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**HUMANITARIAN
ACTION**
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The Türkiye Humanitarian Overview 2022 has been prepared by the Turkish Red Crescent Academy, which is the education and research unit of the Turkish Red Crescent Society. It conducts research in collaboration with universities, think tanks, and international organizations in various fields related to humanitarian assistance, including disaster response, migration, social services, volunteering, and humanitarian law. Kızılay Culture and Arts is a platform within the Red Crescent Academy that organizes cultural, artistic, and scientific activities and publications to raise awareness among the public in the fields of humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and public health.

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INTRODUCTION

In 2022, we experienced significant developments in the field of humanitarian work as we were exposed to numerous types and sizes of disasters on a national, regional, and global scale. Public institutions, civil society organizations, and volunteer initiatives worked to meet the basic needs of those affected by these disasters and urgent needs, and to manage disaster risks. These efforts, aimed at preserving human dignity and alleviating human suffering, also contributed to the institutional experience of humanitarian aid actors.

There is no doubt that recording the experience gained in these studies from different perspectives will be beneficial for both academic studies and institutions in the field.

Based on this, the Türkiye Humanitarian Action Overview 2022 has been prepared to shed light on significant developments in the field of humanitarian studies in Türkiye and to systematically analyze these developments. This Overview presents important developments and implemented practices in the areas of disaster, migration, social services, volunteering, public health, and international aid in Türkiye in 2022.

The Türkiye Humanitarian Action Overview is an annual publication and as always, we made an open call for articles to be submitted by all institutions in the field. We asked researchers, first responders, and institutions to conduct analyses that would include situational assessments, lessons learned, and recommendations in their respective fields. Articles submitted provide evaluations from international organizations, public institutions, and civil society organizations. All material in this Overview has been compiled with media and archive research to gather relevant data in their respective fields.

We hope that the Türkiye Humanitarian Action Overview 2022, which presents the humanitarian aid activities carried out in the past year from the perspective of institution officials, based on academic knowledge and field experience, and brings together basic data on humanitarian aid activities, will be a useful resource for researchers and field professionals.

We would like to extend our thanks to all the researchers and institutions who contributed to the Overview.

Dr. İbrahim Altan

Turkish Red Crescent, CEO

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS

Since 2020 the Türkiye Humanitarian Overview has been presenting annual academic and institutional analyses that shed light on the significant development in the field of humanitarian work in Türkiye. This publication has gained prominence in the relevant academic literature. It records institutional experiences and academic perspectives on disasters, migration, social services, public health, humanitarian diplomacy, international aid, and related fields. The evaluations and comments from researchers and humanitarian aid workers about this Overview have motivated us even more for our current year's work.

In 2022, significant efforts were made in both individual and societal disaster preparedness, in addition to intervention activities for natural and man-made disasters where humanitarian aid organizations were actively involved in the field. Moreover, activities related to international humanitarian aid and diplomacy on a global scale were one of the important topics on our organization's agenda. Each institution drew lessons from these activities, which were carried out by government institutions and civil society organizations and spread to every layer of society with the valuable support of volunteers.

Based on this, this Overview attempts to provide answers to the following questions, which include significant developments and lessons learned in the field of humanitarian aid:

- What disasters and humanitarian crises occurred in Türkiye in 2022?
- What are the prominent issues in Türkiye in 2022 related to disasters, public health, migration, volunteering, social services and international aid?
- What lessons have humanitarian aid organizations operating in Türkiye learned from their experiences in 2022?
- How did organizations with different sectoral, organizational and legal statuses intervene in humanitarian crises that occurred in 2022 in Türkiye?

It is with great sadness that during the preparation for the Overview, Türkiye witnessed the Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes. These earthquakes, which left significant marks on our individual, institutional, and social memory, on February 6 2023, became one of the major disasters in world history. The Türkiye Humanitarian Overview 2022 includes evaluations of the past year and academic analyses and institutional assessments in this issue of the Overview do not cover the 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes.

