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the loop for less!**


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the noows

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Operation
Orphan

Turkey Crisis

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Our team delayed to help
those in need after the
earthquakes in Turkey.

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work we've accomplished in
our local area.

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Saying a big thank you to the
wonderful people who have
helped raise money.

Hope in Zimbabwe



We have had fantastic updates from our project in Zimbabwe.

Children of Hope exists to do exactly that, bring hope to children who have endured the most challenging situations.

Our incredible team in Zim are always looking at ways to best support the children, paying school fees, giving food parcels and helping with homework, just to name a few.

We have had so many wonderful success stories where children who were once living in abject poverty, with no parents, are now thriving and offering their support to other orphaned children. How amazing is this!



Farming in DR Congo



It's all hands on deck at Hebron Home, preparing the harvested crops for the season ahead.

The children are involved in the whole process, learning farming skills as well as their formal (school) education. It's lovely to see them getting stuck in with all the activities it takes to run the home.

We are always inspired by the work Donald & Marie do in DR Congo and the difference they are making in these children's lives.



Turkey Crisis



Little did our three newest Crisis Response Team members know that an earthquake in Turkey would test their training only 12 hours after completing team selection!

It seems so long ago since the early hours of the 6th of February 2023, when a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Turkey, causing utter devastation in regions and cities across Turkey and Syria.

Our Crisis Response Team quickly sprang into action aiming to identify children orphaned by the disaster. Coordinating with the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Turkish emergency management agency, the team performed vital work, caring for children and keeping them safe from exploitation.

We visited various towns in the Hatay region, including Antakya, Samandag, and Arsuz. Through our local links, we were able to identify new orphans, ensure their safety and security, and begin to provide for their long-term care.

Our local project coordinator, Yasemin, and social worker, Fehmi, are now facilitating both medical and psychosocial care. We are keeping in touch with the families and plan to return to distribute educational materials and laptops to our supported children in Turkey. These have kindly been provided through a grant from the London Stock Exchange Foundation.



Here are a few of the people our team helped



Murad and his family

Murad

After the earthquake hit, 7-year-old Murad Ali spent three days trapped under the rubble. Sadly, his parents and two sisters did not survive the disaster. Now living with his uncle and cousins in a portakabin on his grandparents' land, he is still dealing with the trauma of the incident. We have paid for his follow-up mental health support from the Ministry of Family and Social Services' child psychologist and provided family tents, an Aquabox water filter, and hand-knitted blankets courtesy of our UK supporters.



Samandag

We met sisters (13 and 15 years old) whose parents died in the town of Samandag. 24-year old Amra, who owns a café in the town, has been caring for the two teenagers ever since. She is currently going through the process to officially adopt the girls and is considering moving to another region where the girls can get a better education.

We initially provided them with a tent, Aquabox water filter, toiletries and financial support to help with food bills. We plan to provide the girls with education packs including laptops to help them with their university qualifying exams.

