



2023

ACTIVITY
REPORT

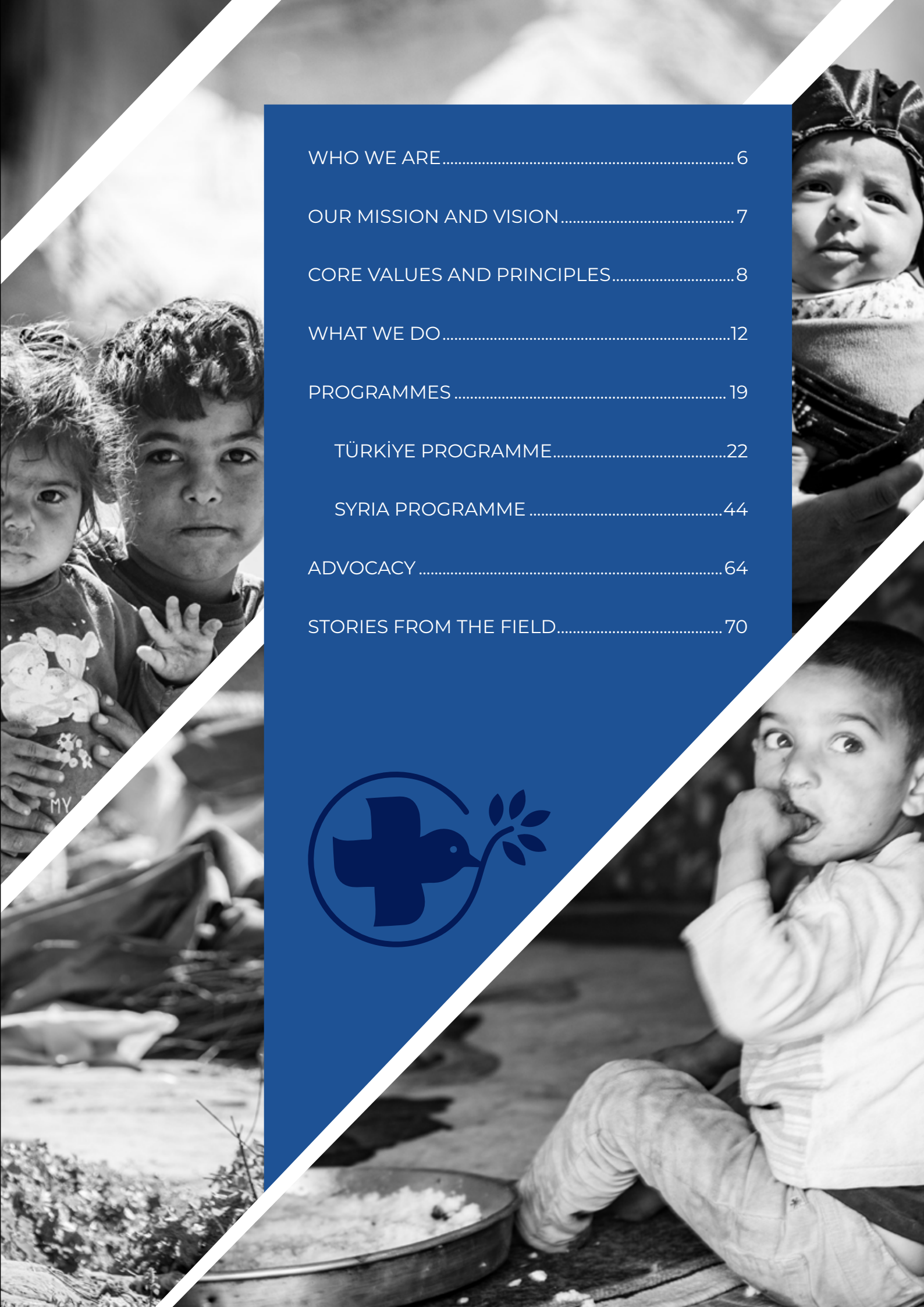
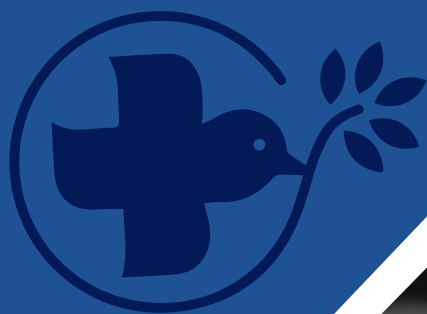


2023
ACTIVITY
REPORT



CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE.....	6
OUR MISSION AND VISION.....	7
CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES.....	8
WHAT WE DO.....	12
PROGRAMMES.....	19
TÜRKİYE PROGRAMME.....	22
SYRIA PROGRAMME.....	44
ADVOCACY.....	64
STORIES FROM THE FIELD.....	70





WHO WE ARE

Dünya Doktorları Derneği (DDD)/Médecins du Monde (MdM) Türkiye is a Türkiye-based humanitarian non-governmental organisation that facilitates access to healthcare for populations affected by armed conflict, violence, natural disasters, disease, famine, poverty and exclusion.

Our organisation collaborates with partners and key stakeholders to implement projects that facilitate access to primary and secondary healthcare services and mental health and psychosocial support services to respond to the medical needs of displaced population.

DDD/MdM Türkiye is the 16th member of Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) International Network that is committed to meeting the health needs of vulnerable people globally.

Responding to the humanitarian crises emerged in the region from within the crisis DDD/MdM Türkiye seeks out marginalized populations and builds necessary infrastructures for long-term and sustainable healthcare services in areas society would prefer to ignore.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

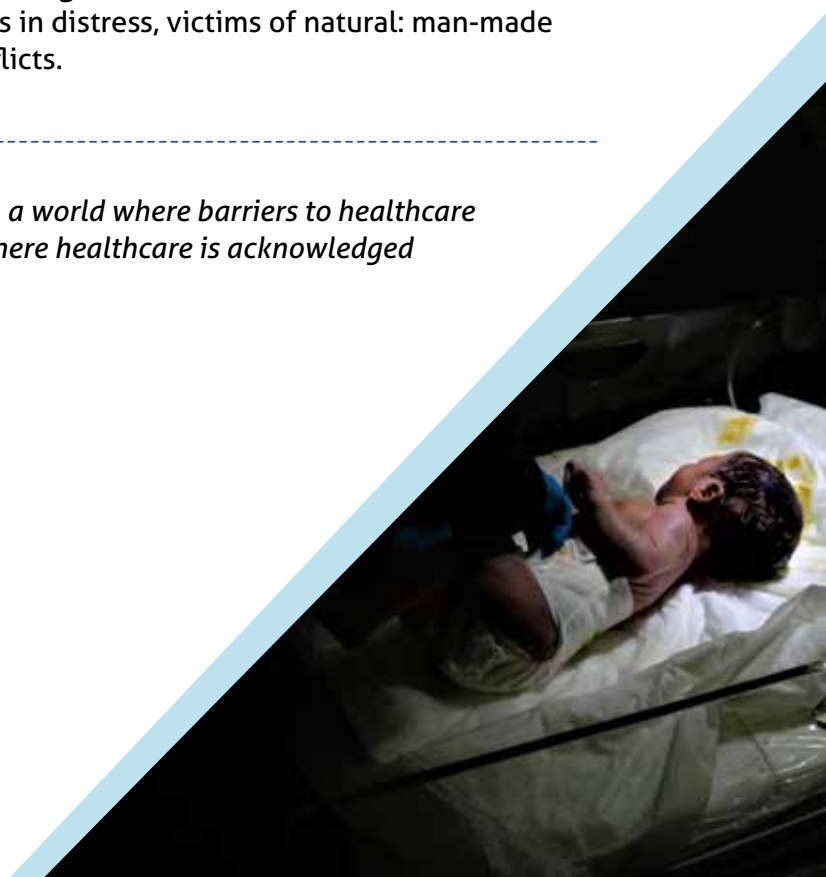
Since 2015, DDD/MdM Türkiye implements programmes in both Turkey and Syria offering free access to healthcare services to refugee and internally displaced populations.

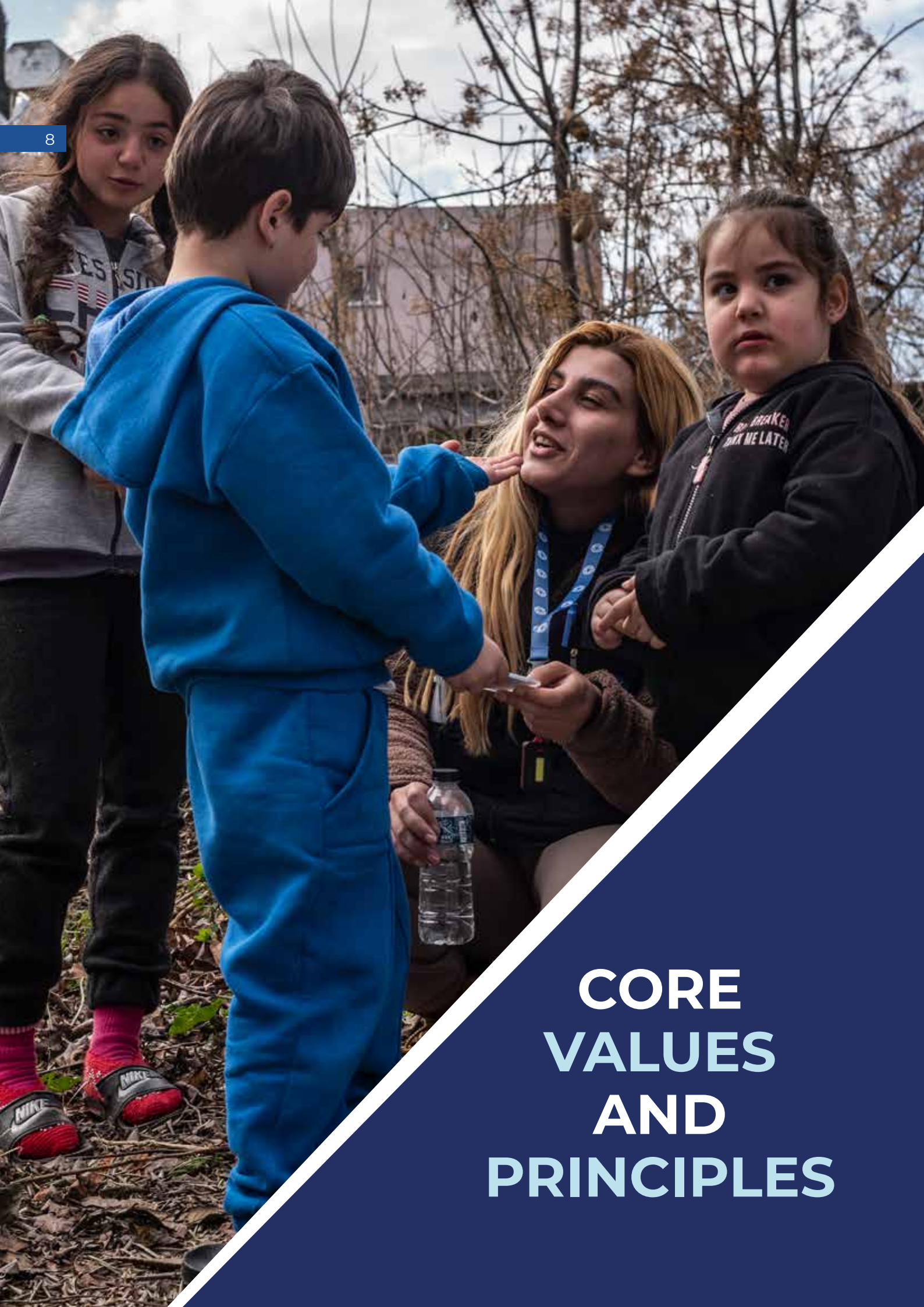
DDD/MdM Türkiye works with a range of humanitarian professionals and technical experts to provide primary health care (PHC), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) as well as sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

As DDD/MdM Türkiye, **Our Mission** is to provide support to all people who are excluded from the health system, since at least half of the world's population - particularly children, women and refugees - lack access to essential health services and medical care due to global injustice and misuse of resources.

DDD/MdM Türkiye's Mission is to provide lifesaving and life-sustaining medical care to those most in need by assisting populations in distress, victims of natural: man-made disasters or armed conflicts.

Our Vision is a world where barriers to healthcare have been overcome, where healthcare is acknowledged as a fundamental right.





CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



INDEPENDENCE

We are independent of all political, religious or financial authorities and interests. We are independent in the choices of our programs and operating methods. We refuse all forms of subordination and will foster dialogue with local people and communities whom we come to work for.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

We believe in social justice as a vehicle for equal access to healthcare, respect for fundamental rights, and collective solidarity.



EMPOWERMENT

With our partners, communities and their representatives, we help empower all socially and physically vulnerable populations to take action within the community they belong to, to become an actor of their own health condition, and to exercise their rights as a community member.



ACTIVISM

We seek balance between national and international actions, between emergency and long-term actions, between medical and non-medical knowledge, and between public and private funding. This balance is a key factor to determine our legitimacy and originality.



BALANCE

As a committed and militant team of professionals, made up of volunteers and salaried staff, we provide medical services, bear witness to the unacceptable and – taking advantage of our diversity – support populations who are seeking social innovation.

2016
March

DDD's Türkiye Programme has been launched with the opening of 2 PHC clinic in Izmir and Istanbul.

