 200m long, overthrown by an earthquake.



Some parts of the city walls that are “renewed” (!)



Living in Diyarbakir



# Housing

## History of housing development in Diyarbakır

Diyarbakır is formed by 15 districts, 13 sub-districts and 826 villages. According to the zoning plan by Great Municipality, the field usages are like this:

- Housing Areas: 598ha - %9.8
- Commercial Areas: 20ha - %0.33
- Industrial Areas: 227ha - %3.72
- University Area: 2700ha - %44.26
- Urban Green Areas: 13ha – %0.21
- Social and Cultural Facilities: 50ha - %0.82
- Military Zones: 1275ha - %20.90
- Empty Areas: 98ha – %1.61

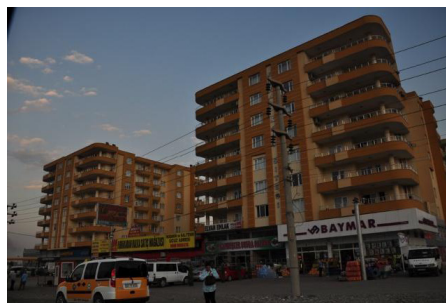
Demographics of Diyarbakır lead to a rapid urban development. The population keeps on growing because of the high fertility. There is a high risk of housing demand explosion, especially if the youngs start to “leave home”.

The housing settlements are spreaded through north, northwest and northeast directions after 1950. At first, these areas were green, with maximum two storey houses located on, but then they are demolished and 6-10 storey houses were built.

In Diyarbakır, 52% of the people dwell in the apartment blocks, 24% of them live in private one-storey houses, 21.6% dwell in private two or three-storey houses, 0.9% of them live in shanties, 0.8% live in private luxury villas and 0.1% live in public housing/ lodges (lojman) (a house given by the company, institution or an agency a people work for)



Housing in Suriçi (oldtown)



Housing on Urfa Road



Housing in Ben U Sen

The unauthorised/ unlicenced housing is a big problem in Diyarbakır. 22.9% of the houses in the city is unlicenced so they do not have an appropriate project and the people living in those houses do not have a secure life in terms of architecture. In the districts; Yenişehir and Kayapınar, there are so many houses that do not have a land title/ licence. 37.7% of the unlicenced private one-storey houses, 16.3% of private two/three-storey houses and 18.2% of the apartment blocks are located in Yenişehir district.

The percentage of the size of the houses is listed like this; 51.4% 1-100 m<sup>2</sup>, 46.2% 101-200 m<sup>2</sup>, 2.1% 201-300 m<sup>2</sup> and 0.3% 301-400 m<sup>2</sup>. 54.2% of the houses that has an area of 1-100 m<sup>2</sup> are located in Yenişehir district.

### **Possession/ownership of the houses**

59.3% of the houses in Diyarbakır, belong to the inhabitants. 8.5% belong to their relatives and they do not pay rent, 32.9% pay rent for their houses and the rest is living in the houses without giving any money because they know the owner, or they choose to live in the houses which are owned by no one. The 49.5% of the inhabitants that do not have any income, have their own houses.

### **Heating system in the houses**

In houses, 35% of the inhabitants use coal burning stove, 22.9% have central heating, 20.8% using electric heater, 19% have wood burning stove, 0.4% use air-conditioner, 1.4% use natural gas and 0.3% use gas stove. 0.2% of the inhabitant cannot heat their houses.

### **Features of the houses (in terms of rooms)**

If the houses are determined in terms of toilets; 88.3% of them have a seperate toilet in the house, 7.6% have their toilet outside the house but used just by the households, 2.8% of them have the toilet in the bathroom, 0.4% have a toilet outside the house and sharing it with their neighbours and 0.2% of them does not have a toilet.

92% of the houses have a bathroom in the house. 1.4% have a bath in a part of a room, 5.1% have it outside the house but only the households use it, 0.4% have it outside and shares with the neighbours and 1.3% of them do not have a bath/ bathroom.

91.4% of the houses have a kitchen in it. 3.3% use a part of a room as a kithcen, 3.1% have it outside the house, 0.4% have one shared with other neighbours outside the house, 2% do not have a kitchen.

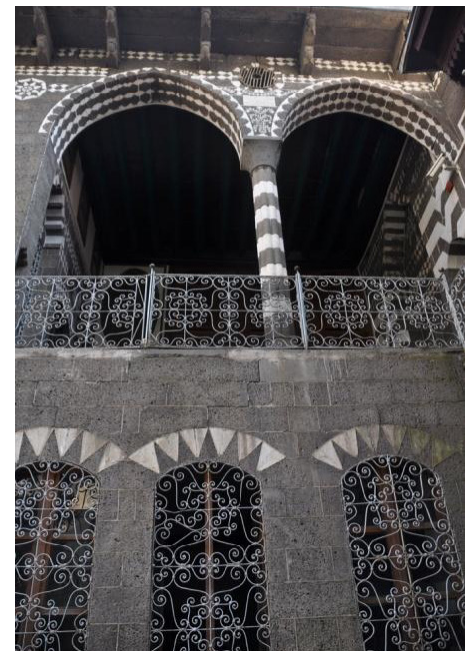
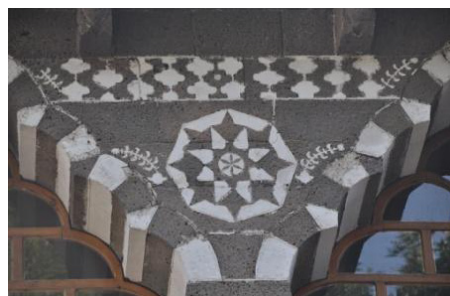
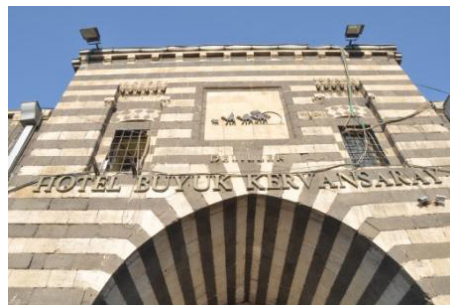
## Settlement in urban areas

The rural dwellings in Diyarbakir are generally occur as traditional village settlements. The villagers tend to build two-storey courtyarded houses to keep their animals and the equipment necessary for farming, in the house. The basement floor is left for the animals and the houses are generally built on flat surfaces. The houses were used to be built with stones, sun-dried brick but nowadays people use concrete and brick to build their houses. Immigrants coming from the rural areas continue those habits in the city.

## Traditional Architectural Features

The traditional houses of Diyarbakir is on the top of the list of historical traditional buildings of the city. They have a history of minimum five thousand years. Most of them were built with black basalt stone. But sometimes they only use basalt in the basement (for climatic conditions) and in the upper storeys, they use brick and wood.

There are two types of basalt stone used in the city. The first one is more holed, easy to extract and work with, and named as the “female stone” in the city. The holed female stones are used in every courtyard to sustain evaporation and cool the air. The second type is the “male stone”, comparatively rarely used, and dense. The city walls, mosques or “han”s are all built with basalt stone. It is generally the base material of the buildings in Diyarbakir and because of the color of the stone the city is called as “Black Amid(Diyarbakir)”. Also on the walls, the white and black color are used respectively on seperated lines.



## Materials and techniques used in construction

The traditional construction techniques and materials are not used any more, the modern construction techniques and concrete were started to be used by the inhabitants. But due to the lack of qualified workers, the construction techniques are mixed with old and new. Brick is the most common material for gecekonddu (people can get the material for less money from the brick factory they worked for) The houses are generally built without beam so most probably they cannot survive in an earthquake.

The traditional housing model in Diyarbakır is black basalt stoned, courtyarded, soil flat roofed houses formed according to the geography and climatic conditions of the city. The very best examples of those houses can be found in Suriçi district.

Sometimes (not so common) “adobe” houses can be seen due to the lack of enough money for concrete or stones. Adobe is a natural building material made from sand, clay and water. Builders shape them into bricks using frames and dry in the sun.



Making of Adobe



Using wood, brick and concrete together



## “Gecekondu” reformation and Prevention Zones

Next to the city walls there are some neighbourhoods (Alipaşa District after 1945, Kore, Kıbrıs and Abdaldede Districts after 1955) emerged especially by the poor people migrated from the villages. The “gecekondu” areas are located next to the Bağlar district in the north, Seyrantepe district in the northeast, Tigris River in south and on the area of Ben U Sen Gardens in the west.

Ben U Sen and Dicle districts are located on the green areas (vineyards or vegetable gardens) surrounding the city. The physical conditions of these districts are in bad conditions, so the infrastructure is insufficient. Those settlements are generally using the lands of Ministry of Treasury (those lands were parcelized and sold by some people)

After mid 80s, with the zoning law and rapid growth in population movement change the housing stock is changed. Because of the rapid development in urbanisation in Diyarbakır, the existing zoning plans were insufficient and had to be changed many times. The mass housing projects were started by TOKİ and besides the TOKİ projects there are also some mass housing projects like 450 Evler and 500 Evler (for people who are forced to live their villages - compulsory migration) conducted by government. And also there is another project conducted by the municipality (Üçkuyu Mass Housing Project)



ÜÇKUYULAR  
AND  
ŞİLBE  
TOKİ  
HOUSES



# Infrastructure

## **Garbage collection**

The waste control in the city is controlled by the municipalities. Domestic, industrial and medical wastes are collected and stocked in the uncontrolled dumping area located on Mardin Road. This open dump is in constant fire, producing a smoke carried to the surrounding villages, while families and children are collecting things in it. This terrible situation has led the Metropolitan Municipality reorganize the system : a new controlled dumping area project. The Municipality also wishes to limit waste to the source, and sensibelize the population. Currently, 0,89 kg of waste is produced every day by one inhabitant. An informal sortage of bins is already done by the caretakers, and some elements are taken by street collectors, which allows an informal recycling of waste. But this behaviour raises sanitary issues.

