

# Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Maternal Health Workshop

## WORKSHOP REPORT

 May 27, 2025

 TÜSEB  
Online

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# Message from the President

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Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) leads innovative studies conducted systematically in health sciences and technologies, providing scientific, technical, and financial support to practitioners and researchers. In this context, it acts with the mission of a domestic and national Türkiye in healthcare and the vision of becoming an international leader focused on R&D. With the motto "Science and Technology for Human Health," it seeks to bring new momentum and energy to the health sector. It supports scientific and technological studies with the potential to add value to our country and humanity, thereby increasing and sustaining Türkiye's competitiveness.

TAÇESE is one of the nine institutes established under TÜSEB. With the motto "Healthy Mother, Healthy Child, Healthy Generations," our Institute's objectives include ensuring the production, use, and effective application of techniques and methods for identifying causes and for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases related to maternal, child, and adolescent health; establishing collaborations and partnerships with relevant private, foundation, and public institutions and organizations; and supporting entrepreneurship in these areas.

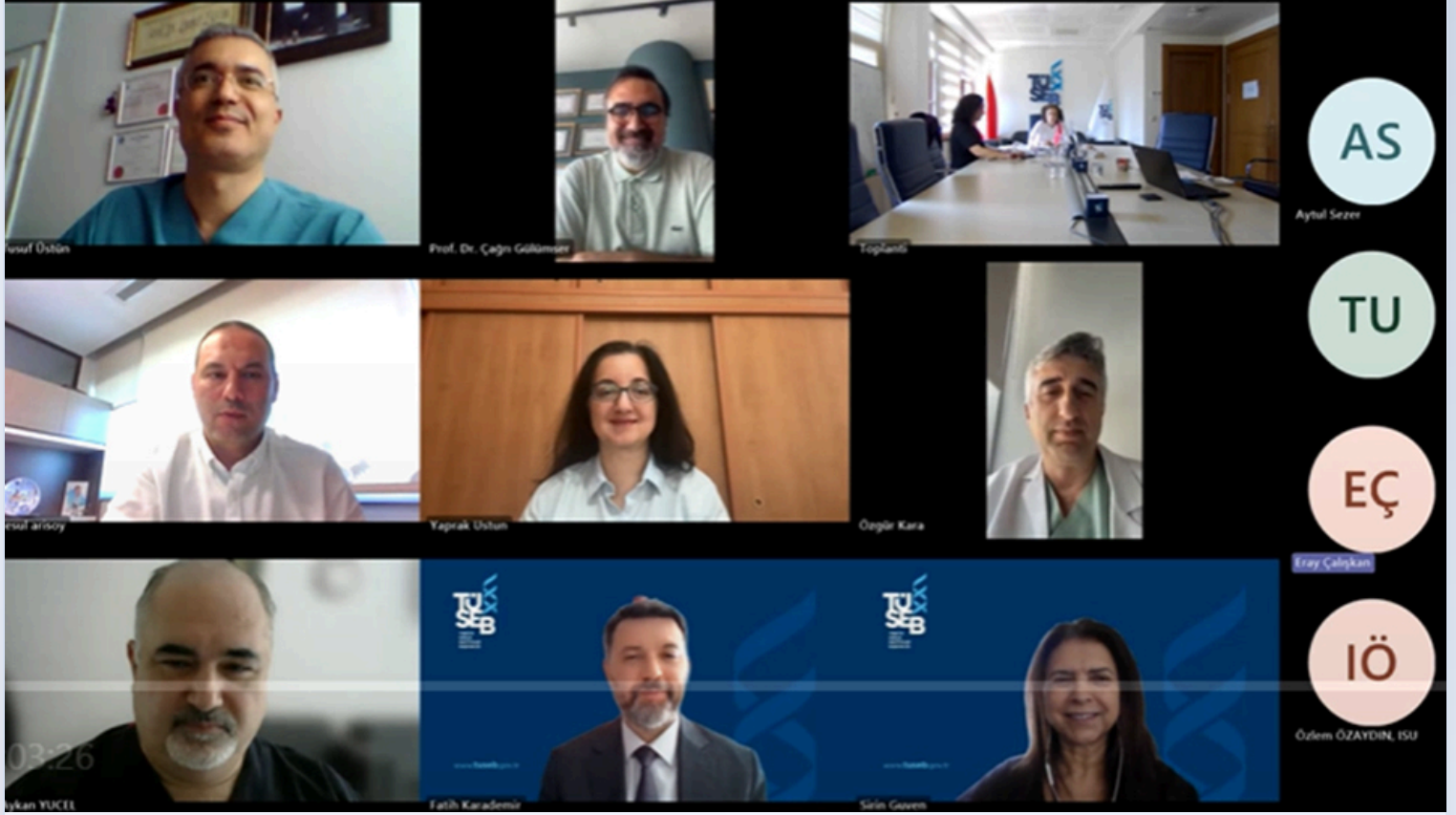
Maternal health, which falls within our field of activity, plays a key role in improving health indicators at both individual and societal levels. This process, beginning before pregnancy and covering childbirth and the postpartum period, directly affects both the mother and the unborn child. A mother's physical, mental, and social well-being is a fundamental determinant of child development. Therefore, strengthening and expanding protective, preventive, and curative maternal healthcare services is of vital importance.