DDD/ MdM Türkiye signed a partnership agreement with MdM France.

2018
October

DDD/MdM Türkiye has become the 16th chapter of MdM International Network

2015
August

DDD was founded in Türkiye.

2016
July



2018
November

With a PHC center in Syria's Jandairis, DDD's Syria operations have started.

2023
February

Mdm France handed over its northwest Syria operations to DDD/MdM Türkiye. With this action, DDD has integrated its Idlib & Afrin projects under one Syria Programme.

Launch of "Earthquake Emergency Response Programme" in response to the massive 7,8 and 7,6-magnitude earthquakes that hit Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023.

DDD has launched its humanitarian intervention in Gaza and Libya.

2019
April

2024





WHAT WE DO

DDD/MdM Türkiye INTERVENTION

DDD/MdM in Türkiye focuses on implementing activities that meet refugees and migrants' most pressing needs by providing mental health and psychosocial support as well as primary health care (PHC) through Medical Mobile Units (MMUs) in İstanbul, İzmir and Hatay.

Through its MMUs in the rural areas of Bayraklı and Torbalı districts of İzmir and in Manisa, DDD/MdM Türkiye provides PHC services, medical and SRH consultations, preventive screening sessions and supports referrals to its İzmir MHPSS Centre and PHC facilities. In its Community Centre in Fatih (İstanbul) throughout 2020, DDD/MdM Türkiye aimed at promoting the integration of Sub-Saharan African refugees, migrants and asylum seekers into the host population and the public health services. In accordance with this purpose, DDD/MdM Türkiye provided awareness and health promotion group sessions, case management and orientation services as well as language classes and legal counselling.

Within the context of its Syria Programme, DDD/MdM Türkiye ensures the provision of PHC, SRH and MHPSS services both to the displaced and host populations in Aleppo and Idlib governorates of Syria through direct implementation and implementing partners.

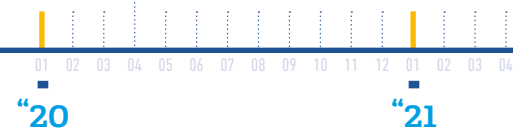
In 2018, DDD/MdM Türkiye began operations in Turkish-controlled areas of northwest Syria (NWS). At the beginning of 2019, Mdm France handed over its northwest Syria programming to DDD/MdM Türkiye. DDD/MdM Türkiye and partners are now providing primary health care, sexual and reproductive health and MHPSS services across 12 Health facilities, and one BEmONC center, directly reaching more than half-a-million individuals in NWS Syria.

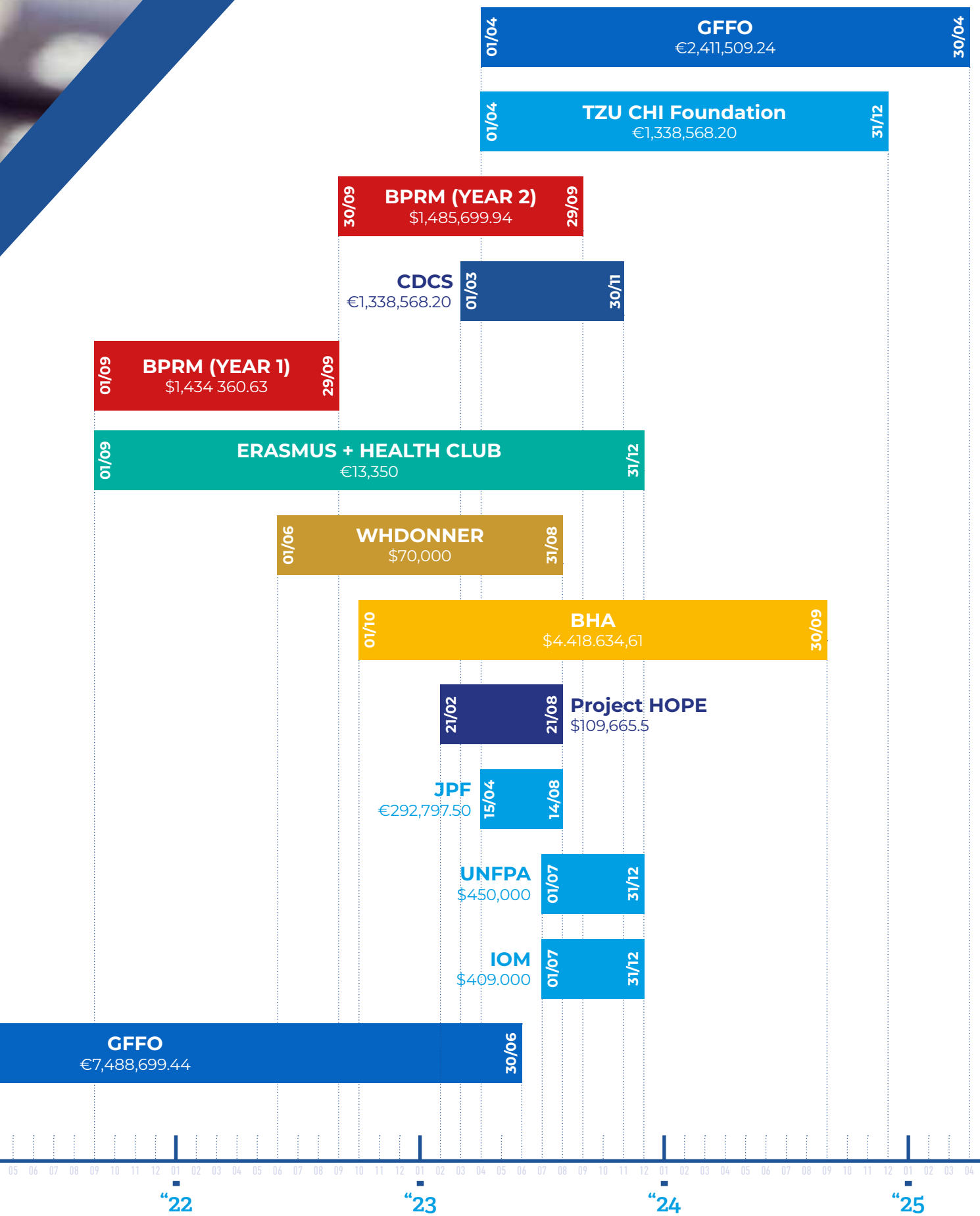
After the massive 7,8 and 7,6-magnitude earthquakes that struck Türkiye and Syria, DDD/MdM Türkiye has launched its earthquake emergency operations in Hatay, one of the most affected Turkish provinces by the disaster, and in northwest Syria's Aleppo and Idlib.

BHA: Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
BPRM: The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
CDCS: The Crisis and Support Centre
GFFO: German Federal Foreign Office
WHDONNER: The William H. Donner Foundation
UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
JPF: Japan Platform
IOM: International Organization for Migration

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

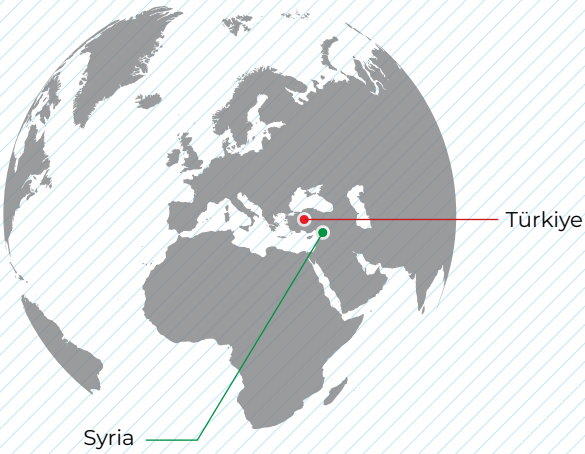
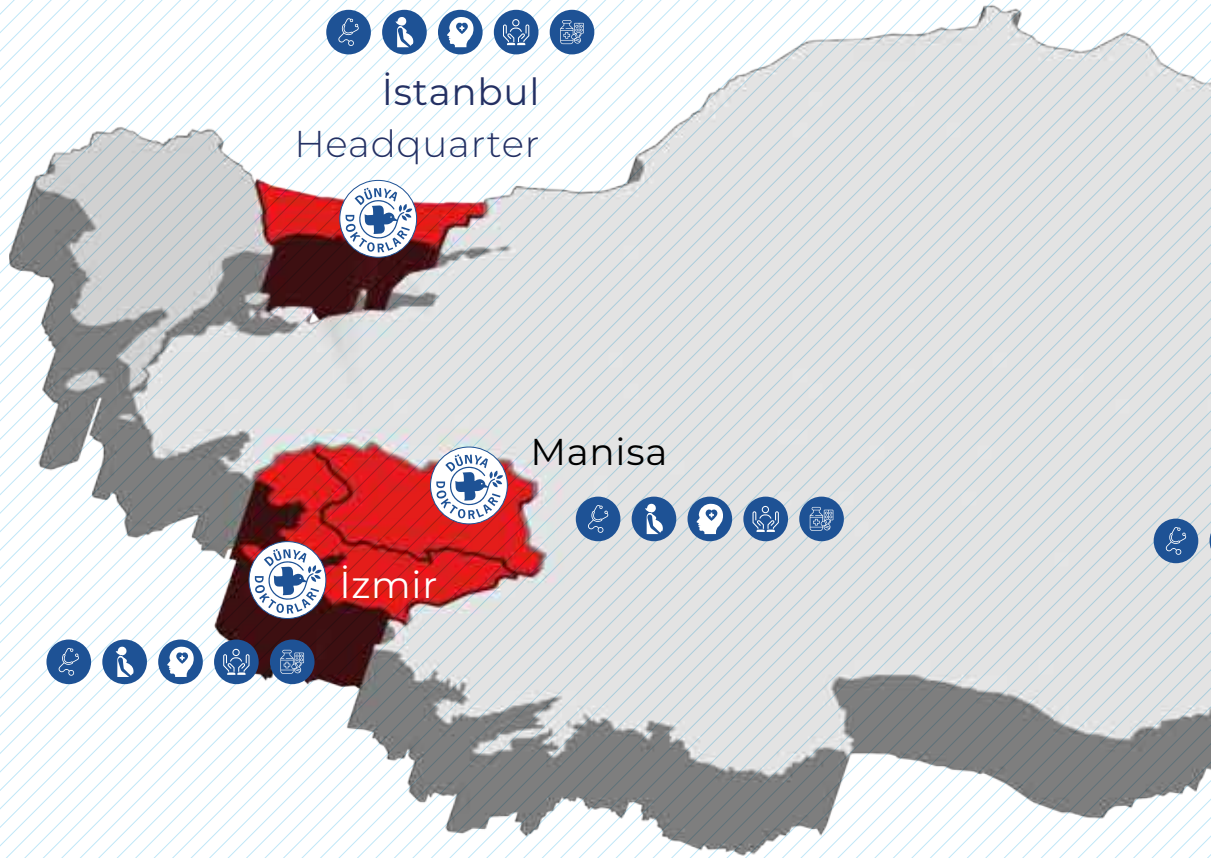
01/04





Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde Türkiye

AREAS OF OPERATIONS



- Primary Health Care
- Sexual&Reproductive Health
- Psychological Support
- Protection
- Medication







PROGRAMMES

GENERAL NOTES ABOUT THE PROJECTS

The project descriptions in the following pages aim to provide a summary of each specific project. In addition to the services mentioned in these descriptions, all the projects include a number of additional activities as part of their implementation:

- DDD/MdM Türkiye regularly coordinates the implementation of projects with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors to ensure the greatest possible access to basic rights and health care for the target population. Comprehensive coordination efforts contribute to informed and effective action by all actors, sharing best practices and available services. This allows the DDD/MdM Türkiye to monitor the humanitarian situation and potential emergencies, to better analyze needs in specific areas of intervention, to avoid duplication of services and finally, to maintain a map of services for effective referral of targeted beneficiaries. DDD/MdM Türkiye ensures that all cooperation efforts take place within a legal framework and that it obtains all the necessary official authorizations and carries out protocols for the provision of services.
- DDD/MdM Türkiye closely monitors the implementation of projects and constantly evaluates the quality of the services it provides by regularly assessing the needs of the target population. To this end, the DDD/MdM Türkiye has various channels through which beneficiaries can provide feedback/complaints, both at the project sites and online. Beneficiaries are also informed and consulted through awareness-raising sessions, committee meetings, visibility material, etc. Every new project is designed based on the findings of these evaluation and assessment tools. Regular needs assessments, including environmental assessments, and situation reports are produced to assess and respond more appropriately to emerging needs and to avoid potential risks.
- Through pre-defined vulnerability assessment criteria, DDD/MdM Türkiye teams identify the most vulnerable individuals in the target populations and deliver a tailored service as part of its outreach activities such as household visits, or the distribution of in-kind items to address specific needs.