When to look at the statistics on solid wastes in the city, organic waste(kitchen wastes, paper, cardboards, plastic or wood garbages) has the biggest proportion. This high ratio of organic materials and water is common in Mediterranean country cities because of a higher consumption of fruits and vegetables, but it has to be acknowledged when dealing with waste as the risk of overflow is higher.

## **Water**

Potable water:

There are two types of potable water systems in the city. The first one is the spring water and water extracted from deep weels by submersible pumps. Gözeli Spring is the most important one and the oldest spring in the city. The water coming from this spring is stored and distributed to the city from the Bağlarbaşı Main Water Reservoir.



The Municipality has created an independant operator to manage the system in 1995. The whole territory is covered with potable water and sewers, and every owner can be connected to the network. The price of water is one of the lowest in Turkey, and seeks to encourage economy with progressivity 1,12TL by m3 for less than 20 m3, then 2,5 TL under 30 m3, and 3,03TL over).

The biggest problem for the Municipality water administration is leaking : in 2009, half of the water was lost because of them and illegal connections.

## **The sewage:**

The wastewater treatment system of the Great Municipality of Diyarbakır was brought into operation by the Directorate of Diyarbakır Hydraulic Works and it works with the efficiency of %30. The domestic wastewater is collected by the 300km long collection system pipes and transferred to the wastewater treatment plant. The wastewater and rain water, where the infrastructure is totally finished in Suriçi District, are collected seperately. The Municipality wishes to expand the rain water collection to other parts of the city.

## **Electricity**

The electricity system in the city is runned by a private firm called DEDAŞ. In some districts (generally poor ones) illegal usage of electricity is very common.

# Transportation

Diyarbakır is connected with all its neighbours (except Muş) with motorways. There is just a military airport in the city, but the inhabitants and visitors want a civil one, for many years. A project of a new civil airport in Diyarbakır is in the the (to do) list of the government , but has not started yet. The airport is so close to the city so the noise of the planes (especially jet planes of military) can be heard, the buildings (schools or houses) located near to the airport face some difficulties (broken windows, hard to sleep, hard to study, etc) because of this noise.

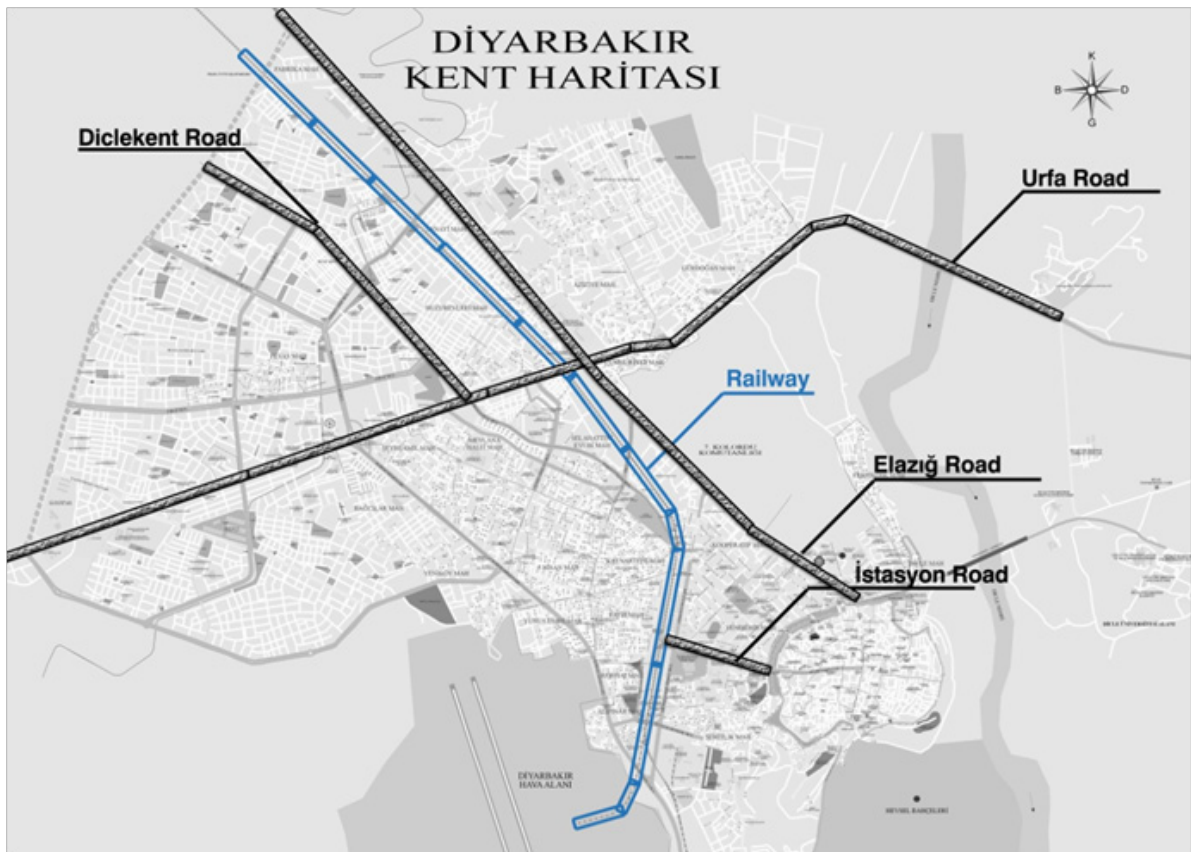
The Municipality has a project of public transportation in dedicated lanes, which would suit well with the urban morphology (a corridor). A unique line could be enough to serve most of the population. For this project, the existing railway could be used as only 2 or 3 trains a day are passing. The railway is not used by so many people anymore. Only the poor ones use it (especially for moving their houses or heavy stuff)

This railway, crossing city, passes next to markets and inhabitations, and could link the airport to the center of the city, and then to the new districts.

Diyarbakır's transportation web is formed by primary, secondary and tertiary intracity roads and village roads. The primary roads are: Elazığ Road, Urfa Road, Mardin Road and Silvan Road. Urfa Road and Elazığ Road are essential axis of intracity transportation. And the most important ones used in intracity transportation are Gevran Street, Gazi Street, Ekinciler Street and İstasyon Street. Besides these roads, there are some secondary ones, that provide main transportation connections around

railway and housing areas. The roads going out from Dağ Gate, Çift Gate, Urfa Gate and Mardin Gate get connected to the outer transportation system. The main axis, which generate the transformation web, connect Suriçi District to north and south directions.

The typology of the roads that connect the roads in Suriçi, change in Yenisehir district into grid system. A similar road system can be seen in Bağlar District. But in Kayapınar district, there is a radial road system centered by Elazığ-Şanlıurfa main-road. And tertiary roads are defined as the ones located in city center or housing complexes and make the connection with those areas.



## **Pedestrian traffic**

In the city of Diyarbakır, more than half of the trips are done by foot. In Suriçi (inner city walls) district, Gazi and İnönü Streets and Balıkçılarbaşı zone and in Yenişehir district, Ekinciler Street and the secondary streets that are connected to it are the roads which are mostly used by the pedestrians. Before the extension of the city through peripheries, due to the central functions and compact settlements located in Suriçi, people mostly made their trips by foot. But then with the increase of the population and new settlements located on Elazığ and Urfa Roads, people started to use their own cars or dolmuş.

## **Two-wheeler vehicles**

The usage of two-wheeler vehicles (bicycle, scooter and motorcycle) changes according to the climate and topography of the city. And because of the topography of Diyarbakır, bicycle which is a nature compatible vehicle, is suitable and easy to use in the city. It is also a sportive and entertaining activity but according to the surveys, citizens of Diyarbakır only use it for transportation.

## **Taxis**

The usage of taxi is not common in Diyarbakır for inhabitants. There are approximately 1800 licenced taxis inhere in 150 taxistands. Taxis use standard prices for specific directions. So this make the taxis cheaper if compared to other cities (that are equal to Diyarbakır in terms of population especially)



## **Minibuses (dolmuş)**

Nearly all the transportation in the city is provided by dolmuş. There are 300 private dolmuş, carrying 200.000 passangers each day. (2005) The dolmuşs, dependent to four different cooperatives work on four main line, use thirty-two different routes. The cost of dolmuş is 1.25 TL and it is the easiest way to reach a place. The map of dolmuş stops are not prepared yet by the municipality but there are signboards on the streets.



## **Private / Municipality owned Buses**

The busses are owned by two cooperatives and also municipality. People should have a special card to get on the buses. (some drivers also take money if the passenger do not have the card, but not all)



# Conclusion

Diyarbakır is a city full of potentials (rich cultural heritage, nature, location, etc)but also there are some weaknesses (the conflict, the region’s status in Turkey, poverty, migrants, etc.) that made the city stay behind from the other cities in the country.