Turkish Red Crescent Academy

Chronology of Humanitarian Activities in Türkiye in 2022	8
ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS	
A Year in the Shadow of Crises Mehmet Emin Birpınar	12
Disasters in the World and Türkiye in 2022 Aslı Akay	16
Current Developments and Future Outlook in the Field of Climate Change in Türkiye Çiğdem Tuğaç	30
Welfare and Social Services in Türkiye at the End of 2022 Tarık Tuncay	36
International Humanitarian Aid in 2022: Deepening Crisis, New Roles, and 'Localization' Şerif Onur Bahçecik	46
Türkiye's Humanitarian Diplomacy Activities in 2022 Orhan Battır	50
International Migration in 2022 and its Rejection on Türkiye Şebnem Köşer Akçapar	55
Grain Corridor and its Importance İlkay Dellal	61
Türkiye in 2022 from the Perspective of Public Health Feyza Kutay Yılmaz, Esmehan Ayşit, Mustafa Çakır, Hatice İkilişik, Işıl Maral	68
Realities Recognized with the Pandemic Necdet Subaşı	74
INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATIONS	
Solution-Oriented Journalism for Natural Disasters and Environmental Problems Serdar Karagöz	80
Meteorological Disasters and their Assessments in Türkiye Volkan Mutlu Coşkun	82
The Academic Power of Disaster Management: Universities Disaster Management Research Center Platforms (AYMEP) Kürşat Esat Alyamaç	87
Transition Year for IFRC Türkiye Ruben Cano	90
UN Türkiye in 2022 Alvaro Rodriguez	93
UNHCR Türkiye in 2022 Philippe Leclerc	95
2022 from IOM Türkiye's Perspective Gerard Karl Waite	97

TABLE OF CONTENTS

An Assessment on Humanitarian Aid and Labor Market Policies in Türkiye in the Era of Socioeconomic Contradictions Numan Özcan	99
Challenges Overcome in 2022 and Social Resilience: The Helping Hand of a Distant Friend Yuko Tanaka	103
The Earthquake will Pass, Life will Continue Serpil Öztürk	105
If there is Green Crescent, there is Life Mücahit Öztürk	107
Educational Volunteers Foundation of Türkiye in 2022 Aykut Saka	110
Overall Evaluation of Environmental and Social Risks from the Perspective of NGOs Musa Kaya	112
Humanitarian Aid Activities and Experiences in 2022 Murat Yılmaz	114
The Focus Area in Humanitarian Aid: Persistent Problems and Innovative Approaches Erdem Ayçiçek	116
An Important Stage of Disaster Preparedness: Logistics Ahmet Emin Dağ	118
Civil Society, Solution Partnerships and Sustainability Okan Tosun	120
Spreading Goodness to the World Mehmet Cengiz	123
Derived from its Historical Civilization, Türkiye Reaching a Peak in Humanitarian Aid İhsan Açıık	125
2022 on Earth Furkan Terzi	128
Increasing Humanitarian Crises and Approaches in 2022: How Just and Sustainable is the Humanitarian System? Alper Küçük	130
Fundamental Blocks of Change Şemsi Kâmile Canbay	132
Red Vest International Volunteer Awards Nurdal Durmuş	134
The New Locomotive of the Turkish Red Crescent: Kızılay 360 ³ Zeynep Meltem Özeker	137
The Power of Solidarity in Disaster Management İbrahim Özer	139
Humanitarian Aid Activities Nurettin Hafızoğlu	142
Reflections of the Pandemic in Blood Services Saim Kerman	144
The 2022 Logbook of the Turkish Red Crescent Academy Alpaslan Durmuş	146

2022 Humanitarian Action Chronology

JANUARY

- 27 The first humanitarian aid train carrying supplies to Afghanistan set off

FEBRUARY

- 03 The obligation to use masks within scope of COVID-19 measures lifted
- 21 Climate Summit begins

MARCH

- 08 Heavy snowfall in Istanbul causes road closures
- 09 Ağrı, Doğubayazıt, Tendürek Mountain road closures
- 18 Ship carrying humanitarian aid supplies from Türkiye to Lebanon sets off
- 21 Avalanche in Bitlis