- Capacity building activities are one of the cornerstones of the DDD objective, and are aimed at both local stakeholders, DDD/MdM Türkiye staff and beneficiaries. They cover medical, protection and gender related topics. By focusing on capacity building, DDD/MdM Türkiye aims to increase the resilience of the host community and foster the mobilization of local stakeholders for a sustainable and sensitive humanitarian response in service delivery. It also aims to strengthen the capacity and well-being of staff to improve their ability to deliver and manage high-quality and inclusive services. It further aims to increase capacity and resilience by empowering beneficiaries through awareness raising sessions. Capacity-building activities also include training on key cross-cutting issues such as gender mainstreaming and protection.
- The projects aim to rehabilitate facilities by creating safe spaces and enhance the mobility of DDD/MdM Türkiye teams to improve service delivery while adapting to changing conditions and better recognizing the different needs in different areas to decrease vulnerabilities. To this end, it is able to respond quickly to changing needs, particularly in the event of infectious disease outbreaks or displacement of informal settlements. Rehabilitation work also considers the needs of different groups, including people with disabilities and pregnant women.
- DDD/MdM Türkiye intervention adopts a “no harm” and “conflict sensitive” approach. All field interventions are supported by technical SOPs, reviewed by NATIONAL and international experts in the field. This ensures that, when implementing activities, the needs of vulnerable populations are met in accordance with international and national guidelines. Within the framework of the “do no harm” and “conflict sensitive” principle, DDD/MdM Türkiye’s intervention does not contribute to the unsustainable management of natural resources. As such, DDD/MdM Türkiye personnel are accepted by the local environment and have a good understanding of the operational context, and finally opt for a community led approach where community leaders are empowered and supported. DDD/MdM Türkiye aims to remain impartial in all processes and provides its services equally to all communities. In order to minimize any conflict-related risks, security teams closely follow up the situation and inform the programme implementation accordingly.

TÜRKİYE PROGRAMME

Earthquake Emergency Context

On February 6, 2023, a series of catastrophic earthquakes struck southern Türkiye and northwestern Syria (NWS), causing the death of more than 58,000 people in collapsed buildings, displacing millions across both countries, and causing widespread destruction to homes and infrastructure in the region. The earthquake was followed by 78 aftershocks over the next few weeks, affecting a population of over 18 million in both countries. Occurring in the height of winter, survivors who had escaped collapsing buildings were then at risk of freezing in exposed conditions, and required shelter, food and healthcare. The need for healthcare support in the affected areas remains critical. Antibiotics, access to chronic disease medications, mental health and psychosocial support, maternal and pediatric health, were just some of the needs for survivors over the past year.

The February 6 earthquakes were the most powerful to hit the country since 1939, with its epicenter around Gaziantep first then Kahramanmaraş, and extended down through Hatay province which lay on the fault line. More than 15 million people live in the 10 earthquake affected provinces affected in region which is also home to over a million Syrian refugees. Thousands of buildings collapsed, trapping people under rubble. In response to the catastrophe, the Turkish authorities announced a three-month state of emergency and centralised the emergency response through the National Disaster Response Platform (AFAD).

DDD/MdM Türkiye has been operating both mobile medical units (MMU) to serve hard-to-reach locations and a women and child friendly safe space to reach the most vulnerable populations.

Hatay was the most affected province in Türkiye as it is located on the fault line. An estimated 75,000 buildings and homes were destroyed. A year on from the disaster and debris removal continues.

Survivors left Hatay to go to other provinces such as Izmir in Western Türkiye, while the most vulnerable continue to live in camps in Antakya city and hard-to-reach rural areas in the province. The local authorities in Hatay have begun to relocate populations from tents to formal container cities. However, the need for decent shelter overwhelms the capacity. Many of the Syrian population still live in informal tent areas with limited access to services. These areas are hard to reach and require mobile medical units. Urgent needs include ensuring access to PHC, medicine, and psychological support for people exposed to trauma.

Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde Türkiye
TÜRKİYE PROGRAMME MAP

- Primary Health Care Sexual&Reproductive Health Psychological Support Protection Medication



In addition to its work in the earthquake zone, DDD/MdM Türkiye has provided relief to earthquake affected people displaced to Western Türkiye, notably Izmir province, which saw a significant arrival of Syrian refugees. Since the earthquake only a minority returned to the cities where they were registered. At the same time, many more from the earthquake regions stayed in Izmir without proper documentation and are at risk of being detained and deported from Türkiye.

In Izmir, DDD/MdM Türkiye works with earthquake displaced refugees who work as agricultural workers. These people often live in unofficial tented settlements in rural areas away from the local authorities. These settlements have limited to no running water or sanitation, with numerous health and protection risks including GBV and child labor.

Ongoing needs

There are many health and protection-related risks, especially for the most vulnerable groups, such as children, women, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases and people with disabilities (PwD).

Women and children are disproportionately affected due to their specific vulnerabilities. Unemployment, limited access to basic needs and massive mental health issues and trauma is a health and protection risk for Gender-based Violence (GBV) which are increasing.

A lack of privacy caused by poor and overcrowded tent/shelter conditions, GBV incidents such as domestic violence, sexual violence and sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, child labor and early marriage, are likely to increase in the region. Moreover, problems with access to basic needs such as safe water and sanitation facilities, has resulted in the spread of communicable diseases such as scabies, lice, and cholera in the region, as well as in many individuals suffering from physical and mental issues.

Public and private health services cannot meet the needs just after the devastating earthquakes. 12 State hospitals in the province have been damaged with only 5 hospitals fully functioning one year on. Another 10 hospitals are partially open. In addition, many health workers living in the province were injured or deceased, further decreasing the local health system capacity and causing migrant health centres and most family health centres to become inactive.

Although rural and urban hospitals are becoming partially functional a year after the earthquake, public services in Hatay have not returned to their initial capacities in the region. The demand for medical services continues to be enormous.

Izmir, as the third biggest city of Türkiye and a transitional hub for crossing Europe, attracts refugees for economic activity and migration networks. In such a city with a high number of vulnerable refugees, civil society organisations took the initiative in providing legal assistance and humanitarian aid, because local and central governments fall short to meet the needs of refugees due to the legal and structural problems. Between 2014 and 2016, Izmir was the last stop in Asia for many refugees from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan seeking to get to Europe along the Western Balkans route. The Western Balkan route was then the preferred route for migrants from many countries of origin. Izmir was the gathering place before the sea journey because of its proximity to Greek islands. From the islands, migrants continued to the northern Greek border, up through Macedonia, Serbia, and then into Western Europe. In 2016, Balkans police and Greek and Turkish Coast Guards began cracking down on smuggling, and Izmir became a transit city where thousands of migrants were stuck, unable to afford the escalating cost of being smuggled to Europe.

According to the official figures from the Turkish Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) available for 2023, there are also an estimated 52,000 irregular or undocumented migrants in Türkiye, primarily from Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, and Iraq, as well as African countries. The actual numbers of migrants for Izmir and Istanbul are estimated to be significantly higher. The majority of migrants and refugees live amongst host communities in urban and rural areas of Türkiye, with Istanbul, Izmir, and Hatay, being some of the provinces with the highest number of Syrian refugees and migrants in the country.

Istanbul is home to the largest refugee population in Türkiye due to the presence of established migrant networks facilitating the integration of new arrivals as well as NGOs. Work opportunities continue to be the main reason attracting refugees and asylum seekers to Istanbul with 529,403 Syrians alone officially registered with authorities in the province as of December 2023. Izmir province on the south-central coast of Türkiye is only 50 miles from the Greek islands of Lesbos and Chios and is both a last destination and a point of onward migration to Europe. Izmir has been one of the top 10 destinations for refugees and asylum seekers in Türkiye since 2015, with 123,952 Syrians officially registered under Temporary Protection as of December 2023.

Nearly half of the refugees are children, according to the UNHCR figures. Many refugee children are deprived of proper education because most of them work as seasonal workers, cannot speak Turkish or are forced to beg on the street instead of attending school. There are also serious health concerns in camping areas for rural workers where Syrian refugees live collectively. Most of the Syrian refugees work in informal sectors.

Based on DDD/MdM Türkiye's experience, it is becoming increasingly difficult for document, irregularly documented and undocument-

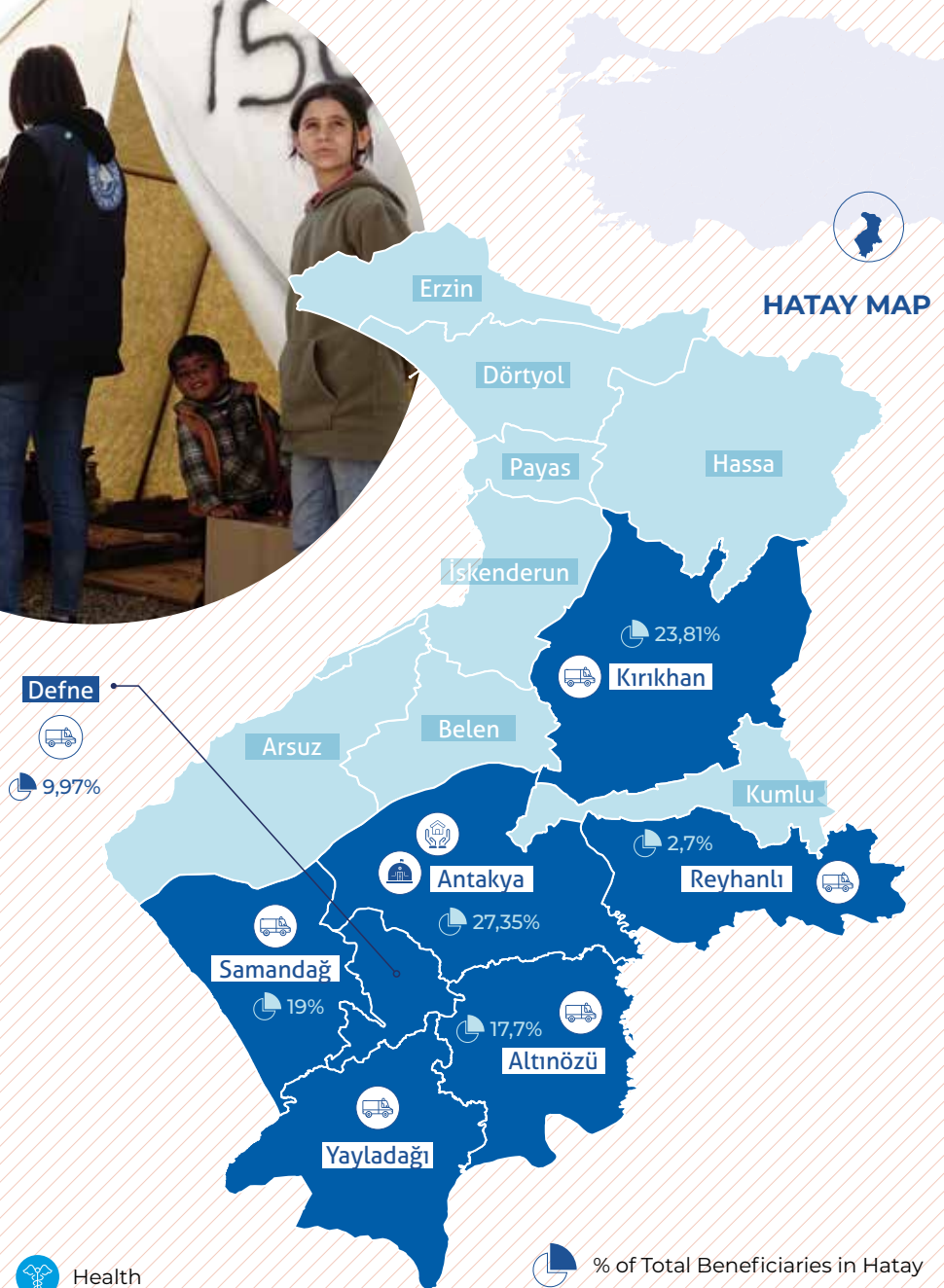
ed Syrian and non-Syrian migrants to legalize their status in cities such as Izmir and Istanbul. Many live in poverties and most find employment in the informal work sectors such as construction or textile. Others work as seasonal agricultural workers in rural areas of Türkiye. Moreover, the increase of administrative restrictions hindered by political factors such as the closure of some neighborhoods to the registration has made access to basic needs and services even more difficult than before.













Without legal documentation, they are excluded from basic primary services providers such as health, and education, and are at risk of deportation. The conflict and its subsequent displacements combined with poor living conditions in Türkiye have had serious consequences on refugees' psychological well-being, with a particularly adverse impact on women, the elderly, and children. Migrants and refugees living in rural areas tend to face additional barriers and have little to no access to healthcare services due to distance, financial constraints, and lack of information on available services.

Within this scope, DDD/MdM Türkiye has carried out humanitarian operations to increase, improve and facilitate the access of vulnerable groups including refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers- to protection integrated healthcare services through primary health care (PHC), PSS, protection awareness raising sessions on rights and services, and case management support. The overall objective of the organization is to enhance the protection and resilience of the most vulnerable populations in Türkiye.

Through its Medical Mobile Units in the rural areas of Bayraklı and Torbalı districts of Izmir and in Manisa, DDD provides for undocumented population and seasonal workers living in camp settlements, PHC services, medical and SRH consultations, preventive screening sessions. DDD performs external referrals in case of need for secondary care services such as public and private hospitals with which the DDD has protocols. In Urban Izmir, DDD also conducts household visits. In Istanbul, DDD has extended its cooperation with different local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to provide PHC, PSS, Health promotion and Awareness Raising sessions, and case management support through its Mobile Units in Zeytinburnu, Esenyurt, and Fatih districts.