## SWOT ANALYSIS

### Socio-economical Structure

|  | Strengths   | Weaknesses   |
|--|---|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being a service oriented zone</li> <li>• Strong transportation web</li> <li>• Historical and cultural richness</li> <li>• Having important values for cultural and historical tourism</li> <li>• Natural springs, productive agriculture fields, mine sources, water reservoirs to be used in agriculture and industry</li> <li>• Productive fields suitable for irrigation</li> <li>• High young population</li> <li>• Existense of social projects for disadvantaged groups</li> <li>• Existense of projects by Municipality to make the corporate structure stronger</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulties in attracting the attention of inverstors to the region</li> <li>• Lack of sectors with high employment opportunities</li> <li>• Insufficiency of industrial facilities which can make a connection with international</li> <li>• High immigration rate from rural areas to the city</li> <li>• Lack of qualified man power</li> <li>• High rate of unemployment</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• The reflection of problems in rural life to the city as a result of immigration</li> <li>• Lack of accomodation for tourism</li> <li>• Lack of cooperation and coordination between the institutions/ corporations</li> <li>• The structure which causes authorisation struggles between the corporations in terms of planning</li> <li>• Lack of planning units in the municipalities</li> </ul> |
|  | Opportunities   | Threats  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being a part of Turkey’s biggest project: GAP (Southeastern Anatolia Project)</li> <li>• Being a limelight/ attraction center in terms of urban and regional problems both nationally and internationally</li> <li>• Having plans for coordination between non-governmental organisations, Local Agenda 21 and local authorities</li> <li>• Containing the right to approve and make the plans in municipalities themselves</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not being perceived as an important center of the region, by Regional Development Agencies and Statistical Territorial Units</li> <li>• The risk of political instability effects on the city and its future</li> <li>• Expected migration wave due to agricultural policy</li> <li>• The tendency of the local capital’s move out of the city</li> <li>• High population growth rate</li> </ul>  |

## Natural Structure and Resources, Spatial Structure

| Strengths  | Weaknesses  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A defined macroform placed on the center of historical city core</li> <li>• Emergence of traditional and modern cooperation in terms of formation of a center</li> <li>• The protection of natural values like Tigris(Dicle) River and Hevsel Gardens</li> <li>• The development of industry on the main roads</li> <li>• Not having a heavy traffic not only intracity but also interurban</li> <li>• Easy to settle topographical structure</li> <li>• Low risk in terms of earthquakes and land quality</li> <li>• Being under the threshold value in terms of air, water and noise pollution</li> <li>• Existence of public lands on the extension areas of the city</li> <li>• Synchronical preparation of master plan and main transportation plan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High density and low qualified housing areas</li> <li>• Insufficient infrastructure and social features</li> <li>• Existence of gecekondu and collapse areas</li> <li>• Existence of narrow streets and cul-de-sacs that do not lead the service access</li> <li>• Lack of public transportation and condensation in the city center</li> <li>• Lack of usable public areas in the city center</li> <li>• Macroform whose development is limited with the thresholds</li> <li>• Lack of forests and sustainable/ enough green areas</li> </ul> |
| Opportunities  | Threats   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility to use of public areas (which are privatised) for public usage</li> <li>• Greening projects of some institutions to improve the quality of urban environment</li> <li>• Having control on the rural areas' development with the help of new laws which extends the control areas of municipalities</li> <li>• Solvable environmental problems</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuity of threats of gecekondu and occupation of public lands</li> <li>• Local politics which can make decisions on places not appropriate for the plans</li> <li>• Local politics which use the structuring to keep the employment alive in construction sector</li> <li>• Use of agriculture areas for non-agriculture purposes</li> <li>• Some central institutions' rights to make plans</li> </ul>  |

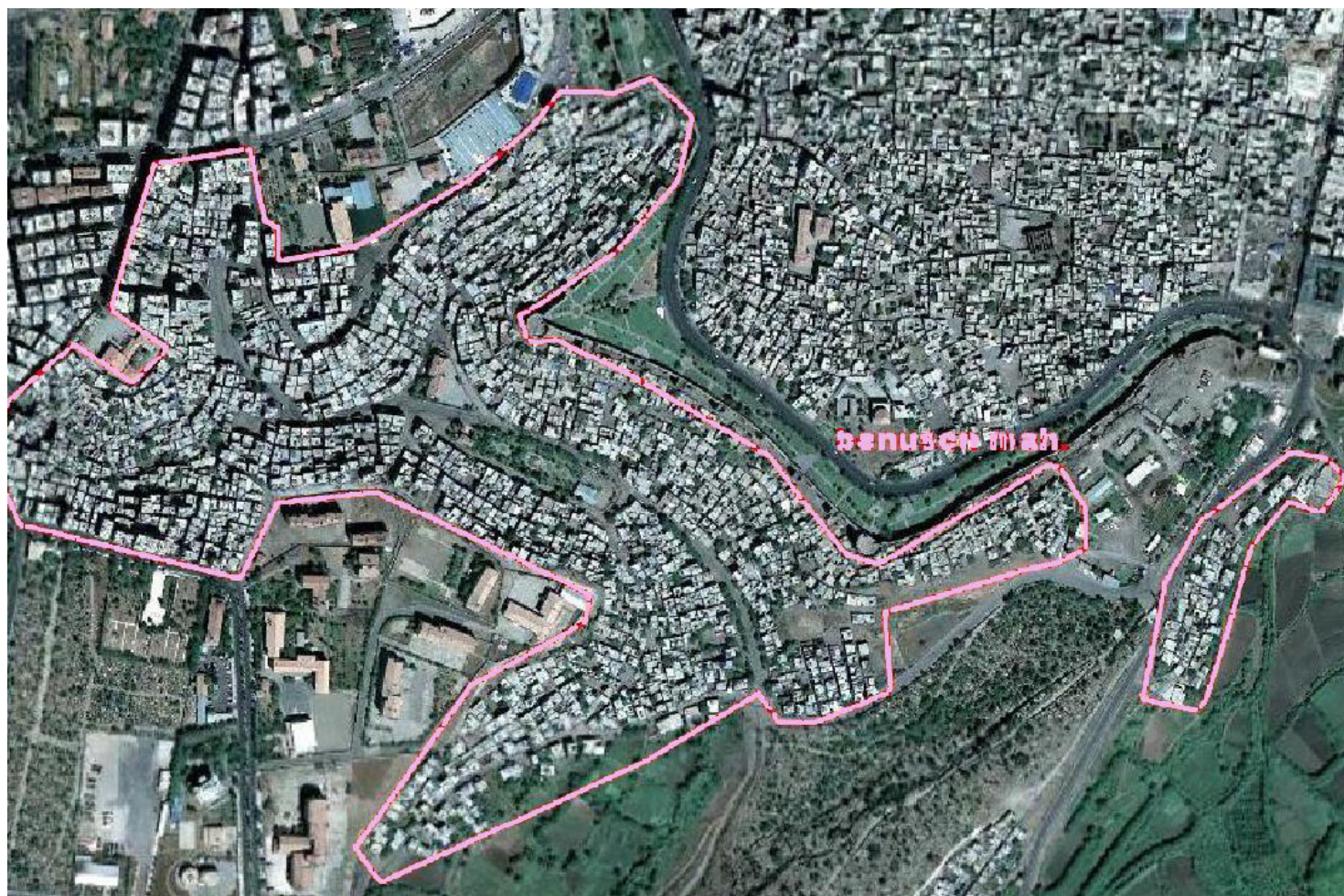
# Ben U Sen



## Historical and Geographical information

Ben u Sen tower was built in the Ottoman Era. Starting from the 1960s, it has always been an attractive and suitable district for the migrants coming from the rural areas. It is so closed to Tigris river and Hevsel Gardens, so people could work in those gardens or make agriculture, produce food and sell them. The development of this neighbourhood has always been “gecekondü” type, so people –when moving this area- know that they will find someone like themselves and will not feel like a stranger.

The settlement area extended till 2000's and reached the size of 36ha. The extension area of the district is limited by the city walls in the north-east, highrise buildings of Şehitlik district in west, schools in the south west and the cemetery in the south/ south-west.



The first migrants arriving in Ben U Sen settled in an agricultural land. Until the 1970s, the area was covered by a small forest, farms and mills, remembered as Armenian mills. Urbanization started around the 1970s, and became problematic in the 1980s. Ben U Sen was limited by a watercourse in the middle, which is now flowing underground. The middle area

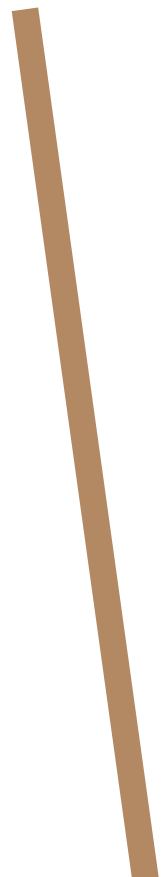
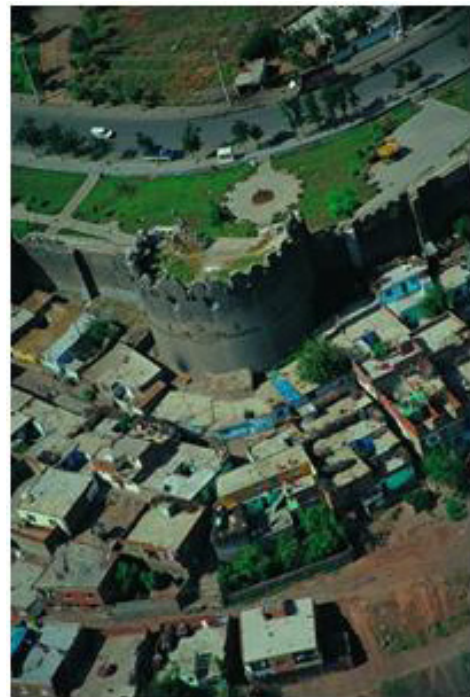
of Ben U Sen started being built during the 1980s. This area became the center of Ben U Sen, with a main road, a park and infrastructures : a school, a mosque, a dispensary and a laundry were built. Most shops and cafes are now settled along this main road.

During the process of urbanization of Ben U Sen, the price of the land increased dramatically. The first houses were built for cheap, but with the massive arrival of migrants in the 1980s, the space started being a scarce resource. During the 1990s and 2000s, many families fleeing the countryside needed in emergency a place to stay : some inhabitants already settled in Ben U Sen, and legal owners since the amnesty laws (1980s) speculated on this. Several families got hosted in the same houses and, according to inhabitants arriving at that time, rents increased strongly, competing with the ones in Ofis District.

Like in many other “gecekondu” areas, illegal housing and urban sprawl are big problems for Ben u Sen. Due to the insufficiency in the infrastructure (water, electricity system, etc.) , reaching social and technical services are difficult in the

district, so this makes the area away from the modern life. There are 3949 houses in Ben u Sen, and average household is seven people. Approximately 28.000 people living in the district and this density cause problems in terms of socio-economical, cultural, physical structure and qualified accomodation. “Gecekondu”s are located next to the city walls are limiting the access and the view of the iconic towers of the city.