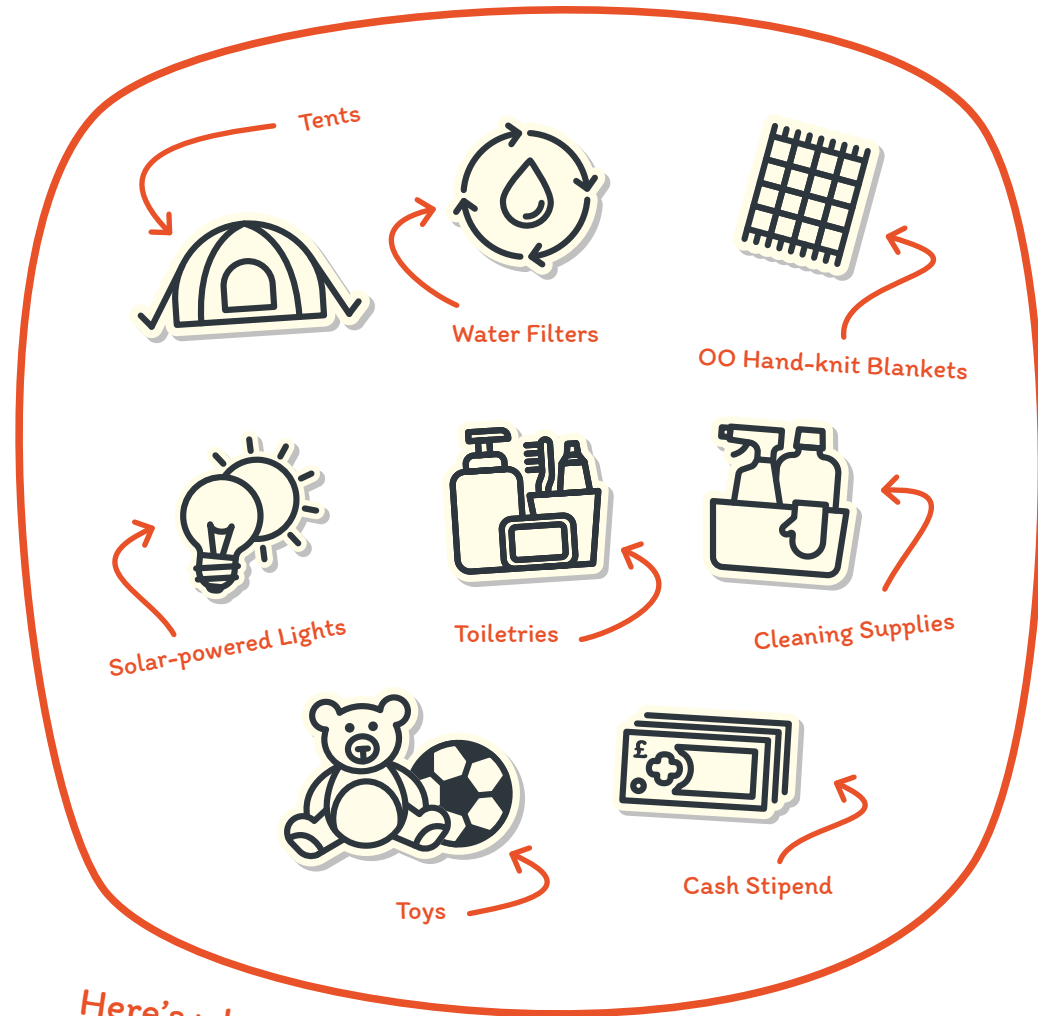


The sisters and Amra

The Outcome

During our short time in Turkey we supported around 90 children. We helped by providing immediate emotional support, child friendly blankets, water filters, tents, and financial support. Thank you for your generous donations that enabled us to provide aid when these people needed it most!

The work in Turkey has not ended. Our team will continue to monitor and help where needed thanks to our Keep a Child family. Monthly donations enable us to respond to practical and emotional needs, supporting these children as they grow.



Here's what our team provided for those in need!

Forget-Me-Notts

Bed poverty has become the main priority for our Forget-Me-Notts teams. According to a UK Poverty Report* in 2022, more than 22% of the UK's population lives in poverty, with bed poverty impacting 30% of families. With help from our local community and beyond, we delivered and installed over 1,100 beds between 2019 and 2023.



Reports of rising domestic violence cases during the COVID-19 pandemic meant more children than ever are fleeing their homes to set up new lives with very few possessions. Add to this the cost of living crisis that many families are currently struggling with, and it's no wonder the demand for our support is continually increasing!

Through referrals submitted by social services (and other authorised agencies), we receive an overview of a family's situation and a list of basic necessities that we act upon to improve the quality of the children's environment significantly.

Donations of pre-loved items and financial donations from individuals and businesses enable us to help as many of these families as possible. Our teams based in Nottingham and Lancashire meet the local social workers at the families' homes to deliver and install the items we provide.

Our Lancashire team's meeting with Fylde Council discussing the continuing cost of living crisis highlighted that now, more than ever, the support that Forget-Me-Notts and other third-sector initiatives provide is vital. We count it such a privilege to be able to do what we do.



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The Lancashire team started 2023 by moving into a brand-new storage unit.
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We received this lovely email from a social worker we had the pleasure of working with:

"I just wanted to email to say thank you so much for the beds which were delivered yesterday to a family I am supporting. The children were so excited to see their new beds and bedding, and their mum was really grateful and touched by the addition of the bed quilts and soft toys."

Social Worker



*Statistics from Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2022 UK Poverty Report

Cost of Living Relief



This year we have launched a response to help those who are struggling to make ends meet due to the cost of living crisis. We are asking local companies and/or community groups to help us with this, by hosting a collection of the items listed below.