We organized this workshop to enable discussion of subject-specific problems. At the workshop, our Institute brought together experts from universities, women's and maternal health associations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Organized with the mission of contributing to health sciences and technologies in line with our country's localization and nationalization goals, the workshop informed participants about the institution, evaluated project proposals for stakeholder collaboration, and discussed the scenarios and outcomes of projects that could contribute to the health ecosystem. The views and suggestions put forward within the workshop were systematically reported and submitted for evaluation by relevant universities and professional organizations.

Hoping the outcome will be beneficial to our country...

**Prof. Dr. Şirin Güven**

President of the Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute



# Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Maternal Health Workshop

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# Committees

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Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

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Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

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**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem Özyaydın**

Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

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Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

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TÜSEB Head of Foreign Relations Department

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**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Resul Arısoy**

Turkish Perinatology Society

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# 1. Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Maternal Health Workshop

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## 1.1 Objective of the Workshop

The objective of the workshop held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, within the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE), is to develop and implement projects and health policies to lay the foundations of a healthy society by supporting the physical, mental, and social development of mothers.

## 1.2 Summary

The Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Maternal Health Workshop, organized by the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE), was carried out by a working group consisting of universities, associations, civil society and public employees, and academicians. Within the scope of TÜSEB's mission, vision, and triple helix model, the topics to be included in the fields of activity have been attempted to be put forward. In the workshop, the activities carried out by TAÇESE, human resource capacity, current projects, and the areas it needs to achieve its strategic goals were evaluated; technology-based solution proposals for problems and the effects of these solutions on maternal, infant, clinical, public health, and family dimensions were discussed.

To achieve our goal in line with our motto "Healthy mother, healthy child, healthy generations", the necessary studies have begun. For this purpose, during the discussions held, the associations planned to conduct scope analyses with their members to identify innovative projects aligned with needs.

Finally, the strategies that need to be followed to achieve the targets were also analyzed by the workshop participants. They contributed by expressing their opinions on strategies and strategy policies regarding the path TAÇESE should follow. Coordinated efforts with public institutions that have international project experience will contribute to the transformation of the workshop outputs into health policies and implementation guidelines. The strategy that emerged as a result of the workshop was concluded by presenting the roadmap to be followed in implementation for the TÜSEB TAÇESE Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Maternal Health Workshop.

## 1.3 Workshop Program

The aim of the workshop program and the invitation of the participants held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, within the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE); is the planning and development of effective projects and health policies in order to lay the foundations of a healthy society by supporting the physical, mental, and social development of maternal health (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Maternal Health Workshop**  
**A) Invitation; B) Program**

**Table 1. Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Maternal Health Workshop Program**

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER
10.00-10.15	Opening Speech	Prof. Dr. Şirin GÜVEN – TAÇESE Institute President
10.15-10.30	Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute Activities	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem ÖZAYDIN - TAÇESE R&D Specialist
10.30-10.45	TÜSEB Project Supports	Batuhan YEŞİLYURT - TÜSEB Head of Project Management and Support Department
10.45-11.00	International Innovative Collaborations in Health	Fatih KARADEMİR - TÜSEB Head of Foreign Relations Department
11.00-11.15	Break	-
11.15-13.00	General Evaluation and Closing	-

## 1.4 Workshop Implementation and Analysis Method

Various participants consisting of universities, associations, civil society and public employees, and academicians contributed to the Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Maternal Health Workshop organized by the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE). The workshop was held in a hybrid format (with face-to-face and online participation), and in such studies where participants openly express their common views, it is anticipated that targets can be reached more effectively by benefiting from the experiences of umbrella and sub-field associations, and that the outputs can yield more efficient results at the implementation level. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of the participants was carried out, and the report was written according to the obtained results.