APRIL

- 01 İzmir Çeşme wildfires
- 01 Bilecik forest fires
- 05 Kars floods

- 09 Malatya, Pütürge earthquake (5.2)

- 29 Şanlıurfa Hilvan floods

MAY

- 04 Elazığ floods
- 05 Antakya, Defne, Reyhanlı, floods
- 31 Samsun İlkadım landslide

JUNE

- 04 Burdur floods
- 07 Sivas Gemerek floods
- 08 Niğde Bor floods
- 12 Ankara floods
- 12 Kayseri Kocasinan floods
- 13 Adana Yakapınar floods
- 13 Niğde Dünderli floods
- 14 Osmaniye floods
- 14 Konya Çumra floods
- 14 Aksaray Taşpınar floods
- 14 Konya Ereğli floods
- 16 Kütahya Altıntaş floods

- 17 Kayseri Kızılırmak rescue operations

- 21 Kayseri Felahiye floods

- 21 Muğla Marmaris wildfires

- 26 Bartın floods

- 26 Kastamonu floods

- 26 Sinop floods

- 26 Karabük floods

- 26 Zonguldak floods

- 26 Düzce floods

- 27 Ağrı Doğubayazıt floods

- 29 Bolu floods

JULY

- 01 Artvin Hopa landslide

- 07 TARAP announced in Official Gazette

- 10 Istanbul Esenyurt floods

- 13 Muğla Datça forest fires

- 13 Çeşme forest fires

- 17 Aydın Nazilli forest fires

1 8 Gaziantep forest fires

1 8 İzmir Çeşme forest fires

1 9 Kırklareli Pınarhisar forest fires

1 9 Manisa Gördes forest fires

1 9 İzmir Seferhisar forest fires

2 2 Ukraine-Russia Grain Corridor Agreement signed

2 3 Kırklareli Demircihali forest fires

2 4 Manisa Akhisar forest fires

2 4 Kütahya forest fires

2 5 Aydın Söke forest fires

2 8 Muğla Marmaris forest fires

3 1 Burdur Bucak forest fires

3 1 Hatay forest fires

AUGUST

0 6 Manisa Soma forest fires

1 5 Bursa Mudanya floods

2 0 Chain traffic accident in Gaziantep

2 5 Bursa Yenişehir floods

3 1 Bursa Mudanya floods

SEPTEMBER

0 2 Erzincan Refahiye forest fires

0 2 Edirne Kapıkule Border Gate floods

0 3 Bartın Abdipaşa floods

0 6 Şırnak search and rescue operation

0 7 Mersin Büyükeceli forest fires

0 7 Manisa Soma forest fires

0 9 Denizli Kale forest fires

1 2 Artvin Şavşat Dutlu village fire

1 4 Muğla Ula forest fires

1 7 Eskişehir forest fires

1 7 Afyonkarahisar Kıyır village forest fires

1 8 Tokat forest fires

1 9 Çorum forest fire

2 1 Marmaris forest fire

2 7 Ardahan Göle earthquake (5.0)

OCTOBER

1 4 Bartın Amasra mining accident

NOVEMBER

0 4 İzmir Buca earthquake (5.1)

1 2 Türkiye-wide earthquake drill

1 3 İstanbul Beyoğlu explosion

2 2 Erzurum Köprüköy earthquake (4.8)

2 3 Düzce Gölyaka earthquake (5.9)

2 6 Şırnak Cizre floods

2 7 Çankırı Ilgaz forest fires

2 7 Aydın İncirliova tornado

DECEMBER

1 2 Antalya Kumluca floods

1 3 Fethiye floods

1 8 Hatay Kırkhan earthquake





ACADEMIC

E V A L U A T I O N S

A Year in the Shadow of Crises

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Prof. Dr., Environment, Urbanism, and Climate Change Deputy Minister
Chief Climate Change Negotiator

As humanity, we have left another challenging year behind us. The COVID-19 pandemic, which started at the end of 2019 and is still ongoing, along with the tension between Russia and Ukraine, has resulted in our world facing disruptions in the food and energy supply chain while also experiencing economic stagnation that has affected many major economies.