Household Items

Cleaning cloths
Multipurpose cleaner
Washing up liquid
Laundry detergent
Toilet cleaner

New Bedding

Duvets (single/double/cot bed)
Pillows
Duvet covers (double/single)
Pillow cases
Fitted sheets (double/single)

Personal Hygiene

Nappies	Sanitary products
Baby wipes	Flannel/sponge
Shampoo	Conditioner
Soap/shower gel	Head lice shampoo
Tooth brushes	Roll-on deodorants
Toothpaste	Emery boards/nail clippers
Hair brushes/combs	Hair bobbles/clips

These will be distributed by our Forget-Me-Notts team and will be a significant support to local families in need. If you are part of a group and would like to get involved, we would absolutely love to hear from you.



Make a financial donation instead.



Packing Days

Since we don't have a huge amount of space in our warehouse, we have developed a system that seems to be working quite well. Not that we can really use the word 'normal' but, when things are a little more steady at our base (when there isn't a crisis that we are responding to or thousands of Christmas gifts to distribute), Packing Days have proven to be a great solution.

Several times during the year, we make use of our local Scout Hut to host a gathering of our corporate partners and community volunteers. During the day, all of the donations that we have received and temporarily stored get sorted and packed ready for distribution.

We would like to thank our friends from the following companies for their volunteer support and special thanks to Silver X Logistics who help to store our packed boxes as their in-kind donation.



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 If you are interested in finding out how your company can get involved, please get in touch by emailing info@operation-orphan.org to see how you can support our mission of keeping orphaned and vulnerable children warm, safe, healthy, and learning.

Fundraising Champions

We want to give a massive shout-out to the incredible people and organisations who helped us with fundraising this year. Without your financial backing, our work couldn't continue. We've been able to impact so many lives because of your generosity.



Will
Will ran in the Great Manchester Run.
Raised £1220



Jean

Jean has been making and selling hedgehogs to raise money.

Raised £60 (so far!)

Because of donations like these, we can keep orphans and vulnerable children safe, warm, healthy and learning. If our fundraising champions inspire you and you want to help us with a sponsored challenge or event, don't hesitate to contact us.



David & Sasha

David and Sasha organise an annual corporate event called Property Face 2 Face.

At their last event they raised almost £700 by running an auction and raffle.



Monarch

Monarch Education Furniture and LapCabby employees took to the skies, fundraising and raising awareness of our work. What's more, the companies paid for these places to ensure 100% percent of all donations will be given to the charity. How amazing is THAT?

Calling All Runners

Whether you're a long-distance expert or a new park runner, we welcome you to join our charity running challenge. The Hope Alive Tour is a collective challenge, similar to a relay. As a team, you will run a total of 390 miles, visiting some key places along the route and investigating the topic of human slavery.



← Georgie

"If you asked me to do this again tomorrow, I'd say yes. Incredible experience, incredible people and an incredible cause."

Georgie
Previous Hope Alive Tour runner.

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Are extreme running challenges not your cup of tea? There are many other opportunities to raise money for Operation Orphan. We always guarantee to use 100% of your donations to help the children.



Join us on our next Tour!

Our next tour dates are on **2-6 October 2024** and **9-13 April 2025**. If you're interested, please apply via our website!

Keeping Zimbabwe Learning



In most developing countries, there is no state education. Through Keep a Child Learning, we are able to give vulnerable children access to the primary, secondary, and further education they deserve, along with many other learning opportunities.

Several of our children in Zimbabwe are currently studying in polytechnic college, developing their skills in various trades. From woodwork to catering, the teens are thriving in this environment that will equip them for future employment and life.

Natalie

One of the first children we ever supported was orphaned at only four years old. Despite the inevitable struggles, we've watched Natalie* grow into the incredible young lady she is today. We're so proud of her and would like to take a moment to celebrate her success.



After working hard and stepping into the opportunities offered to her, Natalie has graduated with a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences honours degree! We could not be more proud. Thank you so much to those who have given to Keep a Child monthly to make this possible. These opportunities can transform the trajectory of these children's lives, allowing them the opportunity to succeed in their chosen profession and secure their future.



***Name changed for her protection.**

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One specific donor helped us to offer Natalie this incredible opportunity. Running as a Pink Gorilla, Rich Mason raised enough funds to secure Natalie's place at university. 100% of the funds we received through his fundraising went to fund Natalie through University.