The settlement pattern is formed with one or two-storey masonry houses which are located adjacent to the city walls. When moved away from the city walls, the housing typology changes to reinforced concrete gecekondu. However the plans of the gecekondu and the parcellings were not overlap so the empty parcels turned into housing areas after some time.



According to the Suriçi (inner city walls) Protection Plan, a 50 meter wide green area adjacent to the city walls is suggested to protect the historical city walls and the areas next to the city walls in Ben u Sen are placed in this green protection belt.

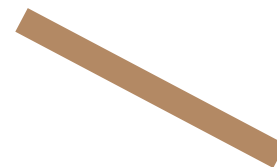
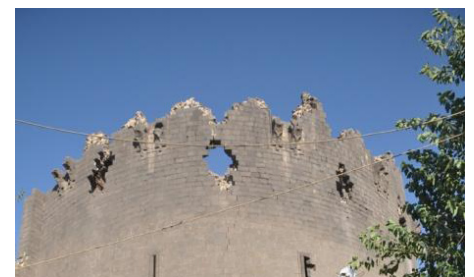
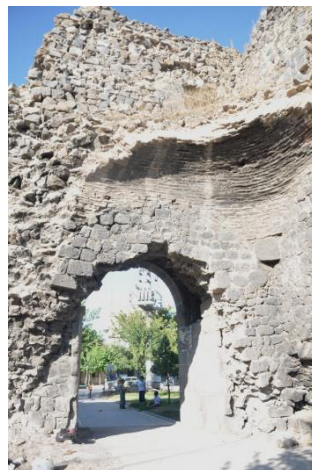
Proposed green belt



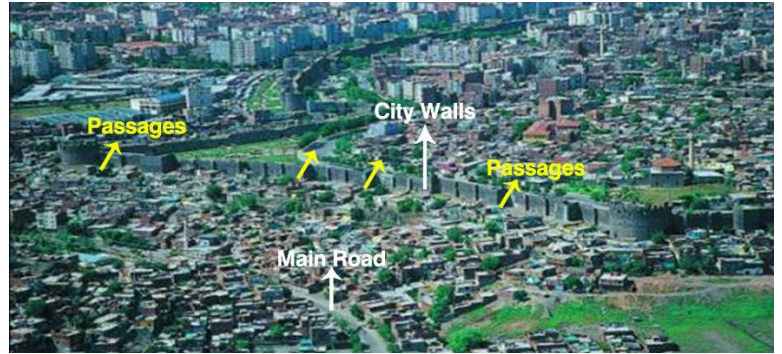
In the process of time and with the population growth, the inhabitants whose houses are situated on an important place (like on a main road), were raised or turned into trading areas.



People prefer to settle next to the city walls because of the passages in the city walls that lead them to Suriçi (inner city walls).



## The passages from the city walls



Ben U Sen is one of the socially broken-down districts of Diyarbakır, with low income families living in insufficient transportation web, highly dense neighbourhood and technically and socially problematic area. The inhabitants are isolated from the rest of the city, the lack of public transportation being extremely problematic for a population seldom owning cars. According to the child protection association "ÇAÇA", some children have never left the district. Dolmuş do not come here, because, as private companies, they do not think they will get enough money from neighbourhoods like Ben U Sen. Many inhabitants also suffer from the drama of eviction from their village, losing their home, fields and animals.

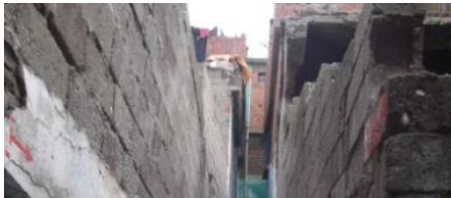
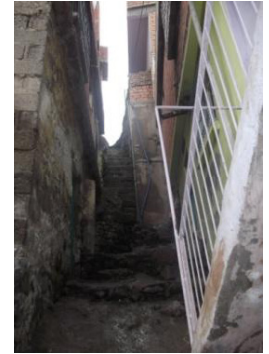
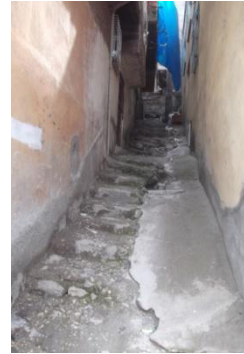
The inhabitants face not only the poverty but also the unemployment, and because of this reason people cannot move to planned urban areas. Sporadic income prevents them from accessing TOKI housing, as reimbursements should be paid monthly.

A social pattern, special to the inhabitants of Ben u Sen, formed in the area because the immigrants prefer to live in the areas near to their relatives' houses and the cooperative lifestyle like in the rural areas. They believe that they can survive in the city life only by living near to the ones that live the similar lives with them (shared tandouris, bathrooms, cultural facilities, etc.) The rural immigrants bring their culture of tandouris to the cities and they are using them (mostly share them with other inhabitants) to make bread, or barbecue some vegetables. Those tandouris can be located in an empty space between two houses, in front of the houses, in the street, in the gardens, in the roofs or even next to the citywalls.

## Tandouris



The aim of the master plan prepared in 1984 was to control the density in the city, and the macroform of the city was shaped with the application of the masterplan in 1985. However, the local government faced some problems to apply those plans in the whole city. Also in the same period, a zoning plan for Sehitlik district was made to stop the illegal housing and control the population density, but after the high rate in immigration after 1985, the plan remained incapable. The plan, divides Ben u Sen into two parts by the main road in the neighbourhood, did not work because of the rooted settlements and again, the population growth.



One of the biggest problems in the neighbourhood is the width of the streets/ passages between the houses. (1m in some places) Those passages make the life harder for the inhabitants, especially in case of emergency (for fire engine or ambulance)

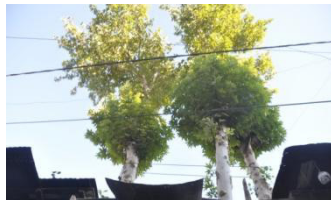
Problems like; pollution (unhealthy garbage collection), bad infrastructure (the pipes for the potable and wastewater placed on the ground) or inappropriate electricity pylons (located in narrow streets, so close to the houses) occur because of the uncontrolled and unplanned settlements.





# Landscape

Of course there cannot be found any professionally planned gardens in the neighbourhood but people try to make their houses look better via the help of nature. And also nature itself tries to survive in this unplanned neighbourhood within the high number of buildings.

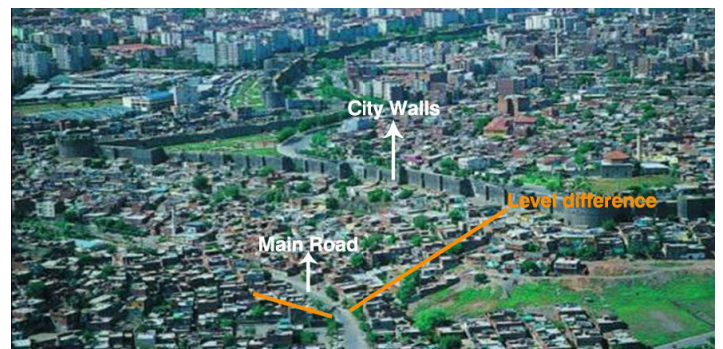


Also there are many Mulberry trees on the streets so children have the opportunity to pick fresh fruits from the trees.



## Topography

Ben U Sen is located on a valley, in which there used to be small water body was flowing. There is a visible level difference between two hills and the bottom of the valley.



## Public Places

The public facilities in the neighbourhood are; a laundry house (will be explained deeply in the following parts), a community center, a small mosque (mescit), three mosques, one health-care center, one nursery school, one primary school, two carpentry course and one Quran course.



The fountain



The park in front of Laundry house



Turgut Özal Primary School



## Laundry house

Diyarbakir Great Municipality established 4 public laundry houses in the poorest neighborhoods : Ben U Sen and Aziziye in Yenişehir, Hasırlı and Alipaşa in Surici (Old Town). They provide free laundry facilities for everyone, but also has an important role in social development. They are places where women socialize, get consultancy and support, and where literacy classes are open.

According to the DIKASUM (Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality Center for Research and Application on Women's Issues), every year more than 5,000 women benefit from these laundries. Washers and driers were operated by women from 3 696 households. 9 literacy classes were opened with the Foundation for Mother and Child Education and the Public Training Centers and 138 women had literacy certificates. More than 2,000 women were directed to relevant institutions, were offered individual and group consultancy on reproductive health, family planning, first aid, breast-feeding, sexually transmitted diseases, vaccination and child development, participated in consciousness raising workshops organized jointly by civil institutions such as Local Agenda 21, UNICEF, Women for Women's Human Rights or Amnesty International and 613 houses were visited to lend social and individual support to women and families in the face of events like death, birth, accident, sickness.



Ben U Sen

## Urban furniture and physical and social structure of streets

People (especially women and children) spend their times on the streets in front of their houses with their neighbours. But due to the lack of urban furniture, people use the steps in front of their houses as seats.

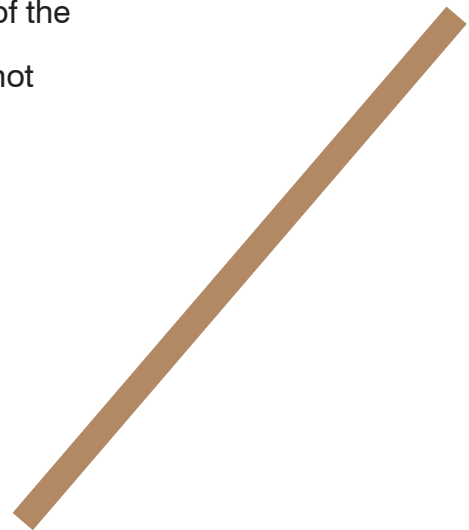
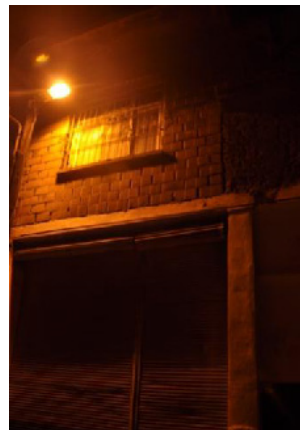
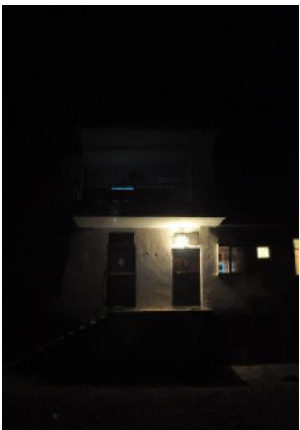


There are so many stepped streets, difficult to climb for old people.