Global climate change, triggered by record-high greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbates the impact of these adversities and increases the magnitude of risks and threats going forward. According to the Global Risks Report 2023 published by the World Economic Forum, the top four risks expected to impact the global economy over the next 10 years are focused on environmental and climate-related issues, highlighting the severity of the situation.

The provisional report on the Global Climate Outlook for 2022, released by the World Meteorological Organization on November 6, indicates that the period from 2015 to 2022 contained the eight warmest years on record. It also draws attention to the fact that increased greenhouse gas emissions have led to a temperature increase of +1.15°C compared to the pre-industrial era.

Similarly, evaluations by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECM-WF) show that despite the temporary cooling effect of La Nina in the Pacific, 2022 was determined to be the fifth warmest year on record.

To assess the scale and impacts of combating climate change, the UN Environment Programme published the 2022 Emissions Gap and Adaptation Gap reports. These reports highlight that by the end of the century, global temperature rise will reach levels around +2.4°C compared to the pre-industrial era, and every delay in the adaptation process leads to an increase in the required financing. Thus, they emphasize the urgency of addressing the climate issue.

A Year Full with Disasters

Climate change; in 2022, the increase in the number, intensity, and frequency of many meteorological disasters such as heatwaves, cold waves, droughts, forest fires, and heavy rainfall, which were experienced in many regions of the world, has led to major disasters.

Heatwaves in Asia, particularly in Shandong, China's second most populous province, reached record levels of energy consumption due to the excessive use of air conditioning, putting pressure on energy systems. Following the heatwaves that affected Asia, continuous monsoon rains impacted Bangladesh, affecting 4 million people, including 1.6 million children, and causing 60 deaths. In the floods that occurred in Pakistan, 30 million people were affected, 8 million people were displaced, and the death toll exceeded 1,700. According to assessments by the World Bank, the economic impact of the disaster exceeded 30 billion USD.

The heatwaves experienced in 2022 revealed the threat of drought in many regions. The World Food Program warned that drought in a large part of Africa could lead to 19 million people facing famine, while a statement by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in August regarding the heatwaves of Europe indicated that Europe was experiencing its driest period in the last 500 years.

The heatwaves in Europe caused forest fires covering tens of thousands of hectares in countries like France and Spain, while the heat in May in the state of New Mexico in the US resulted in forest fires and the declaration of a state emergency in the region.

Typhoons and floods in places like Australia, the Philippines, Brazil, and the US have caused hundreds of casualties, and a report by the Christian Aid Development and Relief Agency stated that Hurricane Ian, which affected Cuba and the US, caused more than 100 billion USD in damages. The report also mentioned that while droughts were occurring in Africa, flood disasters in countries such as Nigeria, Mali, and Cameroon in the western part of the continent resulted in over 600 deaths.

Both Parties Take Important Steps at Conferences

2022 was a year in which significant decisions were made at the parties' conference regarding contracts in the areas of climate change and biodiversity. During COP27 held in Egypt in November, a decision was made to establish a 'loss and damage fund' to compensate for losses and damages caused by climate change for the first time, and this development was welcomed, especially by developing and least developed countries. It is worth noting that the implementation of this decision in a fair manner is consistent with the principle of 'polluter pays' and is also in line with the fundamental arguments of climate justice and leaving no one behind.

In the following month, during COP15, another agreement signed along with the Framework Convention on Climate Change, a common agreement was reached aiming to protect approximately one-third of the planet by 2030. This situation also emphasizes the interconnection between climate change and biodiversity.

Solution Requires Transformation

In light of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sixth assessment reports, many steps have been taken to ensure that global temperature increase is in line with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. In particular, the focus on clean technologies to overcome the energy crisis caused by the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine War has turned the climate crisis into an opportunity. The approach of climate clubs, which was initiated by the European Union's Green Deal process announced in 2019 and accepted during the G7 Summit meetings in 2022, and the increasing use of financial instruments similar to emission trading systems,



Photograph: AA, İbrahim Yozoğlu



which are effective mechanisms for reducing carbon emissions, will trigger an urgent transformation.