Nicole From Nottingham

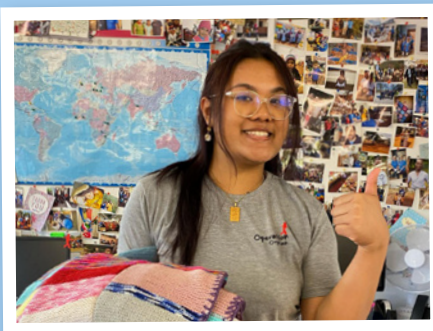
Each year, we provide a placement year opportunity for students at Nottingham Trent University, including several Psychology students in recent years. Here's what one of those students had to say about their placement with us:

"All projects of Operation Orphan have ties with psychology, which I can draw upon when back in university. Just seeing the impact that family turmoil has on children's mental health, school grades, peer relations, and future prospects puts what I've learnt in the lecture theatre into real life. I thoroughly enjoyed my time on placement and learnt so much throughout... I highly recommend this placement year to anyone..."

Nicole, Psychology Student

Nicole was a wonderful addition to our team for the year. She worked closely with our admin team, supervised our lovely volunteers, and supported our Forget-Me-Notts project alongside our recycling service, Waste-Nott-Want-Nott.

During her placement, Nicole was responsible for coordinating our Forget-Me-Notts gift programme. Nicole successfully organised the gifting of 3770 selection boxes and 3017 Easter eggs to local vulnerable children for Christmas and Easter. All of which were supplied by the local community. A massive success story!



Nicole

"Working at Operation Orphan has been a phenomenal experience, and I'm so grateful to have worked alongside such amazing people. I've definitely seen an improvement in my leadership, communication, and people skills - I didn't even know how to take a formal phone call before starting my placement! This role has exposed me to a myriad of opportunities to interact with people from all walks of life whilst providing vital support to the most vulnerable children in our society. It has been an absolute blessing to work alongside the team, and I could not have asked for a better placement year."

Nicole



Investing in the development of young students through work placements benefits the individual but also helps the overall growth and prosperity of the charity. Every student we've taken on board has helped infuse energy and enthusiasm into the team, fostering a dynamic atmosphere. We truly value all the support we've received from our interns, and we're excited to continue watching them grow beyond their placement with us.

Rescue Homes

Our Crisis Response Team is on standby to be deployed when we hear of a large scale disaster with mass loss of life. Sometimes these situations happen in countries with the resources to handle things themselves, or they prefer not to invite humanitarian assistance in. But where the government of the affected country requests international assistance, our team is ready and willing to help.