## Ben U Sen at Night

The neighbourhood is generally dark at nights. Only lights are the ones coming from the houses. This is also true in other parts of the city, as many narrow streets do not have public light. Even though many old inhabitants explained that they would not go out after the evening prayer, afraid of insecurity and theft.



## Sociological information

### Population

The population of Ben U Sen is approximately 28.000 . In the district, Sehitlik, the population density is 210 people per hectare.

Most of the population has sporadic work, and seasonal jobs (daily or seasonal agriculture and construction jobs , animal slaughtering, selling fruits and vegetables in the street or in bazaars) with no health care. Most of the population has access to the green card, granting access to public hospitals, but some of them even do not have this opportunity.

60% of the population in Ben U Sen is illeterate. Total income of the family : 2/3 under 500 TL, 1/3 under 1000 TL.

### Integration with the city

The integration of the neighbourhood with the city is not so strong. There are some people even do not go out of the district or their houses. The lack of transportation in the area can be a reason for this disintegration. Generally people go to the city center, or other districts for work, or to see their relatives/friends. For majority of the population, Ben U Sen is a good neighbourhood, but far away from the bus stops.

### Social relationships

According to many people's thoughts living in Diyarbakır, the neighbourhood relationships in Ben u Sen is different than nearly every district in Diyarbakır. It is commonly accepted that there is a strong social relationship depending on cooperating in Ben U Sen. People tend to continue their habits (cooking bread in tandouris, drying foods together, etc) when they migrate from a village. But according to the questionnaire done by the Great Municipality, 20 % of the people said that they are sharing some works with their neighbours, 10.2% wash clothes together, 17.4% of them dry vegetables, make tomate sauce together and 9.1% of them cook with their neighbours. But still a high number of inhabitants visit their neighbours often to have a cup of tea and chat(75.8%)

## Economy

People in Ben U Sen generally work

- As worker in brick factory
- As seasonal worker in constructions
- As seasonal worker in gardens (also Hevsel Gardens)
- As seller/ porter in bazaars
- As seller/ porter in wholesale market
- In slaughterhouses
- If they have animals, they cut and sell them (illegally)

People working in the factories generally do not have any insurance from their company. When they ask for the insurance from their bosses they face the risk of getting fired.



A slaughtherhouse in the basement

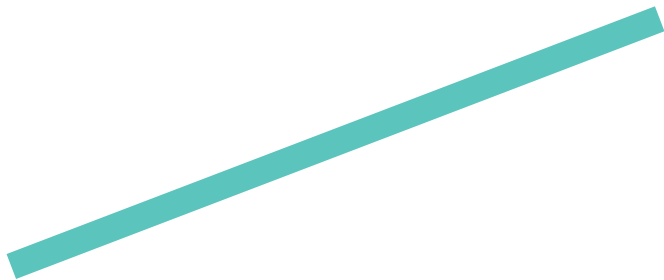
| What is the job of head of the family? | Percentage (%) |
|--|----------------|
| Does not have a continuous job         | 56.4           |
| Street seller / hawker                 | 3.4            |
| Retired                                | 1.9            |
| Worker in constructions                | 13.6           |
| Trader?                                | 4.2            |
| Other                                  | 11.0           |
| Cobbler                                | 0.4            |

| What is the total income of the family? | Percentage (%) |
|---|----------------|
| 0-500 TL                                | 66.3           |
| 501-1000TL                              | 30.3           |
| 1001-1500TL                             | 2.7            |

| If the head of the house does not have a continuous job, what was his/her last job? | Percentage (%) |
|---|----------------|
| Unqualified worker  | 38.3           |
| Fruit seller  | 33.0           |
| Tea maker   | 0.8            |
| Plaster cost workman  | 0.8            |
| Baker   | 0.4            |
| Iron workman  | 0.4            |
| Painter   | 0.8            |
| Driver  | 0.4            |
| Street hawker/seller  | 1.9            |
| Agriculture worker  | 1.9            |
| Marketing man   | 0.4            |
| Seasonal worker   | 0.4            |

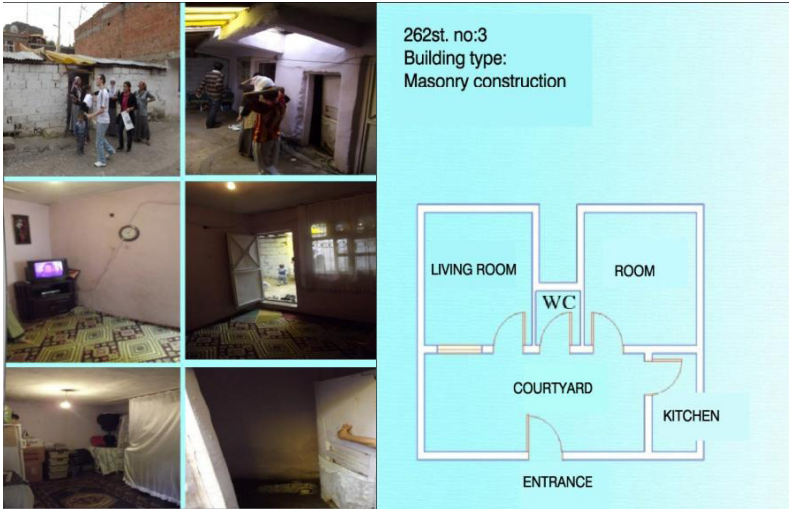


# Living in Ben U Sen



# Housing

**Map of housings** (Dicle University Department of Architecture “Renewal Potentials of Ben U Sen District Research and Evaluation Report “). Other maps available.



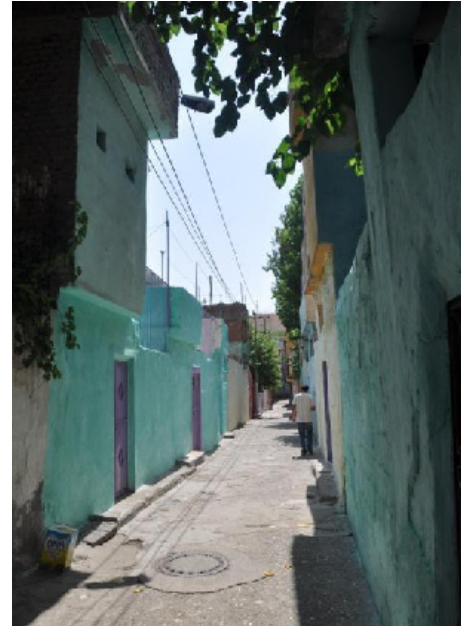
262st. no:3  
Building type:  
Masonry construction

Floor plan labels: LIVING ROOM, ROOM, WC, COURTYARD, KITCHEN, ENTRANCE




224st. no:31  
Building type:  
Reinforced Concrete

Floor plan labels: ROOM, BATHROOM, STORE ROOM, KITCHEN, WC, HALL, ENTRANCEWAY, SHOP, ROOM, +0.50 ENTRANCE



A view from 255th



262st. no:5  
Building type:  
Masonry construction

Floor plan labels: KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM, BATHROOM, ROOM, ENTRANCE



A view from 261st street

## Land ownership

There are approximately 2271 buildings and 3949 houses in Ben u Sen, and the lands are belonged to the municipality, minister of tresury or private persons. According to the information gathered from the Great Municipality, 160 of the house owners get the land-title with the zoning amnesty in 1994. And according to the information from Yenisehir Municipality, no building licences were given after 1994.



Airconditions in some houses

## Households

Two thirds of houses are inhabited by families between 5 and 10 persons. Some houses (20%) have two families in the same house. 60% of the population owns its home, with legal title deeds or not, and 30% rent.

People have tv, fridge for great majority, washing machine and oven is also quite common.

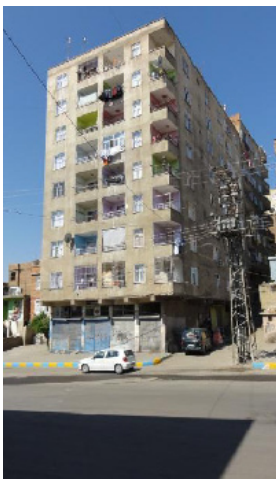
When asked if they would rather live in another district, 95% said yes, mainly in Dicle Kent, or Ofis.