In addition, Türkiye has become a destination for around 60 thousand Ukrainians fleeing Russian invasion as they were seeking international protection or were present with a tourist visa. Under its project, DDD has been providing food vouchers and transportation cards to help them secure their basic needs. Awareness-raising sessions on rights and services available to them, as well as case management support including accompaniment to the hospitals and covering their health costs, has been provided to increase the health and safety of Ukrainian refugees in Istanbul.



-  Health
-  Individual Psychological Support
-  Psychosocial Group Sessions
-  Protection
-  Woman & Child-Friendly Safe Space
-  Case Management & Referral
-  Hygiene and Sanitation
-  Hairdresser for Women
-  Safe Space for Women & Children
-  Mobile Medical Units
-  Container Office
-  % of Total Beneficiaries in Hatay



Project **Title**

Provision of health protection and resilience of at-risk Syrians and undocumented migrants in Türkiye



Reporting Period

01/09/2021



29/09/2022

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

\$1,434 360.63



Project Summary



Gift of the United States Government

With the support of BPRM, Dünya Doktorları (DDD) reached a total of 16,656 vulnerable migrant in Izmir (Urban Konak and Torbalı, and rural Torbalı), Manisa (rural Saruhanlı and Turgutlu) and urban Istanbul (Esenyurt, Zeytinburnu, and Fatih) including Syrians, Somalis, Senegalese, Sudanese, and Yemeni among others between September 2021 – September 2022 through this project.

The project aimed to provide protection and health services to fill critical gaps and address the needs of vulnerable people and increase the resilience of both the refugee community and local stakeholders in the above-mentioned urban and rural areas. DDD has implemented it through the mobile teams allowing for adaptability and flexibility to the specific needs of different project locations.

Syrian and non-Syrian beneficiaries received various services through the project duration: On the one hand, protection awareness raising sessions on rights and services aimed on increasing the sense of safety of individuals included key information on legal and administration processes in Türkiye. On the other hand, DDD provided health promotion to individuals to raise beneficiaries' awareness about major health issues and available services including COVID-19, hygiene, healthy diet, communicable and chronic diseases, and family planning. In coordination with the Izmir Public Health Directorate (PHD), DDD also led vaccination campaigns targeting seasonal workers that lead to the vaccination of hundreds of people. This is a significant and long-term impact on the health of these beneficiaries who were at high risk due to the lack of WASH facilities in their camps. Among others, PSS sessions aimed at strengthening beneficiaries' psychological resilience, coping skills, stress management and conflict resolution by also including cross cutting issues such as, child protection, and GBV concerns.

A notable achievement during this period was the registration of four undocumented infants with the Turkish authorities as a result of DDD interventions. This is a significant and enduring impact on these four children and their families, as these children can now access medical and education services, as well as other support systems. DDD also provided health-oriented case management to people and paid for the health care costs of vulnerable people in need, thus creating a life changing impact on people's life



Project **Title**

Provision of health protection and resilience of at-risk Syrians and undocumented migrants in Türkiye



Reporting Period

30/09/2022



29/09/2023

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

\$1,485,699.94



Project Summary



Gift of the United States Government

In the first quarter of the project from 30 September 2022 – 31 December 2022 funded by PRM, DDD continued to successfully implement the project in Izmir (urban Konak and rural Torbali), Manisa (rural Saruhanli and Turgutlu) and urban Istanbul (Esenyurt, Zeytinburnu, and Fatih) locations.

During this period, the project has reached out in total 2,432 vulnerable Syrian and non-Syrian migrant beneficiaries with an aim to strengthen the protective environment for the vulnerable population by providing awareness raising sessions, health related service, PSS wellbeing sessions. As for the second objective, the project continues to improve the access of over vulnerable people to health, social and legal services by providing them remote health consultation and case management support to increase their sense of safety and resilience.

DDD continued to coordinate between the Public Health Directorate and the municipality to provide basic needs to the vulnerable population following the outbreak of diseases such as influenza virus infection, enteritis due to winter conditions in the seasonal worker camps in Izmir and Manisa.

DDD also expanded its coordination mechanisms and partnerships with other stakeholders at the project sites. New protocol partnerships were established with community-based organisations to provide services through mobile units.

Finally, DDD covered the surgery cochlear and surgery costs of the Syrian-Turkmen girl Kader, enabling her to hear for the first time in cooperation with a public hospital. The story was broadcast on several television and digital news channels and received extensive media coverage.



Project Title

Strengthen the health and safety of vulnerable Ukrainian refugees in Istanbul, Türkiye



Reporting **Period**
01/06/2022



31/08/2023

DDD/MdM Türkiye **Budget**
\$70,000



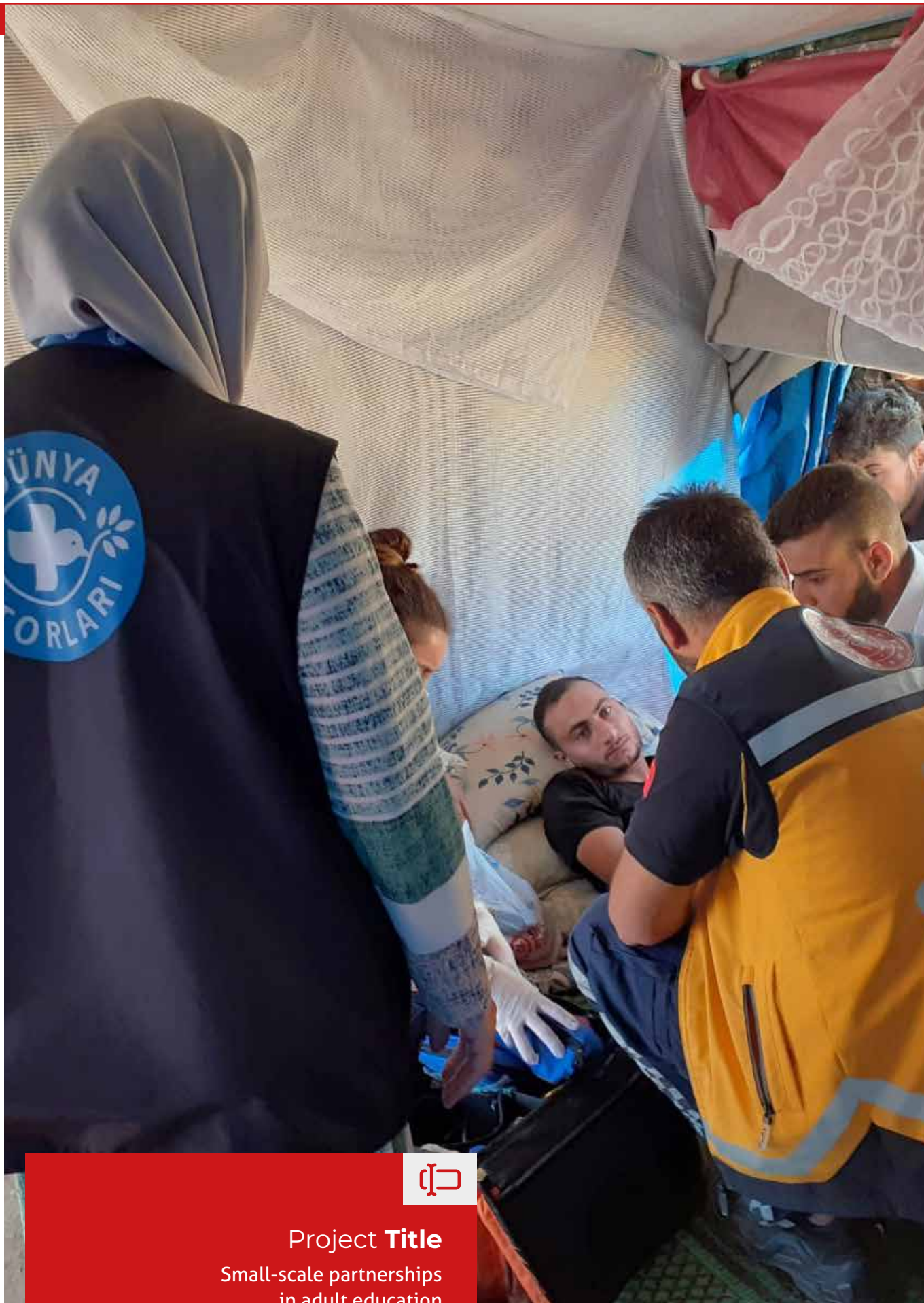
Project **Summary**



William H.
Donner
Foundation

The aim of the project is to strengthen the health and safety of vulnerable Ukrainian refugees in Istanbul by the purchase of food vouchers and transportation cards to meet vulnerable Ukrainian's basic needs, while increasing their knowledge of the Turkish legal system and access services such as health care. Within the scope of the project, a protocol with the Ukrainian Solidarity Association has been signed to refer and follow up vulnerable cases.

Through Ukrainian translators funded by Donner Foundation, DDD mobile team provides information sessions on their rights in Türkiye as well on the Turkish health system to navigate them through it. Ukrainians also benefits from health-oriented protection case provided by DDD, including accompaniment in the health care services, providing translation from Turkish, and covering medical consultation and drug costs.



Project **Title**
Small-scale partnerships
in adult education



Reporting Period

01/09/2022



31/12/2023

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

13,350 EUR



Project Summary



The objective of the Health Club project is to develop an inclusive and intercultural territorial ecosystem model, starting with the health field, through training and networking between social and health professionals (doctors, nurses, psychologists and volunteers) and foreign citizens.

The project aims on the one hand to develop territorial communities capable of understanding the socio-health needs of foreign citizens and on the other hand, to elaborate solution to facilitate their access to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment practices. Specific objectives of the project are to train health workers with relational and intercultural skills, to raise awareness among foreign citizens on the issues of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and to sensitise local communities on project issues by increasing intercultural social interaction and inclusion.



Project **Title**
Emergency Earthquake
Response in Hatay, Türkiye



Reporting Period

21/02/2023



21/08/2023

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

\$109,665.50



Project Summary



The project supported DDD's emergency programs and activities to provide disaster and humanitarian relief to people affected by the February 6th earthquakes. DDD aimed to increase the resilience and improve the physical and psychological health of the earthquake-affected population in hard-to-reach areas inside Antakya city, Hatay, and the surrounding areas in Turkey. Project HOPE's support significantly contributed to DDD's emergency response by providing five containers for shelters and healthcare activities, food and consumables for six months, four laundry and washing machines, rental of a mobile kitchen rental, and ten additional containers for DDD's Safe Space in Antakya.

DDD's programs, supported by these resources, included Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) staffed by healthcare professionals and psychosocial workers. The MMUs provided its health and protection services to hard-to-reach locations and operated out of a safe space for women and children in Antakya, established by DDD using containers provided with Project HOPE's support. These efforts enabled DDD to effectively address the urgent needs of the earthquake-affected population throughout the project period.



Project **Title**

"Emergency Earthquake Response: Provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health" (SRH) services through Mobile SRH Medical Teams in Hatay Türkiye



Reporting Period

01/07/2023



31/12/2023



DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

\$450,000



Project Summary



In partnership with UNFPA, DDD Türkiye provided static and mobile Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services to vulnerable women and girls, including refugees, pregnant women, and lactating mothers in Hatay province, in line with the "Leaving No One Behind" approach. The project's aim was to enhance the human resource capacity of MDM in safe motherhood and reproductive health, health education, and the promotion of women's human rights. This was achieved by hiring staff and providing reproductive health kits, commodities, maternity and dignity kits, as well as medical equipment and supplies.

DDD's SRH teams offered services focusing on family planning, prevention of sexual violence, and prevention of STIs/HIV. Lifesaving SRH services were delivered through specialized units, including one static and two mobile SRH Service Units. These services included obstetric and gynecological examinations, family planning counseling, pregnancy follow-ups, antenatal and postnatal care, referrals for safe delivery, and syndromic management of STIs. The UNFPA-funded teams comprised a General Practitioner, a Midwife/Obstetric Nurse, and two Health Mediators. Throughout the project period, DDD provided 3506 SRH services, and reached out to a total of 2793 women and girls.



Project **Title**

Earthquake Emergency Response:
Provision of Primary Healthcare
services through MMUs in Hatay



Reporting **Period**
01/07/2023



31/12/2023



41

DDD/MdM Türkiye **Budget**
\$409,000



Project **Summary**



With the support of IOM, DDD implemented health services in response to the urgent needs of earthquake survivors in the Hatay region, focusing on hard-to-reach locations in Antakya, Samandag, Altinozu, Defne, and Kirikhan districts. DDD's three Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) provided Primary Health Care (PHC), Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), medication, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and distributed essential kits. Through this emergency intervention, DDD provided services to 8,613 non-duplicated earthquake victims, 27% of whom were refugees. Additionally, approximately 5,000 individuals benefited from the distribution of 2,000 hygiene kits and 1,000 maternity kits.

The primary objective was to deliver immediate medical care, prevent the spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and address the physical and psychological trauma caused by the earthquake. The project ran until December 31, 2023, ensuring comprehensive health support to the most affected populations in the Hatay region.