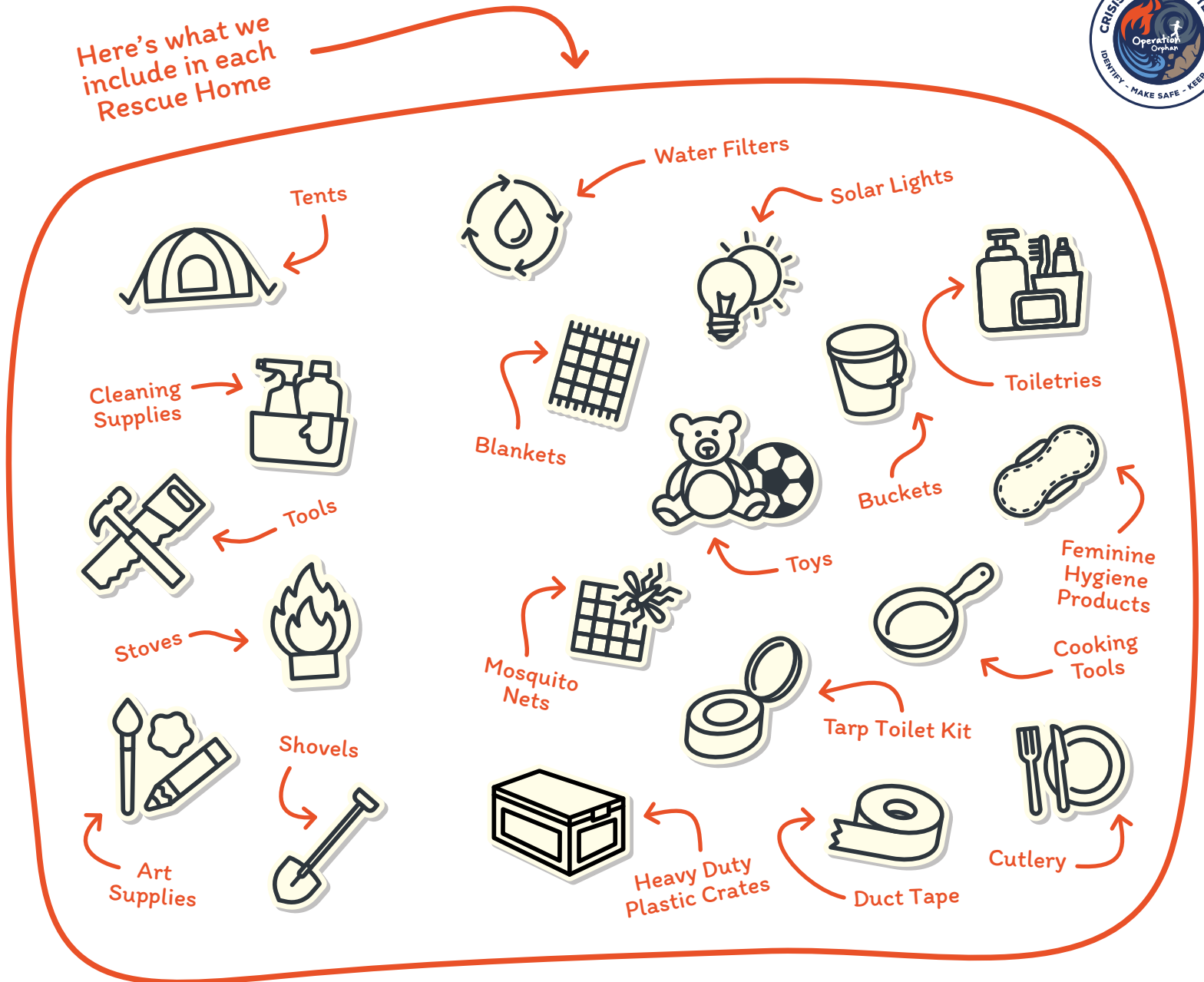
We have launched our Rescue Home appeal where we are asking for your support to purchase emergency shelters and supplies for our team's next deployment.

Each Rescue Home contains the items needed to keep a family (or up to six people) safe from the elements and survive whilst the country can rebuild. A tent, Aqua Box water filter, wood burner/cooker, solar lighting and hygiene supplies are some of the items in the Rescue Home. These items have been carefully sourced to be of suitable quality whilst not financially out of reach.

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 If you'd like to sponsor a Rescue Home, please head to the website to make a donation or plan your fundraiser.



Here's what we include in each Rescue Home



Ambassadors

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our incredible volunteers and ambassadors. The growth of the charity is a direct result of the strength of relationships and how willingly these incredible people help and support the vision.

Jill
Yorkshire



A special thank you to Gail and Jill from Yorkshire who are stepping down from their role as Ambassadors after ten amazing years of service. Gail and Jill have fundraised for the charity, arranged enormous collections for Keep a Child Warm and volunteered overseas. This is just to name a few of the ways they have supported us over the past decade.

Gail
Yorkshire



Jill
Nottingham



Our hearts were heavy to learn of Jill's (Nottingham) passing. Jill was another of our Ambassadors who gave herself so willingly to help others. She was also part of our Keep a Child family and volunteered to represent the charity in local schools and community groups. Jill will be sadly missed.

Familiar Faces

We're delighted to give you an update on two members of our team who have stepped into new roles.

Hefin

We are happy to welcome Hefin to our core admin team as he interns with us this year. If you recognise his face, this might be because he's been working with us previously as part of our Waste Nott Want Nott team. At Christmas, Hefin arranged for the donation and distribution of 4189 wrapped gifts for children (primarily in Nottinghamshire). This is significantly more than has been requested in previous years and we are super proud of Hefin for successfully managing it so well.



Dan

Dan is also in a new role leading our Forget-Me-Notts installation and logistics team. With his sunny disposition and strong desire to help others, he is the perfect man to be helping local families in need in this very practical and rewarding way.



Charity of the Year!

We love it when we get to work with schools. A couple of recent highlights are Cop Lane Primary School, who raised money for Pencott during their Christmas concert, and The Lanes Primary School, who chose us as their Charity of the Year! We couldn't be more grateful.



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