Most housing are two to three rooms, with a living room, a kitchen and a room. If asked if they would like to change something in the house, mostly said they want to add a room first, second courtyard, and third to make rooms bigger. Children generally study in the living room. Size of the house really diverse : one third between 40m<sup>2</sup> and 70m<sup>2</sup>, one third till 90m<sup>2</sup>, a last one over 90m<sup>2</sup>

| Number of household | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1                   | 0,8            |
| 5                   | 15,5           |
| 7                   | 12,5           |
| 9                   | 9,5            |
| 10                  | 4,5            |
| 13                  | 1,5            |
| 17                  | 1,1            |
| 21                  | 0,4            |
| 27                  | 0,4            |

| Number of families living in the house | Percentage (%) |
|--|----------------|
| 1                                      | 80,7           |
| 2                                      | 16,3           |
| 3                                      | 1,9            |
| 4                                      | 0,8            |
| 6                                      | 0,4            |

| Does the house belong to you or do you rent it? | Percentage (%) |
|---|----------------|
| Belongs to us                                   | 63,6           |
| Rental  | 30,7           |
| Free of charge                                  | 5,7            |





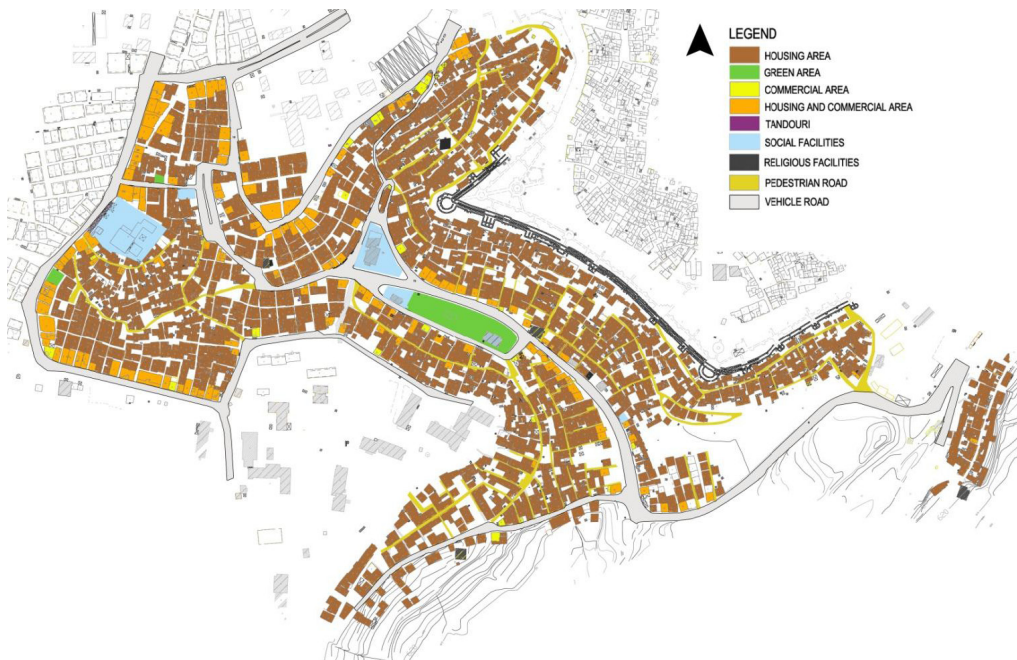
## Heating

There are mainly four types of heating used in the neighbourhood. These are; heating stove, electric heater, bottles-gas heater and central heating. According to the questionnaire done by the municipality, 196 of the inhabitants use heating stove, 128 use electric heater, 24 use bottles-gas heater and 18 of them use central heating.

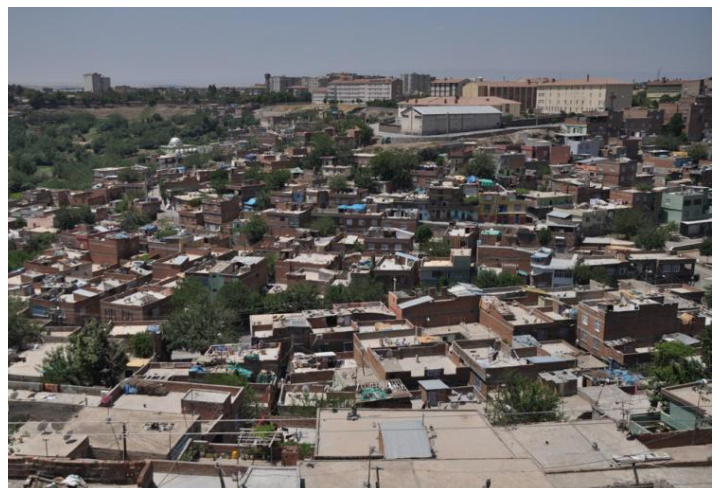
People using heating stove use wood or dried dung for heating. They make them ready and store them in the summer, and use it in the winter.



## Landuse



| Function            | Area m <sup>2</sup>    |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Housing Areas       | 31.1139 m <sup>2</sup> |
| Green Areas         | 5.251 m <sup>2</sup>   |
| Religious Areas     | 1.163 m <sup>2</sup>   |
| Primary School Area | 2.565 m <sup>2</sup>   |
| Health Facilities   | 704 m <sup>2</sup>     |
| Laundry House       | 348 m <sup>2</sup>     |
| Commercial Center   | 26.881 m <sup>2</sup>  |
| Roads               | 58.506 m <sup>2</sup>  |
| Total Area          | 411.871 m <sup>2</sup> |



# Infrastructure

## Garbage

Garbage is collected by Yenişehir Municipality everyday once at 10 o'clock at night. But the inhabitants force municipality to change it to twice a day, but they say that the municipality does not have that much worker/ equipment (trucks) to collect the garbage twice a day. Because of this lack of service from municipality the streets are generally full of garbage, and the children play next to them.



## Electricity

It is claimed that so many people are using illegal electricity in the neighbourhood but the number of the houses cannot be determined.

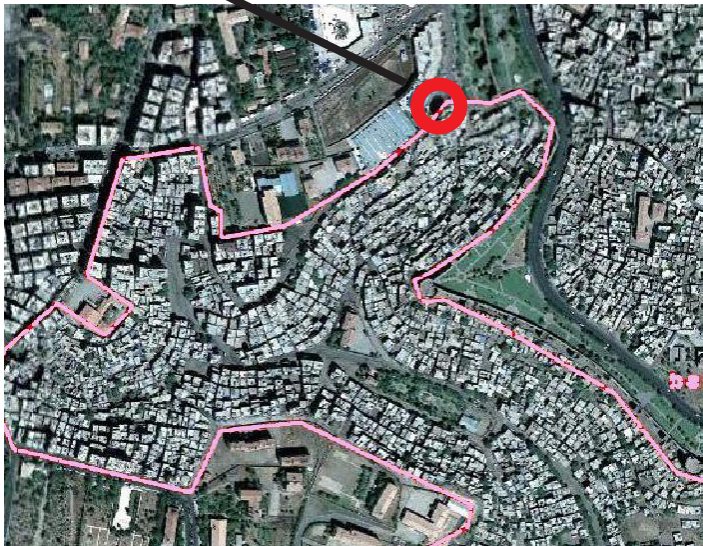
The electricity pylons located on the streets and also the cables forming a web on the skyview of the neighbourhood, cause visual pollution.

## Water

The water system in the neighbourhood is insufficient. According to the interviews done with the inhabitants, there were floods in the main road until 10 years ago, because of the water accumulated in Ofis District. The pipes are located on the roads and sometimes they burst and cause some difficulties for the inhabitants. There is no water system in some of the houses, they can only use the water in their courtyard.



## Bus / Dolmuş



## Transportation

There are no buses or dolmuş coming to Ben U Sen. The closest bus/ dolmuş stop is located in Urfa Gate (app. 10 min walking) Some people use motorbikes and bicycle or cars – if they have-



## Way of Life

The inhabitants' daily habits differentiate accordingly to the gender and the age. Men generally go to work –if they have one- in the morning. If they do not have any jobs, they go to specific places where they might be selected as daily workers, generally for construction. If they do not find any work, they would go to tea houses in the neighborhood to play cards, meet friends and chat.

Women are generally busy with the children and housework at home. Some may work outside, in the brick factory or cleaning houses, but it remains rare. The most praised and accepted life for women is to stay at home. In their free times, they usually sit in front of their houses, go to a neighbour's house to chat and sometimes go together to the green area located next to the walls to have some tea.

Either because the wife married and older man, who passed the way, because the husband got injured at work or is in jail, many households lack of men working. In most cases they live thanks to social benefit and family solidarity. The national aid for the elders is 300 TL for 3 month, and they receive 30 TL per children who goes to school.

Children usually attend school, some of them go to ÇAÇA children house, a kind of nursery school, with classes and activities, free of charge, and they play in the streets or in the parks (next to the wall, or even Sümer park). However, several children have to work, either in a shop or in the streets, cleaning the car glasses, selling tissues or polishing shoes. Introduced this way to parts of the city they do not know, they often experience rejection and discrimination at a very young age. According to some teachers, it happens that schools refuse Ben U Sen children because the size of the class is already too big (it is not rare to have 38 children in one class) and because these young boys are expected to be violent, or drug addicts.

The old people spend their time at home, mainly going out to the mosque or to the Laundry house to meet some neighbours and chat.

People generally stay in the neighbourhood and do not leave it, because it does not have that much connection and integration with the city. They also know that Ben U Sen is seen as a dangerous place, because of drug problems and poverty. Several inhabitants stated that “we are poor, so no one cares about us”.



## Interviews with the inhabitants



### Pakize Pala

She is 73 years old, living in Ben U Sen for 50 years, and her house is right in the center. She bought it with her husband when they arrived, and sold their jewelry to make repairs. Since then they bought another house for their sons. One of her children is an ironworker. The other one, like his father, works in the animal bazaar. Her husband does not work anymore, he is losing his mind, is often violent to her. She spends most of her time at home, and comes sometimes to the laundry house. She is happy with the state of Ben U Sen, compared to before. Now the municipality cleans, and there is a laundry house

### Gurbet Tezel

She is 10 years old, and all of her friends are living in Ben U Sen. She goes to school, and attending to ÇAÇA children house for several years. She generally plays in the street, buys candies in the shops and sits and eats in the park. She would like to have a playground in Ben U Sen, like in Sümer Park. She likes Ben U Sen, but wishes it was cleaner.



## Living in Ben U Sen



### **Mrs. Livaze**

She has lived in Ben u Sen for 10 years, in the western part of the district. She has 3 boys and 4 girls. One has already left, so they are now 8 living in the same house (2+1). One of the boys will live with relatives in the city (Ofis) to go to a better high school. Her husband does not work anymore, he is “a fool doing nothing”. Only the young boys work, as the father does not want the girls to. They collect garbage in the street, making a few liras a day. The family pays the rent and eats with the help of State aid (for elders and children).