TÜRKİYE
PROGRAMME
IMPACT

**Impact of Türkiye Programme
Services including Earthquake Response**

**Earthquake (EQ)
Response**

Total of Services

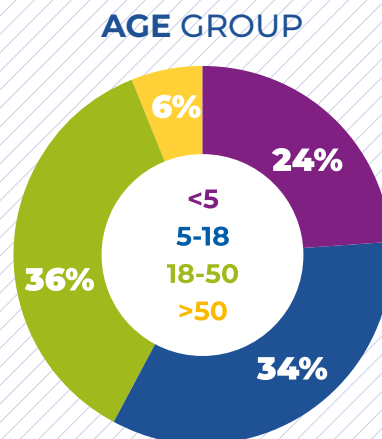
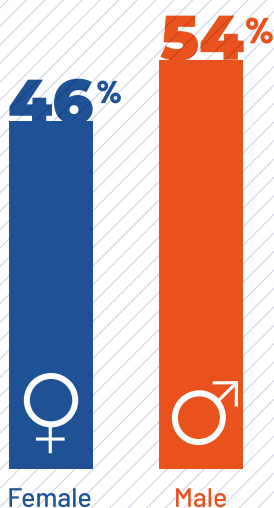
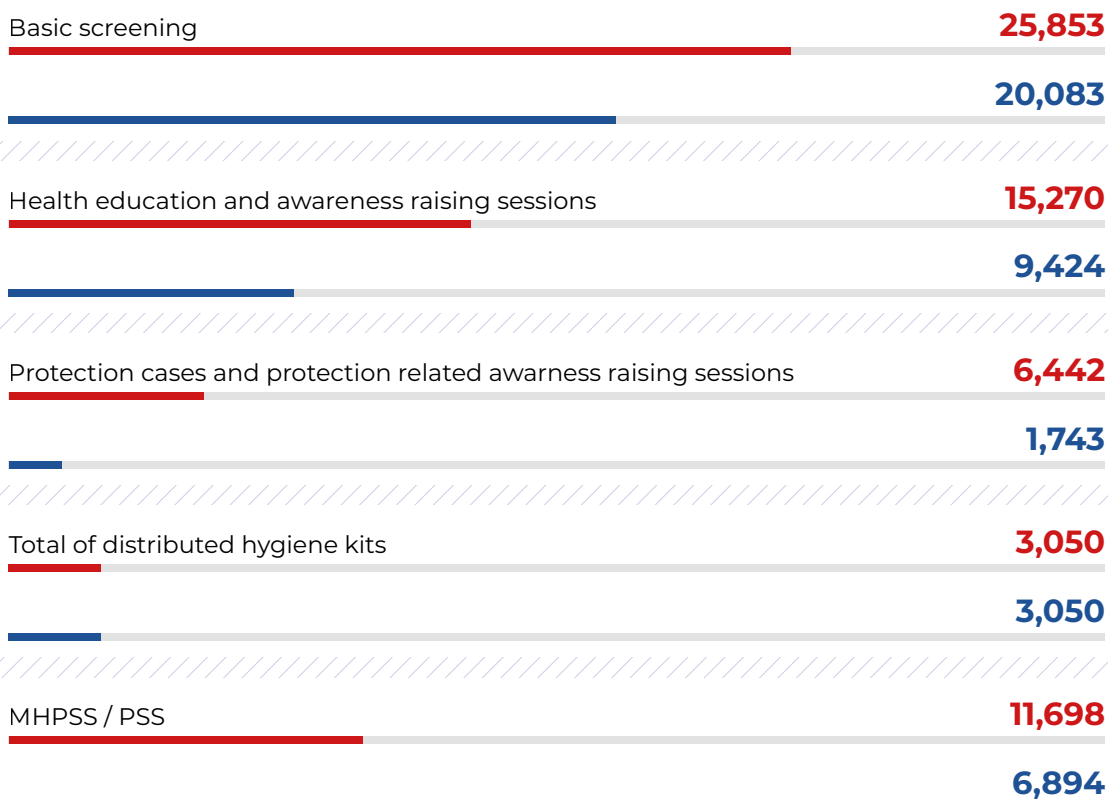
62,313

41,194

of beneficiaries

44,198

32,400



SYRIA PROGRAMME

Context

Syria remains one of the most challenging humanitarian emergencies in the world, with persistent hostilities that have resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths and triggered one of the worst displacement crises in modern times. In 2023, 15.3 million people were in dire need of lifesaving health assistance – which indicates a 3.2 million increase compared to 2022. In Idlib and Aleppo where DDD/MdM Türkiye works on average 79% of residents are internally displaced people (IDP) living in rented accommodation or tents.

The humanitarian situation in Syria was further exacerbated by the devastating February earthquakes. An estimated 2.9 million people were affected by the February earthquakes, and more than 300.000 people had to leave their homes.

Jandairis and Afrin in Western Aleppo and Harim districts in Idlib where DDD/MdM Türkiye works, have the highest density of internally displaced people (IDP) in the country living in rented accommodation or tents with on **average 79%** of the population. These areas were the most affected by the earthquake. Much of the town of Jandairis was reduced to rubble. **Over 8,000 people** were confirmed dead in these three locations, with many more buried under rubble as the necessary excavation equipment was stuck at borders. A further 12,000 earthquake-related injuries were reported.

There is an increased number of people who now live in tents as a result of the earthquakes. There are no containers for people to live in Syria. Poor and open living conditions in tents expose children and adults to freezing temperatures in winter and heat waves in summer, combined with poor ventilation of chimneys in the tents and inadequate sanitation in the camps, are just some of the determinants negatively impacting health trends. Women, children, the elderly, and People with Disabilities (PwDs) who have integrated health needs are the most vulnerable to these conditions. These conditions aggravated the cholera outbreak in the region by increasing the transmission and mortality rates.

In the government-controlled areas (GCA), the already-disrupted health system faced further demands and continues to be at risk of complete collapse in some affected areas as well as for certain life-saving departments and services.

Ongoing needs

The demand for integrated medical and protection services continues to be enormous in NWS, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases and PwD. New camps established after the earthquakes to meet the displaced people's sheltering needs were already full by September.

Displaced people who lived in Jandairis town in Afrin region have returned from rural areas but often lived in new camps established in the city as their homes were damaged. In addition, people from other places in the Afrin region are now moving to Jandairis because new camps are set up in and around the town with the anticipation of new services.

In Idlib, IDP camp populations have also increased as people sought safer ground. Moreover, problems with access to basic needs such as safe water and sanitation facilities has resulted in the spread of communicable diseases such as scabies, lice, and cholera in the region, as well as in many individuals suffering from physical and mental health issues.

GBV is endemic and has been further exacerbated by the earthquake due to the increased displacement; disproportionately affecting women and children.

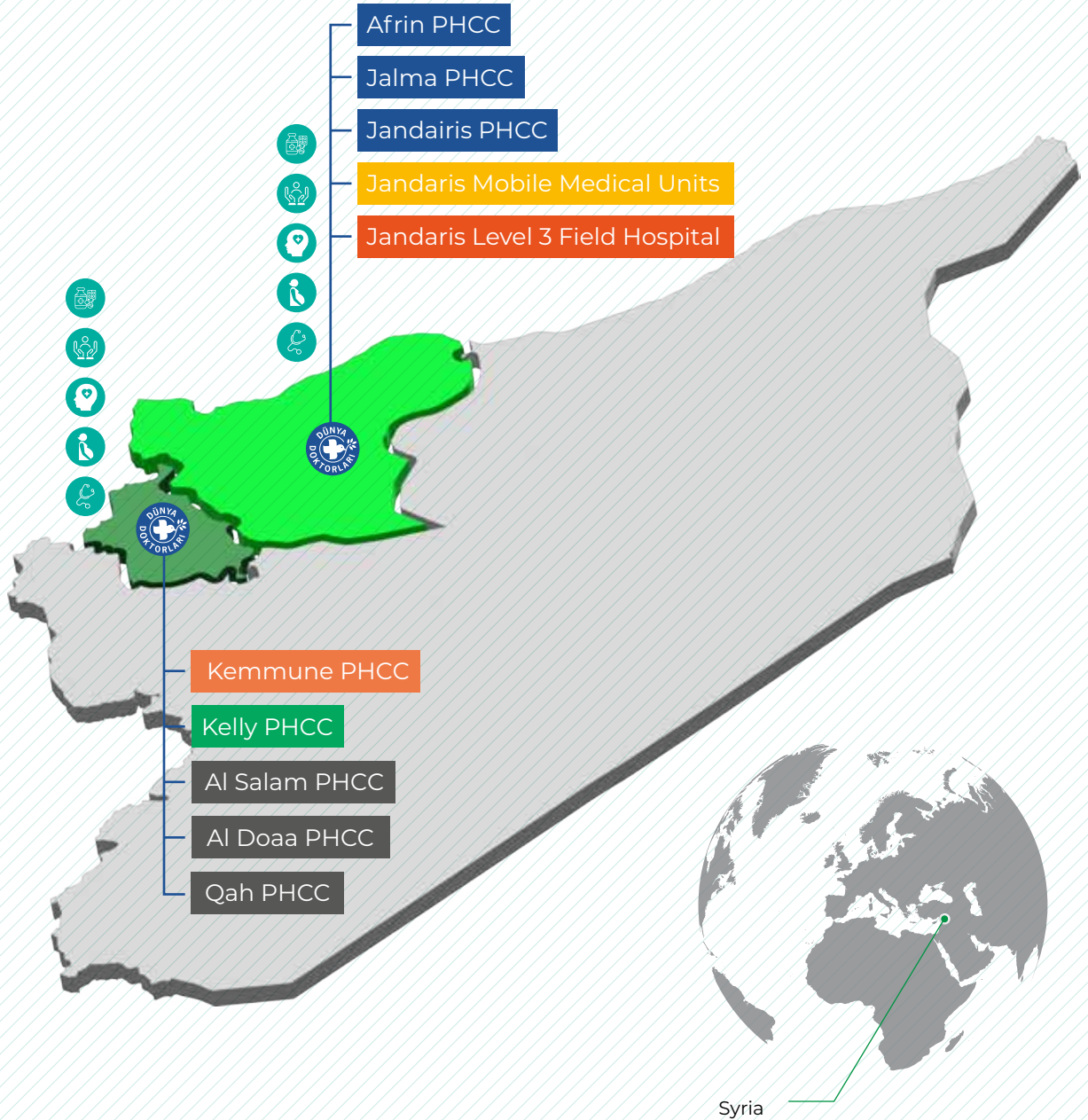
Domestic violence, sexual violence, rape, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, unaccompanied minors, child abandonment, child labor and early marriage have all increased in NWS where DDD/MdM Türkiye works. Sociocultural factors and particularly the lack of civilian security services in the area undermines efforts to support survivors and improve the protection context.



Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde Türkiye SYRIA PROGRAMME MAP

-  Primary Health Care
-  Sexual&Reproductive Health
-  Psychological Support
-  Protection
-  Medication

-  Funded by BHA
-  Funded by Tzu Chi Foundation
-  Funded by GFFO
-  Funded by CDCS
-  Not Funded





Project Title

Provision of health care services to conflict affected population inside Syria (Northwest Syria and South Syria) through direct and indirect implementation



Reporting Period

01/04/2020



30/06/2023

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

7,488,699.44 EUR



Project Summary



The project focused on providing comprehensive primary health care and protection services, either in collaboration with local partners or through direct implementation, in Idlib governorates of Syria. The aim is to address the most pressing health needs in Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs), Community Centers, and through Mobile Medical Units. Throughout the project implementation period, MdM Türkiye provided healthcare services to total of 173,712 unique beneficiaries people via three different PHCCs in Idlib Governorate (Al Doaa, Al Salam, and Qah), out of which 37,957 unique individuals were supported within the humanitarian response to the earthquake hit the region in February 2023

The focus is on sexual and reproductive health care, and the approach also includes components of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and gender-based violence (GBV). Each PHCC will have a psychologist and case manager to provide MHPSS and GBV services. Community Health Workers play a crucial role in community-based activities and raising awareness. Referrals to specialized services also be provided if needed.

The intervention aims to increase community resilience by improving health knowledge and practices, particularly in regard to hygiene, infant and young child feeding practices, and health-seeking behavior. Community sensitization and empowerment, particularly for women and young girls, also be emphasized through activities and resources such as the distribution of reusable pads and masks.



Project Title

Provision of essential Health Care and Protection Services to the conflict-affected population in Syria



Reporting Period

01/04/2023



30/04/2025

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

€ 2,411,509.24



Project Summary



The project aims at enhancing access to inclusive comprehensive primary health care services, including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and psychosocial support to conflict-affected populations in Syria. This humanitarian intervention aims to address the most pressing health needs, alleviate suffering, and to reduce morbidity and mortality rates through a Primary health care approach, based on community needs and following a community approach to enhance engagement and participation of community members, and reinforcement of national capacities, especially in terms of emergency preparedness and response plan development vis-à-vis of any urging public health matters. Under this grant, DDD has reached by the end of 2023 provided 63 279 services, reaching in total to 27 107 unique beneficiaries through three different PHCCs in Idlib Governorate (Al Doaa, Al Salam, and Qah).