The opening of the workshop was made by TAÇESE President Prof. Dr. Şirin Güven. It continued with the introduction of the participants. Afterwards, the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) were introduced, and the mission, vision, and motto of TAÇESE were stated.

### Mission

To be a leading institution in our country that develops national and international multi-stakeholder, evidence-based advanced research and projects aimed at defining, preventing, and treating problems in the field of maternal, child, and adolescent health.

### Vision

To be a globally leading institution that will contribute to the formation of applicable, developable highest physical and mental health standards for every mother, child, and adolescent.

### Motto

**Healthy Mother, Healthy Child, Healthy Generations**

During the introduction of TÜSEB, the producing health triple helix model and the importance of progressing the planned projects based on this model were emphasized (Figure 2).



**Figure 2. TÜSEB Health Models A) Producing Health Model; B) Triple Helix Model**

In the continuation of the workshop, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem Özyaydın provided the participants with brief information about the activities and studies of the Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute.

Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE) personnel consist of academicians working full-time and part-time (Figure 3).

**Prof. Dr. Şirin GÜVEN**  
TAÇESE Başkanı

Ekibimiz

**Prof. Dr. Aylin YETİM ŞAHİN**  
Akademisyen

**Doç. Dr. Hüseyin DAĞ**  
Akademisyen

**Doç. Dr. Aysu TÜRKMEN KARAĞAÇ**  
Akademisyen

**Doç. Dr. Özlem ÖZAYDIN**  
Ar-Ge Uzmanı

**Özlem KÖKSAL**  
İdari Personel

### **Figure 3. TÜSEB Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE) Personnel**

**Batuhan Yeşilyurt, TÜSEB Head of Project Management and Support Department, briefly summarized his unit, the unit's position within TÜSEB, and its activities.**

TÜSEB is a strategic research and project support institution established by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye in 2014 with special privileges, focusing on technology production and transfer specific to the health field. The main objectives of TÜSEB, which was structured by taking prestigious institutions like Robert Koch as an example, are;

- To improve the domestic production capacity in the healthcare industries in Türkiye,
- To produce high value-added health technologies,
- To commercialize projects by creating financial and structural support policies.

The Project Management and Support Department is structured on two main axes:

- Academic Research Supports: Aimed at assistant professors, associate professors, and professors; supporting basic scientific research, budgeting for publication and laboratory studies
- Producing Health Supports (2024 Vision)

With this structure, TÜSEB acts with its triple vision that protects, develops, and produces. When financial support policies are examined, the scope and amount of the support offered by TÜSEB have reached levels unprecedented in Türkiye. For example; undergraduate students can receive support up to 50,000 TL, master's / doctoral students up to 200,000 TL, and new associate professors and clinical researchers up to 3,000,000 TL. Strategic project groups can benefit from project support up to 90 - 100 Million TL.

The supports cover not only individual researches but also team studies, personnel salaries, scholarships, and material expenses.

While talking about prominent projects and their impacts, the Genome Project can be shown as an example. This project is a large-scale genetic research project with a budget of 428 Million TL.

TÜSEB Project Management and Support Department utilizes an active budget of 2.5 - 3 Billion TL with a total of more than 20 special projects. To date, more than 1,600 active projects and 40,000 ideas/project proposals have been examined. Over 1 billion TL of funds have been used in 6 years. An additional 1 billion TL is being invested this year.

Focus areas include drug development, artificial intelligence applications, biomaterials, diagnostic technologies, and medical devices.

Mr. Yeşilyurt continued his speech by explaining the structure of the project application process and evaluation system.

TÜSEB receives all applications through the TÜSEB Information Management System (TBYS). In this context, the process consists of the following steps: preliminary evaluation (strategic alignment analysis), project call (invitation to suitable idea owners), scientific evaluation (detailed review by expert referees), finalization and execution (determination of the grant amount, monitoring, and reporting), and final reporting (feedback, success analysis, and dissemination).