### **Mrs. Hatun**

She is living in Ben U Sen for 21 years, close to the walls. Her husband is ill and blind, and they live with welfare aid. She often comes to the laundry, but does not go out after 6pm.

### **Mrs. Ösna**

She is 80 years old and living in Ben U Sen for 30 years. 5 people are living in the house (3+1), right next to the walls. She knows that because of this location, the house will be destroyed some day. The former mayor came in the late 1990s to tell that they would be relocated in new houses, but nothing happened. She does not have a proper title deed, but she pays all the bills (water, electricity) to prove that she lives here, so she would have a compensation if evicted. In Ali Pasa she saw that houses were being destroyed but nothing else was built since. She arrived from a village near Bismir which was burnt. The house was bought from a relative, at good price.

Her husband, who used to sell fruits in the bazaar, is now too old to work. One of her sons is in jail, but it is 4 hours away so she cannot see him. Another son came back to help the family, working as a painter in construction sites 10 days a month. He came from Antalya with his wife, and it is really hard for her to live in Ben U Sen.

She says she is too old to walk, so she generally does not get out. She finds many problems in living in Ben U Sen : there are no roads, and water flows in the house. They added concrete and a tarpaulin on the roof. She believes the neighborhood is dangerous now. Kids are taking drugs, fight and go to abandoned houses. Once, while she was at the mosque, thieves broke into her house.

### **Mr. İrfan**

He lived in Ben U Sen for 30 years, and 1 year ago, moved to Bağlar district. He still comes to Ben U Sen as the relationships here cannot be compared with any other districts. He has family members and friends here. He arrived with his family in the 1990s because of the village guard.

When he arrived, having lost his field and animals, he shared a house with another family and paid a very high rent. Then he moved to a house next to the garden, lived there for 4 years and then went to live in a house with a garden, in the southern part, for 10 years.

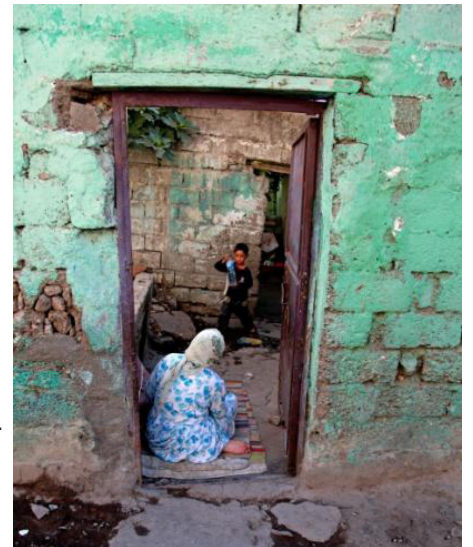
He also said that he does not usually speak to delegations coming in Ben U Sen : for 20 years there has been people coming there, and nothing changed.

## The needs of the inhabitants

In the survey conducted by the Municipality, Ben U Sen inhabitants stressed the following needs :

- Proper garbage collection
- Proper infrastructure
- Healthy environment
- Mainly ask for vocational schools and health facilities, culture and sport ones came second.
- Most need : a garden or an agriculture field, empty spaces for celebrations and special days, need of a courtyard for vegetables and daily life. A small minority of the inhabitants have animals
- Children generally want parks and sporting facilities in the neighbourhood

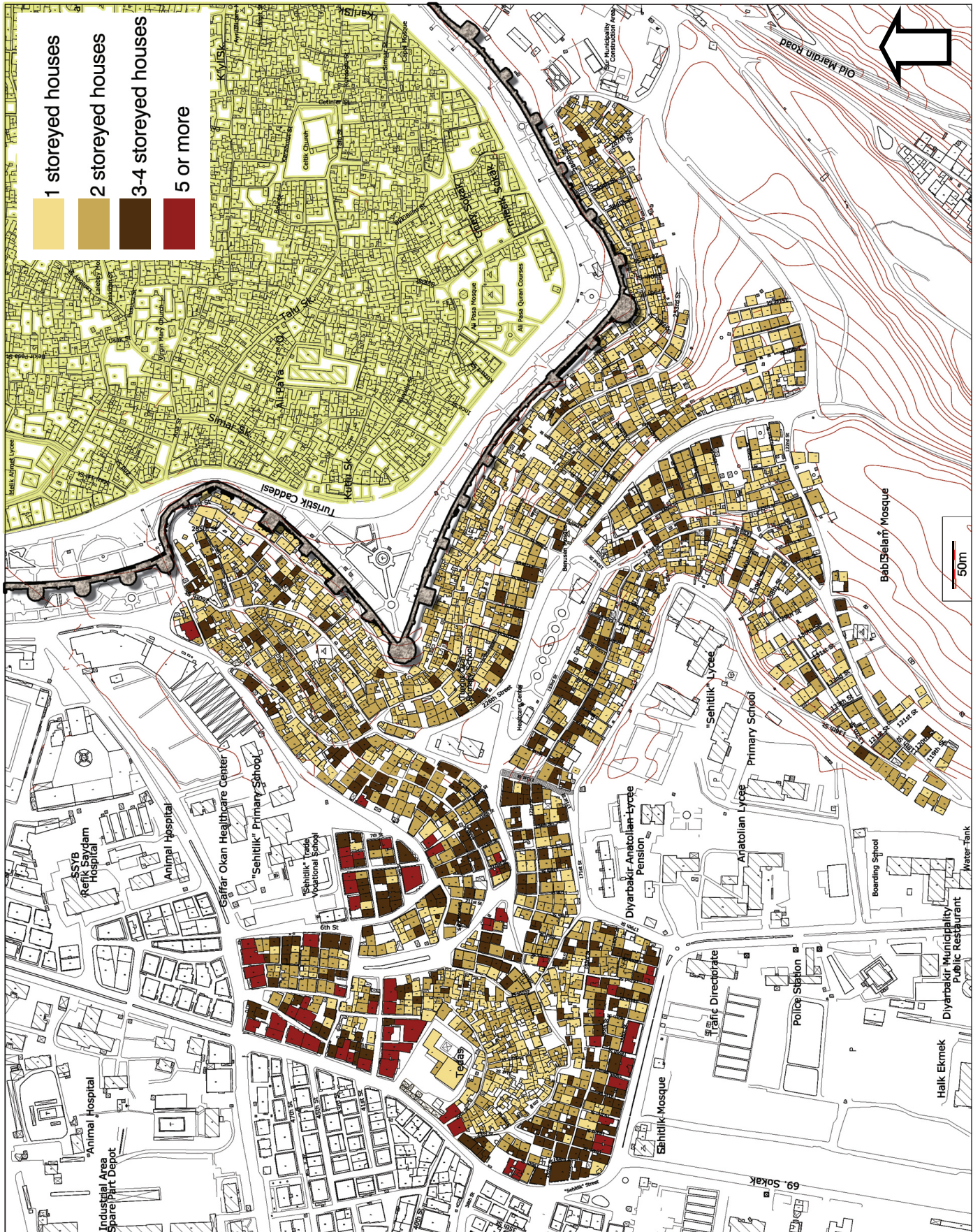
### Ben U Sen – from the frames of an artist, Emanuele Andreoli