Project Title

Provision of Essential Basic Primary Health Care to Vulnerable Conflict-Affected Populations in Idlib and Aleppo



Reporting Period

01/10/2022



30/09/2024

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

\$4.418.634,61

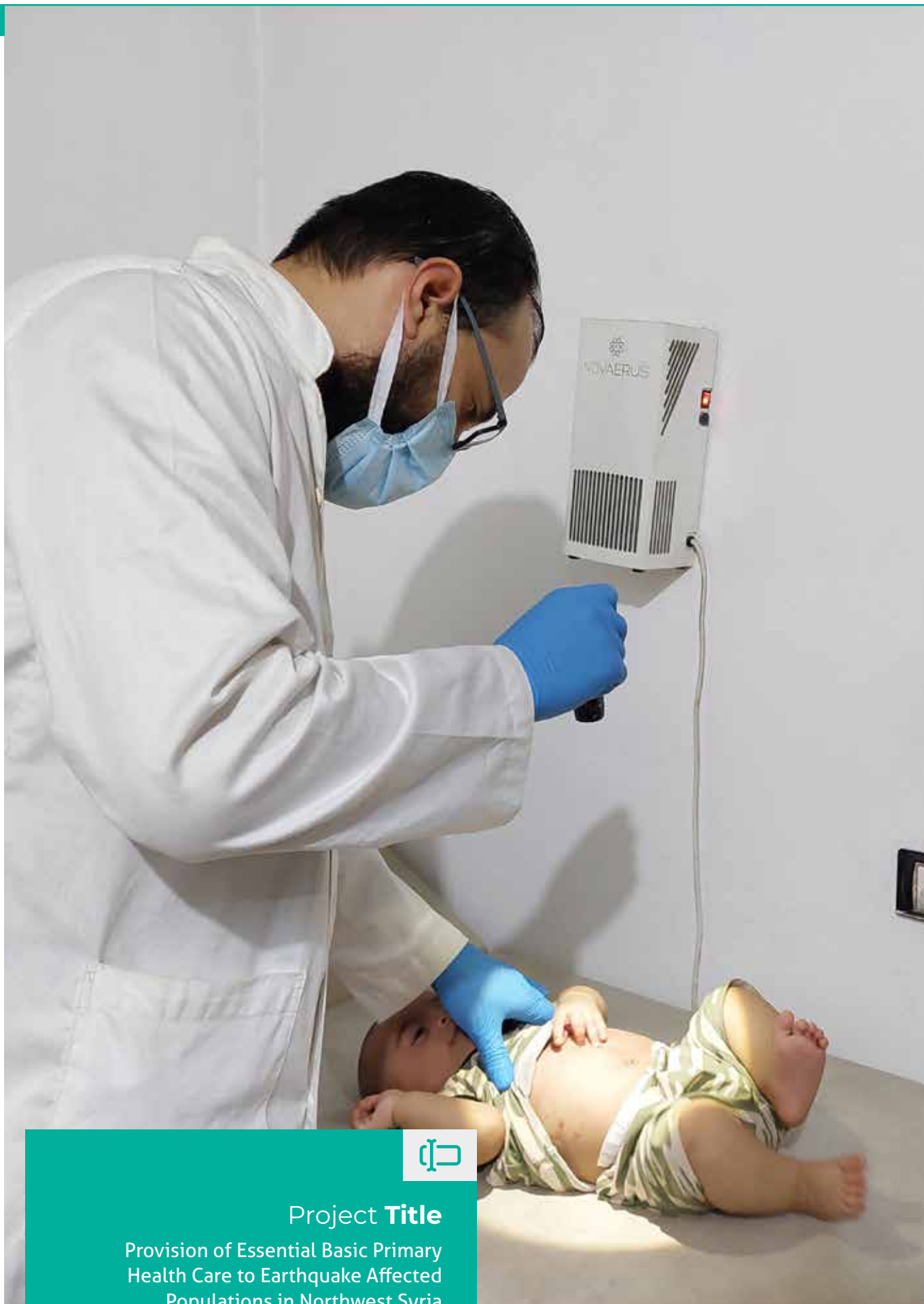


Project Summary



Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the project contributes to four primary healthcare clinics, three of which are located in Afrin district of Aleppo governorate and one in Harim district of Idlib governorate. The project aims at providing services to increase the resilience of the conflict-affected populations in northwest Syria, by enhancing their access to quality health services.

The project provides inclusive and essential basic primary health care including prevention and treatment of communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive/maternal, child, and newborn health, care for noncommunicable diseases, and mental health, as well as medical and non-medical referrals, and so far reached 63,128 unique beneficiaries across four PHCCS (Jalma, Jandairis and Afrin in Afrin district in Aleppo, and Sarmada in Dana sub-district in Idlib). Health care services are accompanied by the safe removal and management of medical waste in Idlib.



Project Title

Provision of Essential Basic Primary Health Care to Earthquake Affected Populations in Northwest Syria



Reporting Period

15/04/2023



14/08/2023

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

292,797.50 EUR



Project Summary



The project aimed to support ongoing MdM Türkiye healthcare services and increase the capacity to respond to the needs of earthquake-affected populations across four PHCCs, Sarmada PHCC in Harim district (Idlib), and Afrin PHCC, Jalma, and Jandairis PHCCs in Afrin district (Aleppo). MdM Türkiye's intervention aimed to strengthen the physical and mental health of conflict-affected populations in Afrin and Harim districts by providing comprehensive and inclusive primary health care. During the reporting period, this grant project supported MdM Türkiye in reaching a total of 26,364 unique beneficiaries across the aforesaid four PHCCs.



Project Title

DDD/MdM Türkiye Health Care
Response to Earthquake-Affected
Populations in Idlib



Reporting Period

01/04/2023



31/12/2024

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

€ 1,338,568.20



Project Summary



The project aims to improve the health and well-being of people affected by the conflict in Idlib governorate of Syria, specifically in the Maaret Tamsrin area. At the Tzu Chi-supported Kelly clinic, DDD/MdM Türkiye's healthcare services include general doctor visits, disease diagnosis and treatment, child healthcare, emergency, and specialized referrals. DDD/MdM Türkiye also provides Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services to pregnant women, girls, and survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (S/GBV). Additionally, DDD/MdM Türkiye staff offer Mental Health (MH) support, such as counseling from trained psychologists. With Tzu Chi support, DDD/MdM Türkiye has made essential medications available for free, which is particularly important as many people in the area can neither afford to pay for medications nor can travel the distance to pharmacies.

Since the beginning of the project, DDD/MdM Türkiye delivered 23,644 healthcare services to 8,439 unique beneficiaries.



Project **Title**
Rapid Emergency
Response – Syria Earthquake



Reporting Period

01/03/2023



30/11/2023

DDD/MdM Türkiye Budget

€ 1,338,568.20



Project Summary



The project aimed to reduce morbidity and mortality among the earthquake-affected population in Syria. The general objective was to ensure access to emergency primary health care services, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services, for crisis-affected populations. In partnership with Médecins du Monde France, DDD provided quality, free-of-charge emergency primary health care services in Aleppo and Hama Governorates.

The intervention adopted a transversal approach, integrating MHPSS and GBV components to respond to urgent health needs at two levels: (1) within Health Care Services, and (2) within the community through Community Centers and Mobile Medical Units. This multi-level approach aimed to maximize the reach and impact, ensuring the highest possible number of beneficiaries received necessary services. Throughout the project implementation period, DDD/MdM Türkiye provided 22 484 services and reached out to 12 805 individuals in total.



SYRIA
PROGRAMME
IMPACT

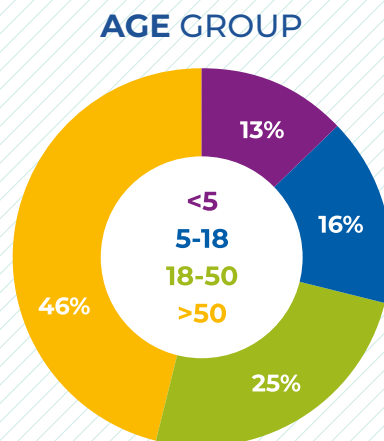
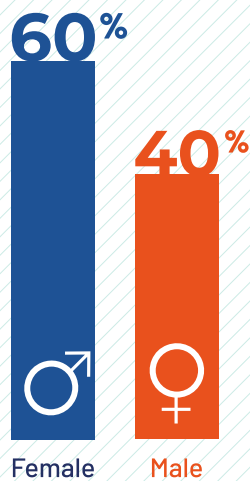
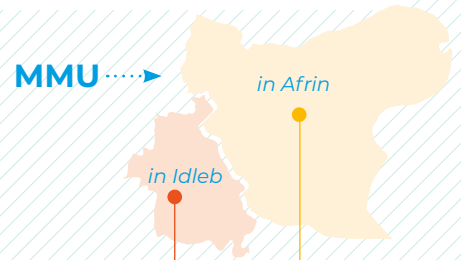
Impact of Syria Humanitarian Operation → **Total of Services 729,738** → **# of beneficiaries 205,144**

PHC consultation + nursing	269,873
SRH	54,198
LAB	20,724
Pharmacy	267,272
Protection cases	1,201
MHPSS	8,032
# of distributed hygiene kits	17,970
# of CHW participants	90,468

Earthquake Response

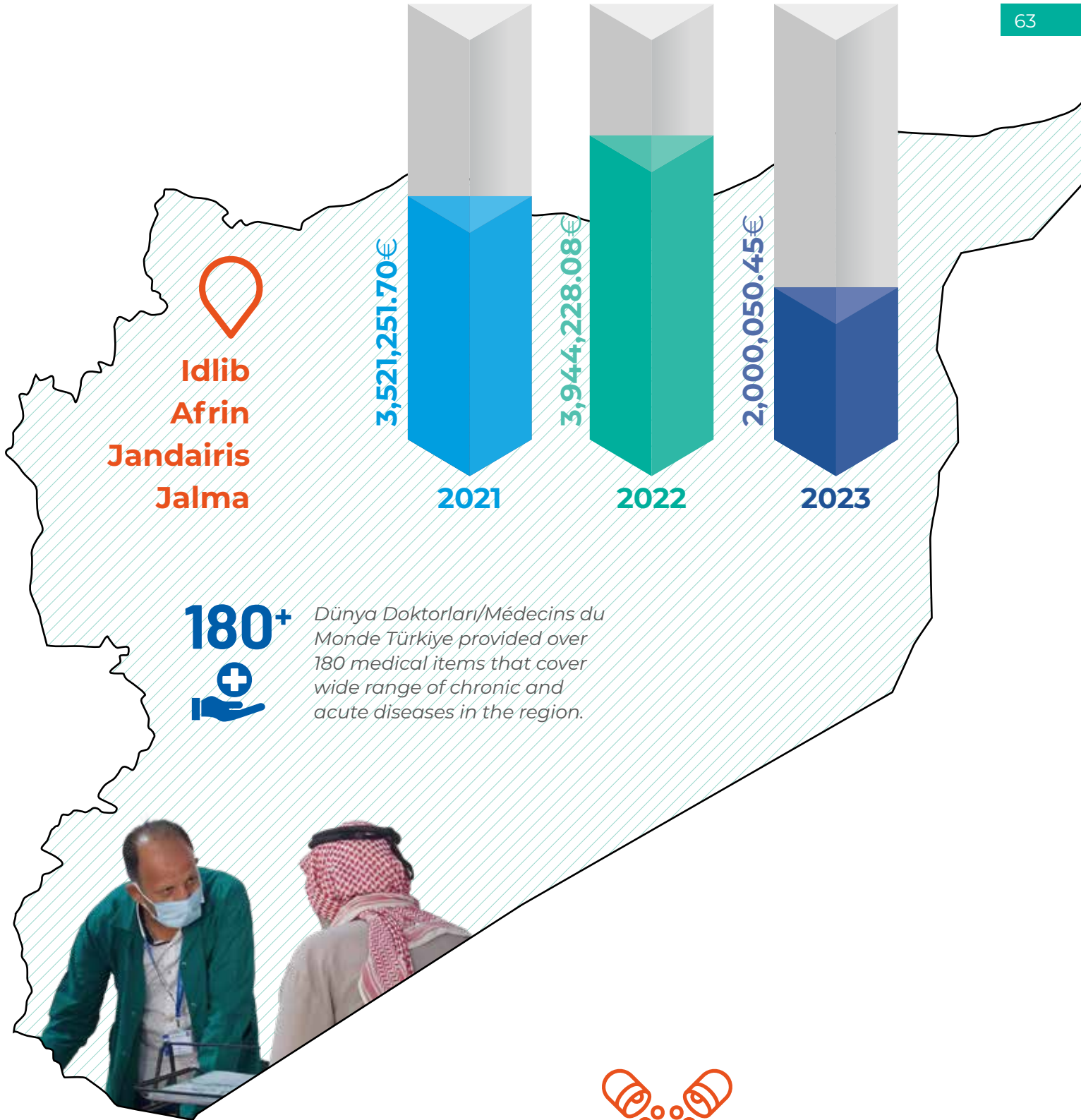
Total of Services 99,138 → **# of beneficiaries 20,933**

	Total	in Idleb	in Afrin
PHC consultation + nursing	30,048	8,048	22,000
SRH	3,323	1,354	1,969
Pharmacy	26,096	6,641	19,455
MHPSS	768	431	337
# of distributed hygiene kits	17,970	7,748	10,222





**MEDICAL
DELIVERY
TO SYRIA**



**Medicine, Medical
Consumables
and Medical
Equipment**



ADVOCACY

JOINT STATEMENT ON UNSC CROSS BORDER RESOLUTION

On January 10, 2023, the United Nations Security Council was scheduled to vote on whether to renew the cross-border mechanism that has enabled the Bab al-Hawa crossing to function since 2014. This crossing is crucial as it is the only route connecting Idlib in northwestern Syria with Türkiye, allowing humanitarian aid to reach the region.