TÜSEB's "red apple" (ultimate goal) is to make a Türkiye-origin health product into a global brand. Projects such as the domestic heart-lung machine are pioneering examples of this vision.

In conclusion, TÜSEB provides direct and strong support to young researchers, academicians, and private sector stakeholders with the slogan "A Türkiye that Protects, Develops, and Produces," to reduce the country's foreign dependency and strengthen the domestic healthcare industry.

**Fatih Karademir, TÜSEB Head of Foreign Relations Department, briefly summarized his unit, the unit's position within TÜSEB, and its activities.**

TÜSEB Head of Foreign Relations Department, Fatih Karademir, shared information about the institution's capacity for access strategies to international funding mechanisms and multilateral collaborations; and made suggestions regarding the matching of the project ideas expressed within the scope of the workshop with international platforms such as the European Union, UNICEF, and WHO.

TÜSEB is a public research institution that has both internal and external research and product development capacities in the field of health, and has a structure equivalent to esteemed institutions such as the National Institutes of Health (USA), Max Planck Institute (Germany), RIKEN (Japan), Medical Research Council (UK), and INSERM (France).

The Foreign Relations Department carries out studies to increase TÜSEB's visibility and impact capacity on a global scale; aiming to develop international collaborations in the field of health sciences and technologies, coordinate the maximum utilization of the European Union and international funding sources, and contribute to the training of qualified human resources. The Presidency is a unit that strengthens inter-institutional interactions, supports multi-stakeholder project development processes, and provides strategic contributions with its diplomatic-bureaucratic capability. The funding calls currently open or published periodically include Horizon Europe (e.g., Maternal & Child Health, Digital Health), UNICEF (newborn monitoring systems), UNFPA, and WHO programs. The involvement of public institutions in such projects is of critical importance in terms of providing political and structural assurance.

Considering that the aforementioned calls open and close in certain periods, regular monitoring is vital. TÜSEB Foreign Relations Department continuously monitors this process

and proactively informs the relevant units. Especially within the scope of Horizon Europe, projects aimed at maternal health are among the priority areas. UNICEF's newborn monitoring systems, campaigns to raise public awareness, and field-oriented social innovation tools provide supporting mechanisms in this context. Needs analyses to be conducted with non-governmental organizations and multi-stakeholder projects prioritizing social impact are evaluated primarily by international funders.

Partnerships to be established with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, local governments, associations, and private sector representatives in project applications; both increase the success of the application process and make the integration of project outputs into public services possible. Furthermore, the fact that the projects to be developed produce sustainable solutions that can find an equivalent not only on a national but also on a global scale increases the probability of being supported. In this context, consortium models to be developed among national research institutions, specialty associations, and public institutions will facilitate the transformation of problems coming from the field into scientific outputs.

For TÜSEB, solutions based on real needs in the field are a priority. Physicians, nurses, midwives, and other healthcare professionals who provide direct services in the healthcare field, and non-governmental organizations; as stakeholders who directly observe these problems, are in a position to make the most accurate needs assessments. Therefore, there is a wide range of scientific project development potential, from social solution models to medical devices and diagnostic kits. Developing domestic and applicable models in the field of women's health is among the priority targets of TÜSEB. In this process, every suggestion coming from the field has the potential to be transformed into a scientific and fundable project.

## 2. Scope Assessment

Important points came to the fore in the interactive general evaluation section where the participants actively expressed their views. TÜSEB speakers stated that reaching out to the participating associations via e-mail would increase effectiveness. The participants, on the other hand, stated that university students and assistants show great interest in SRP (Scientific Research Projects) courses, and that participation would increase if more information was provided about TÜSEB projects. In addition, it was stated that special meetings could be organized regarding TÜSEB projects and that awareness would increase by sharing accepted sample projects at these meetings.

TAÇESE explained that, in line with the targets it has set for 2025, it plans to write projects regarding certain items, and they prioritize preventive health and policy development topics in particular (Table 2). The necessity of developing projects in these areas was emphasized. In this context, everyone was encouraged to propose a project topic, but it was reminded that Türkiye's priorities must be determined correctly.