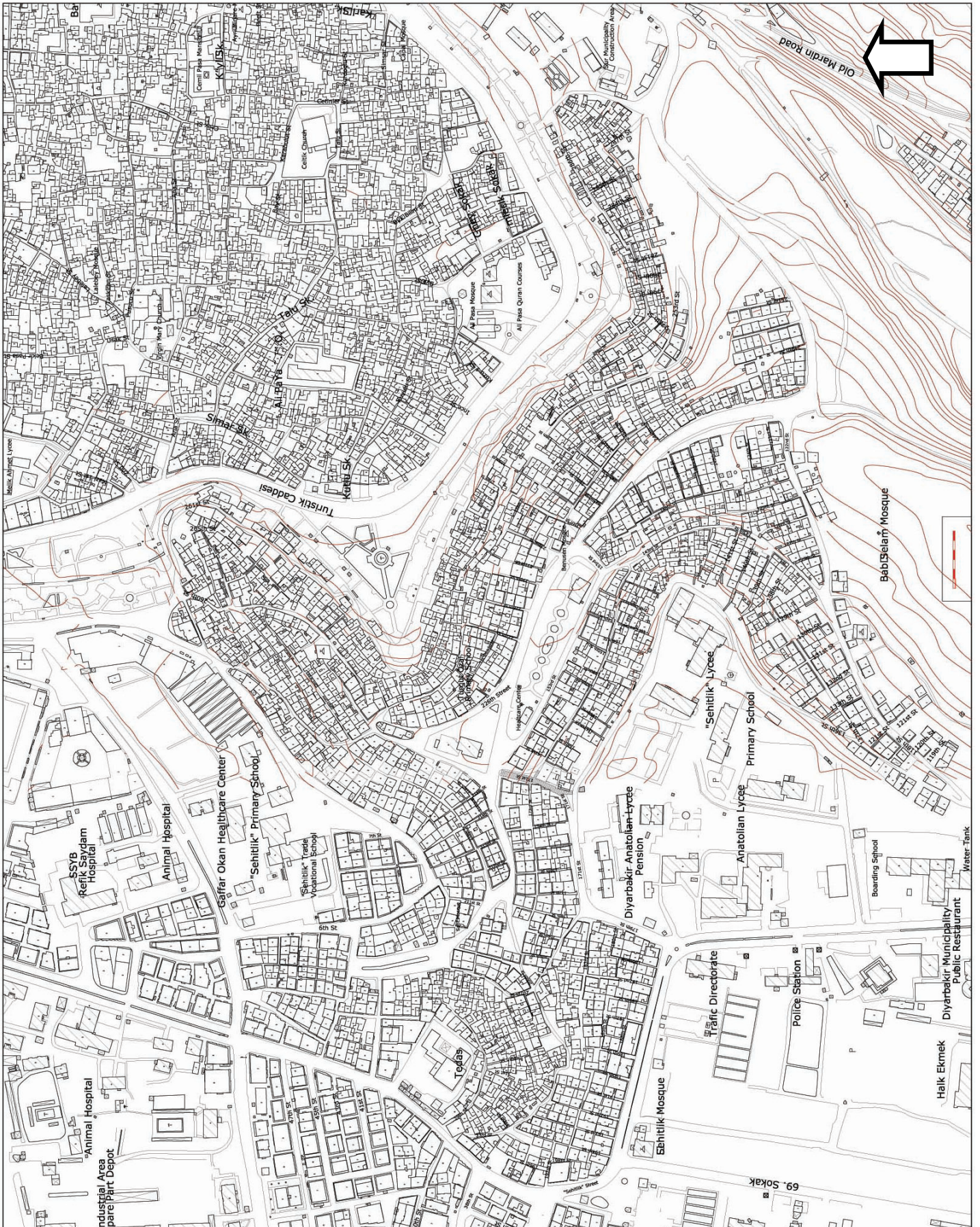
# Appendices



# Height of the Houses in Ben U Sen



# Base map of Ben U Sen

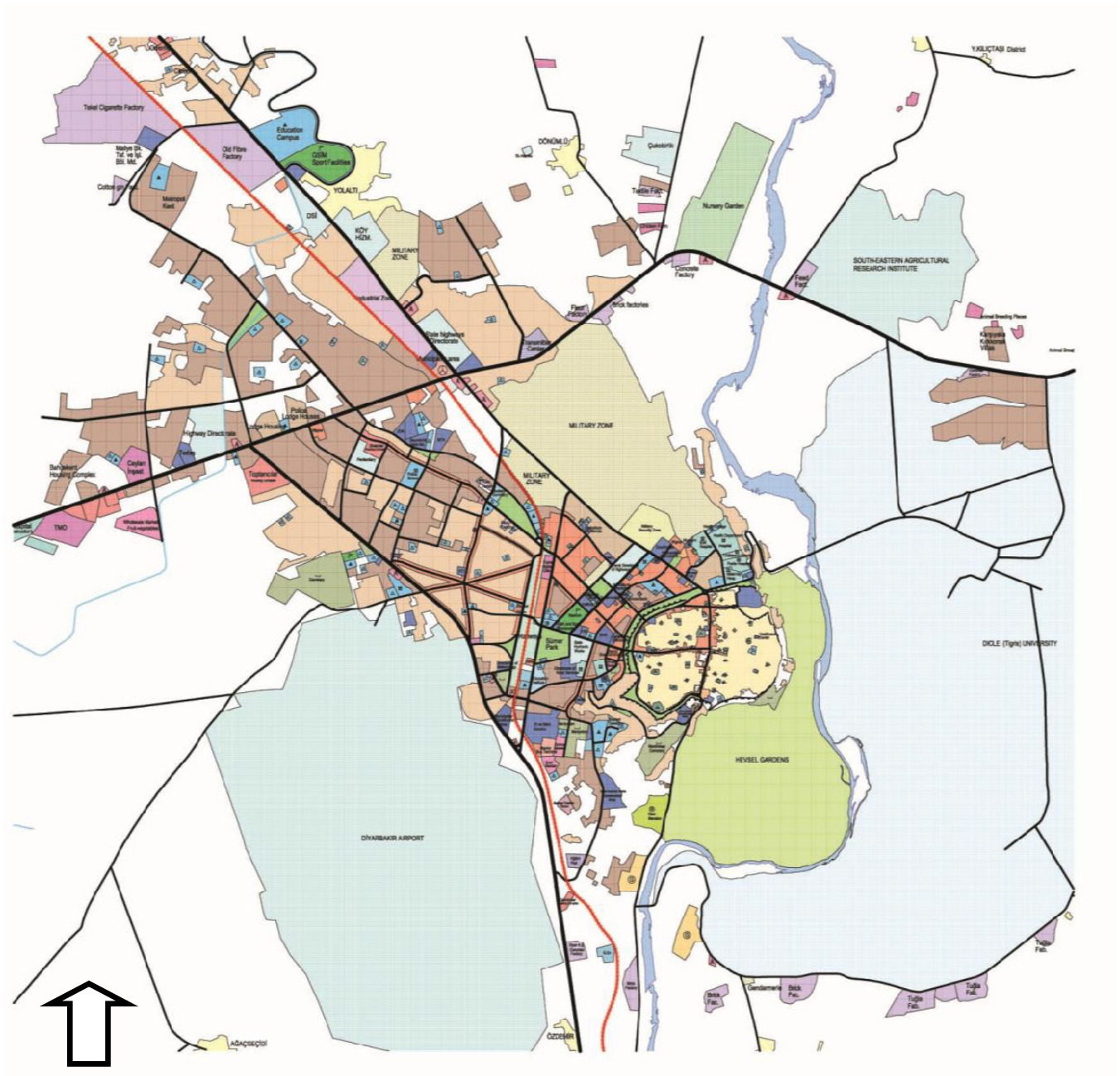




## Aerial view of Diyarbakır



# Diyarbakir city Landuse Plan



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL STRUCTURE ANALYSIS OF BEN U SEN DISTRICT (A research made by the municipality)

## 1- Physical conditions of the neighbourhood

In Ben u Sen, which is formed by the immigrants and low-income families, the population is approximately 10.000 and this makes the neighbourhood as an important part of the Sehitlik District. Ben u Sen, which is located just behind the city walls, in southern part of Diyarbakır, had a rapid population growth.

The neighbourhood, formed by the illegal settlements "gecekondu", faces environmental pollution problems because of the road system, the old electrical system and the power cuts due to the usage of illegal electricity.

The dominant housing type in the neighbourhood is "Gecekondu" and many of them do not have the land title/ certificate of ownership. The physical conditions of the houses is not good and many of them has the bathroom, toilet and the kitchen in the same room.

In Ben u Sen, there is a laundry house of Metropolitan Municipality, an educational support club and youth center of Yenisehir Municipality and an institute aims to help the children of the district, named ÇAÇA (their slogan and the meaning of the abbreviation: "under the same roof with children")

One of the most important source of income in the neighbourhood is illegal slaughter which many families make a living with it.

## 2- Life, cooperation and neighbourhood relations in Ben U Sen

Immigrants tried to maintain their habits in the villages in cities. For examples many families still make their bread in "tandır" (a caved oven in the earth) by this method the cost decrease. And also husbandary was used to be their only source of income in the village, so they want to continue this in the city.

The cooperation and unity between families and neighbours still continue (generally). The only reason of the "broken cooperation web" can be shown as the size of poverty. Nowadays, thievery and pickpocketing are the most complained problems in the neighbourhood.

## 3- Intra-family relations

The most referred problem in the families is the lack of dialogue between the family members. If the father, who is responsible for bringing money to home is unemployed and could not meet his

children's needs, then the relations in the family start to be damaged and this leads the family members be alienated from each other.

The mothers are seen as a barrier between the children and the father. When the problems cannot be solved/overcome, generally women should face the results; sometimes the fathers treat their wives badly and sometimes they use force on them. And this is becoming a tradition in the families, and all of the family members are affected by these fights.

The children population is high in the district. Not having an enough number of schools and social facilities, cause many problems.

And many young people and children feel themselves excluded/ostracized by the rest of the city.

## 4- educational status

- The educational status is bad in the district, because:
- The number of students in the classrooms are over the average
- The proportion of women who are literate is so low
- Many children cannot go to school due to the economic reasons, and in many families if just one child could go to school, then they generally prefer the boys.
- The number of teachers is not enough
- Lack of education in mother tongue/ native language
- Some children cannot go to school because they have to work in the streets.
- Some of the families have to migrate in some seasons and because of this, children cannot go to school.
- Many of the needs of the children cannot be satisfied by their families.

## 5-Health status

If to look at the health problems in the district, the infrastructure and economical problems are nearly the only results. Due to the lack of nutrition, hygiene and the accomodation conditions cause big healt problems.

Some civil society organisations and non governmental organisations work on the health and hygiene issues in the district but the families generally cannot afford it.

Many of the inhabitants have green card (health card given to uninsured and poor people by the government )

## 6- Unemployment and economic structure

The economy of Diyarbakır, like the other cities in southeastern anatolia region, is not supported by the governmental industry and trade investments, so the employment opportunity is limited. Besides that, the conflict that continues for 30 years badly affected the economy of the region and the city. The unemployment become one of the most serious problems that immigrants face when they come to Diyarbakır. The jobs which they found are generally unqualified, temporary ones that based on physical strenght. These people, after migration, turned into unqualified workers in the urban areas. The lack of the chance to find a job or the quality of the jobs not only affect the economic structure, but also the family, social structure and relationships.

Men who want to protect their statues in the villages are acting selective when looking for a job (For example they do not want to collect the garbage or be a porter)

Some families bring their village habbits to the city like housbandary, slaughtering. Beside of all these, there are also some illegal working sectors like running a small market or hawking. The very first years of the immigration, men tried to protect the traditional structure of their families, by not allowing his wife or girls to work. But after some time, when the unemployment

become a serious problem, this habbits changed. For examples women started working as maid, or harvest in the fields and the girls started to sell tissues in the streets or collect garbage. The girls who are not sent to a school, generally work in carpet courses, cotton fields, brick factories or in the streets.

## 7- Seasonal working

As a result of compulsory immigration, the number of families work as seasonal worker increased. It is excepted as one of the most difficult jobs in terms of the working conditions and the salary. The first reason that people work seasonal workers is that they cannot find a proper job in Diyarbakır, and the second is the work they do in the field is familiar to them.

The families that work in the fields has very low income and they live in unhealthy conditions (places with no bathroom/ toilet) The lenght of the working hours of seasonal works affect the women and children that cannot start school on time.

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