DDD/ Mdm Türkiye, along with Mdm France and Spain, issued a statement urging the UN Security Council to extend the cross-border resolution provisions on July 10 for at least another 12 months. This extension is necessary to ensure the continuous delivery of humanitarian aid to the Syrian population, where over 15 million people are in need of assistance. The cross-border mechanism, which operates under UN Resolution 2642, is vital for providing food, medical supplies, and other essential aid to millions, especially in northwestern Syria where access to basic services is severely limited.

The humanitarian situation in Syria remains dire, with ongoing conflict, economic instability, and health crises such as cholera outbreaks exacerbating the suffering. The Bab al-Hawa crossing supports nearly 600 truckloads of aid monthly, which is crucial for those living in camps and other vulnerable conditions. Renewing the resolution is critical to prevent a further humanitarian catastrophe and to support efforts towards more durable solutions in this multifaceted crisis.



**MORE THAN 2,3 MILLION SYRIANS DEPEND ON
MONTHLY SUPPORT THEY RECEIVE
UNDER CROSS-BORDER ASSISTANCE.**

JOINT STATEMENT CALLING FOR QUICK MOBILIZATION OF FUNDS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES

Following the earthquakes that stroke heavily Syria and Türkiye on February 6, 2023, affecting millions of people in Türkiye and Syria, Médecins du Monde (Mdm) Network under the leadership of DDD/ Mdm Türkiye, issued a statement to call for unimpeded access to those most in need and quick mobilization of funds needed to save lives and to provide basic support to the victims.

The Médecins du Monde (Mdm) Network urges the international community to increase their efforts to support people in need in the affected areas.



STATEMENT ON HEALTH MEASURES TO PREVENT EARTHQUAKE RELATED EPIDEMICS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

After the 6th of February earthquakes that affect at least 10 Turkish Provinces, experts warned about the rise of infectious diseases that could cause epidemics if serious precautions are not taken.

While welcoming the measures that have been taken so far, Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde Türkiye issued a statement calling on public authorities and the international community to intensify health measures these include vaccination, sanitary disinfection, and the distribution of protective masks and medications to prevent the propagation of respiratory diseases, water-borne diseases, and infectious diseases such as scabies, rabies, and measles.

JOINT ONE-PAGER ON GROWING HEALTHCARE NEEDS IN SYRIA

In the scope of the European Humanitarian Forum, DDD/MdM Türkiye, along with MdM France and Spain, issued an advocacy factsheet highlighting the growing healthcare needs in Syria. They urged the international community to ensure humanitarian access and called on donors to increase funding.



INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

March 2023

SYRIA

MULTIPLE CRISES, GROWING HEALTHCARE NEEDS

HEALTHCARE NEEDS AND RIGHTS MUST BE PRIORITIZED RIGHT NOW

To support the people in Syria, we need:

ACCESS

States, the international community and all relevant stakeholders must ensure humanitarian access to comprehensive, quality healthcare to all people in need, including from neighboring countries, according to international humanitarian law.

In 2023, more than 15 million people will need humanitarian aid.

The humanitarian crisis triggered by the Syrian civil war is far from over and was further exacerbated by February 6th earthquake.

The addition of crises impacts the physical and mental health of Syrians,

FUNDING

Donors should prioritize funding healthcare, including mental health, sexual and reproductive healthcare and prevention and control of epidemic-prone diseases.

After 12 years of conflict, people in Syria continue to face:

- Limited or no access to basic health services, with 385 health facilities damaged and 366 health workers killed since the beginning of the conflict, and a dire lack of medical personnel and material.
- Limited capacities of local authorities to manage the public health system.
- Global and local epidemics such as cholera, fostered by fragile living

JOINT FACTSHEET HIGHLIGHTING EARTHQUAKE RELATED NEEDS FOR INCREASE FUNDING

In the scope of the 7th Brussels Conference supporting Syria, DDD/ MdM Türkiye, issued an advocacy factsheet highlighting the importance of the needs and advocating for increased and continuous funding for affected populations in Türkiye and Syria.



SIDE EVENT ON HEALTH RESPONSE AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES IN SYRIA

DDD/MdM Türkiye co-organized a panel discussion as part of the side events held in the scope of the Brussels VII Conference Supporting the Future of Syria and the region.

The panel, held in Belgium and titled "Four Months On: Lessons Learned from the Health Response to the Earthquakes in Syria," provided an opportunity to discuss what can be done in war-torn Syria after the earthquakes.



CEASEFIRE NOW CAMPAIGN

DDD/MdM Türkiye and hundreds of NGOs have united to call on all Heads of State, the UN Security Council, and actors on the ground to prioritize the preservation of human life above all else. During the Ceasefire Now Campaign, they also urge all parties to unconditionally facilitate the delivery of lifesaving assistance and the safe passage of humanitarian and medical staff.

STATEMENT TO WARN AGAINST MEASLES OUTBREAK

According to official data presented to WHO by the Ministry of Health, 1,440 measles cases were detected in Türkiye in the first four months of 2023.

Dünya Doktorları (DDD)/Médecins du Monde (Mdm) Türkiye, took this occasion to call on citizens with under- or unimmunised children, through a statement, to get the necessary vaccinations, as recommended by the Ministry of Health.

DDD also invited public authorities and the international community to intensify health measures and raise awareness among society.

STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH OF HUMANITARIAN WORKERS

The earthquakes that hit Türkiye and Syria on February 6 explicitly highlighted the crucial importance of mental health and psychological support.

However, the attention paid to the psychological well-being of humanitarian staff was insufficient, a factor which had a significant impact on the effectiveness and continuity of their efforts.

DDD/MdM Türkiye along with Mdm International Network issued a statement calling on governments, international organizations, and funding bodies to prioritize and allocate resources for comprehensive psychosocial support programs tailored to the needs of humanitarian aid workers, ensuring their mental and emotional well-being.

ECOSOC STATUS ACCREDITATION

DDD/MdM Türkiye has been granted special consultative status by the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 25 July 2023, following the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

This status allows DDD/MdM Türkiye to engage with ECOSOC to advocate on relevant topics. Organizations granted ECOSOC status enjoy privileges such as attendance at meetings, access to the UN, participation in consultations with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, organizing side events during UN events, and delivering oral or written statements.





**STORIES
FROM
THE FIELD**

Saad's Story
with War
and Forced
Displacement:



*The war took
from me the
most precious
thing I had...*

"I will never forget that day. It was my last moment to see the light. And then, everything has become dark."

These are the words of Saad, a 23-year-old young Syrian man from Idlib's Al Salihya village. He is an internally displaced person living with his family of 9 people in Al-Karama camp located in northwestern Syria.

Saad has suffered from the scourges of war that has been lasting for 12 years in Syria. The brutal war deprived him of the most precious thing he had. In 2019, the village, where Saad was living as a young man, was bombed by aircrafts, and this caused him a severe wound that has made him blind with a serious head and throat injury. After a long state of coma due these injuries caused by the airstrikes, his father recounted the dire circumstances as he was rushed to nearby hospitals in northwest Syria. However, it was clear that Saad needed more advanced treatment. Thus, after the first aid in a hospital in Syria, he was transferred to Turkish hospitals, where his long and arduous road to recovery began.

For nearly nine months, Saad fought a battle against the death. He underwent multiple surgeries and medical procedures to address his injuries. Gradually, his journey back to consciousness began. But the darkness persisted, as he awoke to find himself robbed of his sight





and faced with challenges that would test his spirit. With unwavering determination, Saad embraced this new chapter of life, despite the adversity he faced. His ability to walk, speak, and even seizures were constant reminders of the war's cruel consequences. Still, he clung to hope, determined to rebuild his life.

"I will never forget that day. It was my last moment to see the light, and then, everything has become dark," Saad says and continues: "It was a beautiful day like all the days I live with my family. While we were eating lunch, we heard the warplane above our heads, so we rushed to hide in the shelter of our house, but we could not reach it, and everything began to disappear around me."

After returning to Syria, Saad started to regularly visit Médecins du Monde Türkiye's Al Doaa clinic supported by German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) for the rest of his treatment, including taking anticonvulsant medication due to his exposure to seizures related to severe injuries and routine medical examinations necessary to monitor his stability of health situation.

Expressing his thanks to medical workers of Médecins du Monde Türkiye at Al Doaa clinic, Saad concludes, *"Finally, after all that time, darkness still looms over my life to this moment. Despite all that, I still cling to life and try hard to start over. I thank God that my family is all safe and in good health. I am confident that everything will return to normal sooner or later."*

Feeling the
Colors of the
World for the
First Time:
Story of Kader

Rande, a 36-year-old Syrian refugee woman who fled the war in Syria, took refuge in Turkey via southeastern province of Hatay in 2016. Her 38-year-old husband, Ali Shawi, irregularly migrated to Turkey six months ago prior to Rande's arrival for finding a job and house.

Rande, Ali and their three children were living in Syria's Aleppo before fleeing to Turkey. Due to heavy bombardment and armed conflicts in Aleppo, the family lost its house. When they started to be in fear of their life, Rande and Ali decided to leave the country in the hope of a new beginning for the future of their children.

After a harsh migration journey to Turkey via Hatay, the father, Ali, settled in the western coastal city of Izmir and then his wife, Rande, and their three children arrived in. All the family members started a new life in Izmir where they have been legally registered by the Turkish authorities under "Temporary Protection Regulation" which grants residence permit to Syrian nationals in the country.

In Turkey, Ali, as the only breadwinner of the family, started to work as a shoemaker, earning just 3000 Turkish Lira (~\$160), while their family has now been bigger with the two little babies born in the new country they took refuge.

Kader, one of the children of the family who was born just before their migration from Syria, has been suffering from congenital hearing loss, and has no ability to speak due to her hearing impairment.

Kader should have started primary school at the beginning of last year, but the school authorities did not accept her enrolment on the ground that she might have difficulties during the learning period since she cannot speak and hear.

Doctors told the family that a cochlear implant (bionic ear) must be surgically implanted to Kader, which allows the hearing to occur electronically, bypassing the ear phase, and transmitting the message directly to the acoustic (cochlear) nerve.



Following her referral to DDD/MdM Türkiye by the Turkish Red Crescent, a doctor working at DDD/MdM Türkiye's Izmir office examined Kader's medical process. The doctor informed that there is no age limit for the cochlear implant surgery but the risk of success of the surgery may decrease after the age of five. Therefore, performing the surgery at an earlier stage is very significant in terms of the development of Kader's ability to speak effectively. So, if Kader does not undergo this surgery, she would not be able hear at all in the future.

"My daughter hardly even expresses the words, 'mother' and 'father'. I want my child to continue her education for a better future for herself. This is why I really want this surgery so that Kader could go to school,"Rande says.

After a series of medical examination and consultation, DDD/MdM Türkiye, with the support of U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, provided Kader with necessary cochlear implant device, and a team a team of doctors, including Dr. Ibrahim Cukurova, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gül Caner Mercan, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. İlker Burak Arslan, performed Kader's inner ear surgery in November to place the implant.

In January 2023, approximately 2 months after the surgery, doctors installed the device behind the ear at Adolescent Counseling and Health Service Center (ÇİDEM).

Kader is now able hear his parents and can see the colors of world more brightly with the sounds of nature.

Kader's parents, Rande and Ali, are dreaming of the day that their daughter could start speaking and continue her education just like her peers.



Surviving
Aftermath
Earthquakes
on February 6:

**Ali and
His Daughter
from Hatay**

Ali Uzuner, an 82-year-old man, lives in a village of Harbiye, located in Hatay which was heavily affected by the earthquakes that hit Türkiye on February 6, 2023.

He and his daughter, 46-year-old Cemile, started to live together after the disaster in a tiny container that they built in the backyard of their house that was heavily damaged.

"I didn't even understand what happened when the earthquake occurred. We lost our minds," tells Ali, still with fear in his eyes.

"We stayed in a tent for 1-2 months just after the earthquake. Then, my daughter told me that she would build this place, and we would live together. My wife and I are now separated from each other. She lives in another place with my other children. Our children take care of us. God bless them," he continues.

"The night of the earthquake was like a bad dream. We got up from the bed. There was no electricity, and we went outside. It was raining cats and dogs. Lightning flashed. We were shaking. We are still in shock," adds Cemile.

"There was no communication. We had no vehicles and no minibuses. We had no doctors. Most of the doctors here have already left the province. It was us who took the blow. Then, we heard that healthcare specialists came to the village. We learnt that they were from DDD/MdM Türkiye."

Ali is an old man who lost one of his legs many years ago because he had not sought treatment for a wound on his foot, which turned into necrosis. After the earthquake, Ali noticed that he had a similar wound on his other foot. DDD/MdM Türkiye's mobile medical units reached Ali and his daughter during one of the regular visits to remote villages in Hatay to treat those in need. They examined the wound



Ali Uzuner, an earthquake survivor, sits in front of his makeshift container in Döver Village of Harbiye district in Hatay, Türkiye.

Cemile Elmas, an earthquake survivor and daughter of Ali Uzuner, lives in Döver Village of Harbiye district in Hatay, Türkiye.



and prescribed necessary medicines and treatment to avoid the risk of necrosis development on the other leg, too.

DDD/MdM Türkiye's nurse started to visit Ali and his daughter's container home every day to maintain medical care and dress the wound of the old man.

"Thankfully, my dad received the treatment he needed. There were no minibuses or other public vehicles after the earthquake. These people come to check and provide medical care to my dad whenever we call them or send them a message. We are thankful for their efforts," Cemile concludes.