**Table 2. Prominent Topics in Maternal Health Fields**

TOPICS
Planning studies aimed at addictions (tobacco/digital addiction) in pregnant women/mothers from a clinical perspective
With digitalization steps in health, expanding the use of telemedicine and e-health applications in the field of maternal health, and revealing service opportunities such as diagnosis and treatment in a clinical sense
Planning studies aimed at easing the workload of Obstetrics and Gynecology physicians by fully integrating technological developments and artificial intelligence technologies into life
Planning studies aimed at increasing the success rate in chronic treatment with the development of sophisticated treatment systems for drugs
Planning studies aimed at the routine use of advanced technological applications, products, and devices in the health field, and increasing the scope and quality of services through the routine use of artificial intelligence, wearable, robotic, and automation technologies in the healthcare sector
Planning studies aimed at making high-tech products of clinical importance in health more accessible to patients as their costs decrease
Planning studies aimed at the creation of components of the health ecosystem in maternal health

Applying the outputs of disciplines such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, and biomaterials science to the field of child and adolescent health, developing innovative diagnosis and treatment approaches for various diseases, and planning studies aimed at providing alternative and effective treatment opportunities

Increasing the awareness of family physicians, and providing reminder informative training on referral and control processes

Providing training aimed at increasing the interaction of the newborn with the mother

Providing training aimed at increasing mother-child and adolescent relations

## Key Topics Discussed

- Cesarean rates and policies are one of the important issues in our country. It was suggested to develop projects based on health economics to reduce cesarean rates. In this context, the development of data tracking systems based on the Robson classification was brought to the agenda.
- It was suggested to develop projects for women's health management in disasters, along with digital monitoring models. It was emphasized that project support is needed for trained personnel and field-oriented applications.
- It was recommended to benefit from domestic production and developed technologies in maternal health. For example, domestic production of materials such as postpartum hemorrhage stopping tampons, skin patches used for blood pressure measurement, and hormone replacement products was discussed.
- It was stated that national solutions should also be produced in the field of software, artificial intelligence, and digital health technologies.
- Produced publications, products; intellectual property rights, and patent processes were discussed. The participants received information about the distribution and processes of copyrights in TÜSEB-supported projects.
- An evaluation was made regarding International Cooperation and Funds. It was stated that partnerships could be established with organizations such as WHO, UNICEF, Horizon Europe, and OTS. It was highlighted that TÜSEB's involvement in international projects as a public partner provides a great advantage.

The suggestions during the workshop were listed as; holding a face-to-face workshop together with all stakeholders of the obstetrics and gynecology community, developing risk prediction models in subjects such as premature birth, preeclampsia, and normal birth after cesarean, writing projects on mobile applications and artificial intelligence-supported monitoring systems in the field of maternal health, and evaluating ways to get flexible and fast support through TÜSEB-supported internal projects.

### 3. EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

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The workshop on problems and solution proposals in maternal health, organized by the Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute, was carried out with the participation of health and health-related public, private sector, and universities.

With the workshop, TÜSEB and our Institute were introduced to various stakeholders, specific problems regarding the subject were discussed, and evaluations were made on realistic solution proposals. In addition, a consensus was reached to develop forward-looking collaborations and carry out innovative projects with associations operating in the field of women's and maternal health.

This report is expected to contribute to taking strategic steps that will facilitate project production within the framework of multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary collaborations by being evaluated by TÜSEB TAÇESE and relevant stakeholders. It was emphasized that the support mechanisms provided by TÜSEB are open and comprehensive, and physicians in the field should benefit more from these supports.

All participants agreed on discussing these issues in their own associations and bringing proposals for the next workshop.

It has been planned to hold a solution-oriented workshop in Ankara in the near future, in a face-to-face and roundtable format.

Furthermore, it was emphasized that family medicine protocols need to be clarified and reference points where family physicians can direct patients should be determined. For instance, it should be clarified how a family physician will act in which situation, what the output to be obtained will be, and how much it will cost. The participants noted that innovative projects are of great importance in this context.

In addition, the participants stated that there is a need to announce TÜSEB - TAÇESE activities more widely in the field. It is believed that the obtained data will provide a valuable contribution to healthcare professionals, health-related public institutions and organizations, and international and Türkiye-focused literature on the point of "Healthy Mother, Healthy Child, Healthy Generations".

This report has been compiled to serve as a guide in order to achieve the expected/desired developments in the field of maternal health in the future, and it is thought to contribute to shaping the future of maternal health.

The workshop was concluded by presenting good wishes.

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