Ali's wound is healing day-by-day, thanks to the timely medical intervention of DDD/MdM Türkiye's mobile medical units.

Ali Uzuner and his daughter Cemile Elmas (L), earthquake survivors, pose with DDD/MdM Türkiye staff Fevzi Çoban (R) in front of their makeshift cabin in Döver Village of Harbiye district in Hatay, Türkiye on July 13, 2023.





They gave us power to keep our hope alive amidst all this catastrophe.

Story of an earthquake survivor mother Yeşim and her little baby

Yeşim Kapi is a 30-year-old earthquake survivor from Hatay province of southeastern Türkiye. She lives in a village located in Samandağ district, where has been severely affected by the earthquakes on February 6. The massive earthquakes have changed the life of Yeşim and her family forever as they have done for millions of people.

Yeşim has an 11-year-old boy, Eray, a 10-year-old daughter, Cennet, and a 7-month-old baby Zümürüt. Aftermath the earthquakes, she started to live in a tent with her three children and husband.

Before the earthquake, Yeşim and her family all had ordinary lives. Before that night, she prepared their children for school. They expected snow on Sunday night, and there was joy and excitement for the expected snow. At 4:16 a.m., they started shaking. It was winter, and they were sleeping with their children with a stove in the room. When the shaking began, for a moment, they thought it was over, the tremor stopped. But after a few seconds, it started shaking again, very violently. During that moment, they heard all the noises, and everyone was outside. They were wondering which way the house would fall, to the right or to the left.

*"At that moment, all we could think about was death. We thought our house would collapse, and we would die, so we started praying. We began to embrace our children. I had my 7-month-old baby in my arms. We were all crying and praying at that moment because we really believed that we were going to die,"*Yeşim tells in sorrow, remembering those seconds.

"When we managed to get out, it was totally chaos. There was no electricity. The entire neighborhood was outside, and we were caught in terrible rain. We started covering and protecting our children. We didn't



Yeşim Kapi is a 30-year-old earthquake survivor from Hatay province of southeastern Türkiye. Together with her family of 5, she lives in a village located in Samandağ district, where has been severely affected by the earthquakes on February 6.

know what to do. There were pregnant women and I had given birth recently..."she continues.

All the neighborhood, groups of 40-50 people, stayed around the fire until the morning to get warm in the freezing cold.

"Even now, as we speak, we all talk with fear. It's as if that moment will come back again,"Yeşim says with fear still in her eyes.

Yeşim's little baby, 7-month-old Zümrüt, caught bronchitis at that time and she began to search for medical help everywhere in the province. Since all hospitals and healthcare infrastructure were paralyzed in Hatay just after the destructive earthquakes, Yeşim could not reach any medical services.

"Finally, we received news that DDD/MdM Türkiye has been providing healthcare services here via mobile teams. I immediately took my baby to their mobile medical point. They showed great care for my child. Thanks to them, my daughter avoided getting bronchitis completely,"Yeşim states.

Sexual and reproductive health counselors of DDD/MdM Türkiye also held a series of awareness and information training sessions with Yeşim regarding women's health, family planning, mother-infant education, antenatal and postnatal care, hygiene, sexual health and sexually transmitted infections.

"They gave us that sense of confidence,"Yeşim says, and adds: "Many of our children were saved from contagious diseases with the intervention of the medical workers who regularly visit us here. Our confidence was restored. Just having someone listen to us, helping us... Even that feeling was so good. They made us feel that way, and they gave us the power to keep our hope alive amidst all this catastrophe."

Zümrüt, 7-month-old baby of Yeşim, is now so healthy and got rid of bronchitis now. DDD/MdM Türkiye's SRH team continues to visit Yeşim and her family regularly to check their needs for medical and reproductive health.

Yeşim Kapi and her family, earthquake survivors, pose with DDD/MdM Türkiye's SRH Counselor in their garden in Samandağ district of Hatay, Türkiye, after an SRH session provided.



**“ WE MUST CREATE
SAFE SPACES TO
MINIMIZE THE
SENSE OF
UNCERTAINTY
AND
DESPERATION**



INTERVIEW

Ayşe Calayır, Psychosocial Support Officer of Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) Türkiye who has been providing psychological first aid in Hatay, one of the provinces most affected by the earthquakes on February 6, shared her observations regarding the psychological situation and trauma after the disaster. Calayır highlights the importance of creating a safe space for children in the early stages of psychosocial support and carrying out balance/stabilization activities for reactions such as fear and anxiety experienced in the post-quake period.

Question: Hello Ayşe. You have worked with Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) Türkiye in Hatay for a significant period immediately after the earthquakes that hit Türkiye and Syria on February 6. Can you tell us what were your observations in the region?

Ayşe: About one week after the earthquake, we went to Antakya and started to work on the ground for ten days with my other teammates. I can basically summarize what I saw during this fieldwork through the four groups I observed.

First, we started to conduct fieldwork to meet the needs of the area where our office severely damaged by the earthquake in Antakya is located. My first observations here were of children. Parents/caregivers of children, particularly, prefer to leave the area because it was not a safe area, and suitable living conditions were not available. For this reason, we didn't see so many children in the city center during the very first days of the earthquake. However, when we went to rural areas, we found that there were children, and their basic and psychosocial needs were quite high.

During my interviews with young people, I realized that they feel uncertain about their future. The possibility that their education will remain unfinished increases their stress and they want to go to other provinces because they do not have opportunities in their area. And if parents do not want to leave, disagreements and disputes may arise in the family.

In the interviews that I conducted with women and in my observations directly from the field, I noticed that the burden of women's tasks continued after the earthquake. They cannot devote enough time to their own needs because they are very busy with child nutrition and childcare.

Another thing that I have observed in adults is that people affected by the earthquakes, especially in rural areas, do not want to leave their house because it has not been damaged too much since they don't want to leave their livestock and their region or else for fear that thieves will enter their home or that illegal practices will be committed.

We have seen that they set up tents in their gardens and greenhouses, creating their living spaces there. In this regard, I think mobile services should also be expanded to reach people living in suburbs and/or rural areas.

I think that it is also necessary to talk about the refugees in the earthquake zone. Refugees are among the risk groups because they are exposed to a major traumatic event after migrating to a country due to another traumatic event such as the war that has lasted for 12 years in Syria. Yet, they are also reluctant to ask for support because they are constantly exposed to discrimination and hate speech. They also have difficulties in expressing themselves due to language barriers.



Question: *What was the psychosocial situation in Hatay after the earthquake? Have you observed any factors that further increased the damage?*

Ayşe: For the concept of “psychosocial”, we usually talk about psychological and social effects that interact with each other. Psychosocial support, which holds an important place during and after disasters, can be defined as the prevention of psychological problems that may arise after a disaster, the strengthening of the coping capacities of individuals and communities, and the supporting the affected populations to make sense of the traumatic event to improve their resilience.

From this point of view, we can say that psychosocial support activities start from the very first moment of the disaster. In other words, identifying, securing, and meeting people’s basic needs, and providing them with psychological first aid and psychological support are among the fundamental applications of psychosocial support.

As the first step of psychological first aid after the disaster, we, Dünya Doktorları/ Médecins du Monde Türkiye, collected the necessary information about people's needs by listening to them, helping them make sense of the event, revealing their feelings, and providing support in accordance with their needs. It is possible to say that the acute period lasts for a long time after the earthquake due to the inability to act in an organized manner,



the limited access to the support mechanisms, and the inability to ensure the continuity of the aid. Of course, this situation also affected the well-being of those impacted by the earthquake. People feel desperate and lonely, especially in the first days after the earthquake, due to the fact that the search and rescue efforts were not adequately organized, the access to water, food, and hygiene materials was limited, and tents or containers could not be set up. As this process has become so late, people began to further feel a sense of uncertainty and desperation. So, the acute post-earthquake period may last a long time due to the lack of organized action, the limited access to aid, and the inability to ensure the continuity of aid.

People in the region also do not want to leave their places since they haven't been able to find their beloved ones under the rubble yet. The absence of a grave, the absence of post-mortem rituals, and the uncertain losses have even prevented people from grieving over their losses. Moreover, it is possible to note that uncertainty persists due to the still-ongoing aftershocks.

Question: *What should be done in the next step?*

Ayşe: First of all, it is necessary to provide safe spaces where psychosocial and psychological support can be provided. People's feelings of uncertainty and desperation can decrease and they can better control it by providing safety for them. It is extremely important for children and young people to have places where they can express themselves, study, and spend their leisure time. In this regard, continuous education in line with their school routines will be protective in terms of their psychological health.

We know that young people in particular are one of the risk groups after traumatic events such as earthquakes. They may have difficulties with expressing themselves, and may not want to share their experiences. This can lead to prolonged traumatic stress symptoms.

Some safe spaces, where they can communicate with their peers, must be established. For women, it is necessary to create such spaces where they can rest and share their experiences comfortably. People affected by the earthquake should not be seen as victims. It is important to work in such a way that they can reveal their own capacities.

The extent of the loss, the search for the deceased, and the inability to bury their beloved ones under the rubble... All these factors may contribute to a prolonged mourning process. Therefore, in the long run, it is essential to focus on this (mourning) process.

It should not be forgotten that many people who survived the earthquake migrated to different provinces. For this reason, it is absolutely necessary to work for people affected by the earthquake in other provinces as well.

There are also occupational groups that are secondarily affected by the earthquakes, such as search and rescue workers, firefighters, police officers, soldiers, psychologists, and social workers. People in these groups may show traumatic stress reactions like those primarily affected by the disaster. In this regard, we should include "mental health and psychosocial support for staff" activities in our psychosocial support interventions.

Question: *We mentioned that there are many children in the region affected by the earthquakes. How should we approach children affected by such a disaster?*

Ayşe: It is very important to provide children with a safe space in psychosocial support activities for children and to carry out these activities to stabilize their reactions such as fear and anxiety.

During and/or after these activities, it is necessary to create spaces where children can, if they wish, tell what they experienced during the earthquake. If possible, toys and drawing materials should be made available in these areas. Since they were exposed to too much detail of such a traumatic event when they were with their parents/caregivers, children tend to react like their relatives.

From this point of view, it is also very crucial to carry out psychoeducational interventions for parents/caregivers on how to explain the earthquake to children, how to normalize children's reactions, and how children react to traumatic stress. Following the earthquake, we also observed that children may show intense reactions when they were not with their parents such as the desire to remain with their mothers/fathers always, thumbsucking, etc. Therefore, we should inform parents that such reactions are quite normal during the acute period.

Traumatic stress symptoms may not be seen in children's drawings, speech, or reactions after the earthquake in the early stages. Yet, this does not mean that children have not been affected by the disaster,



and it should not be forgotten that each child may react in different ways. Therefore, it is significant to help them interpret the situation.

Question: *In recent years, disasters such as earthquakes and floods have frequently struck our country. Can these disasters cause social trauma?*

Ayşe: In the literature, traumatic events are defined as “an event or events that involve actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of oneself or others.” Traumatic events such as earthquakes and floods are classified as natural disasters. However, it would not be appropriate to define the latest earthquake and floods in our country as purely natural disasters.

Constructing uncontrolled and unsafe buildings on the fault lines, destroying nature, building houses on the river bottom, or unplanned urbanization show that people also have an effect on these disasters. This exactly increases the impact of such a traumatic event.

Considering all these conditions, it is of course possible to see that the impact of an earthquake with such a massive and devastating magnitude could not be limited to just 10 provinces. A very large segment of society has been psychologically affected by it. Even if they did not directly witness the violence of the earthquake, some people have relatives, former neighbors, and colleagues who experienced this disaster. Uncertainty and lack of safety affect many more people than those directly affected. For example, in Istanbul, many people are already worried about a possible earthquake that would hit the city in the near future according to the estimations of some seismologists.

Question: *What has Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde Türkiye been doing in the region as part of the earthquake response?*

Ayşe: Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde Türkiye reached the Hatay region on the first day of the earthquake. During the first week, fieldwork was carried out to identify the needs of the earthquake victims, providing them with necessary medical, psychological, and nutritional support. For services that we could not provide, we conducted research to see where we could refer people to meet their needs as much as possible. Some individuals just wanted to express themselves, and convey their feelings, minimize their stress. Being a good listener was very important at that point. As part of the mental health and psychosocial support interventions, our interviews were first focused on psychological first aid.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) defines psychological first aid describes a humane, supportive response to a fellow human being who is suffering and who may need support.

In general, our work, at the very early stage after the disaster, aimed at identifying the urgent needs and concerns of those affected by the earthquake, supporting them in meeting their basic needs and listening without forcing people to speak. At the same time, we made them aware of the fact that their reactions are normal reactions given to extraordinary situations they have been living through. We also organized playing activities with the children as part of our psychosocial support sessions. As psychologists, we did interviews for psychological support with people whose symptoms were more intense, leading negatively affecting their social functionality.

Since the disaster, Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde Türkiye continues to provide health, psychological support, medication, protection, basic hygiene and sanitation services to earthquake victims in Hatay through its woman and child-friendly safe space and mobile medical teams to respond to their basic needs.



PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANTS



Gift of the United States Government





www.dunyadoktorlari.org.tr



info@dunyadoktorlari.org.tr



[/dunyadoktarlari](https://www.youtube.com/dunyadoktarlari)