In Türkiye, environmental factors have been prioritized over the past twenty years, and policies have been developed based on sustainable environment. Successful green transformation projects have been implemented in many sectors such as industry, heating, transformation, and energy. Activities have started to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns. In this context, the ‘International Zero Waste Day’ accepted by the UN through Türkiye’s initiative has become one of our successful and exemplary projects that resonated globally.

At this stage, Türkiye has set a target of net zero emissions by 2053, focusing on green transformation in the era of the new century. The first climate summit has been organized, and preparations for climate legislation have reached their final stages. Furthermore, efforts have been intensified within the framework of low-carbon growth, giving priority to renewable and clean energy sources, achieving significant process in reducing energy intensity, and moving forward with green transformation themes in transportation, industry, and heating. The 12th Development Plan, which includes the country’s road map for the next five years, and the strategic plan, which includes the ministry’s road map, emphasize the theme of green transformation, thereby prioritizing the more effective utilization of our country’s potential in the fight against climate change.

Disasters in the World and Türkiye in 2022

Aslı Akay

Prof. Dr. Ankara Social Sciences University,
Department of Political Science and Public Administration

In 2022, the war in Russia and Ukraine, which is becoming increasingly destructive and the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected almost every country globally, have left a significant mark in history. Today, the increasing meteorological disasters due to climate change and the systemic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic indicate a new reality. The COVID-19 pandemic has threatened countries, societies, and individuals since 2020, while also demonstrating the need for governments to take urgent measures and develop quick response behaviors against changing threats. The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and COP27 emphasize the impossibility of keeping global warming below the 1.5°C threshold without efforts to reduce carbon emissions by all sectors. Global assessment reports prepared by the UN highlight the need for much greater efforts to achieve the global goals set within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030 as we approach the midpoint. During this process, necessary roadmaps, guidelines, and solutions are also provided to facilitate the implementation of actions.¹

In addition, in the annual report prepared by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the Secretary General of IFRC, Japan Chapagain, stated at the 11th European Regional Conference held in April 2022 that the '3C' threats of COVID-19, climate change, and conflicts still persist in countries.² These risks increase the uncertainty for the future, highlighting the importance of understanding and reducing disaster risk in today's world to achieve sustainable development. The best defense against future risks involves identifying and mitigating risks, building resilience to disasters by addressing climate change, reducing economic, environmental, physical, and social vulnerabilities, exposure and inequality.³

When evaluated in terms of natural disasters, the year 2022 has been a year in which disasters occurred consecutively worldwide and their impacts have multiplied. As in previous years, the most devastating disasters this year mainly occurred in the Asia-Pacific region. Floods in Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Thailand; droughts in China, Kiribati, and Tuvalu; typhoons Megi and Nalgae in the Philippines; heatwaves

in India, Japan, and Pakistan; earthquakes in Afghanistan, Fiji, and Indonesia have caused loss of life and property and negatively impacted the countries' development processes. Widespread floods accounted for 74.4% of the region's disaster events and 88.4% of total global deaths in 2022.⁴

Studies conducted by the World Weather Attribution Initiative⁵ identified the 2022 floods in Pakistan, which affected 33 million people and caused 1,739 deaths, as 'fingerprints' of climate change in extreme monsoon rainfall. Pakistan witnessed the melting of glaciers during record spring temperatures, followed by unprecedented monsoon rains that devastated a significant part of the country. The cascading disasters, including the emergence of waterborne diseases due to the floods, fueled existing economic crises with increased food and fuel prices.^{4,6,7} Additionally, in 2022, flood events impacted 7.2 million people in Bangladesh and 1.3 million people in India. March and April were observed as the hottest months ever recorded in India and Pakistan. Indonesia, located on the Ring of Fire, was shaken by a magnitude 5.6 earthquake in November 2022, claiming more than 330 lives. Afghanistan was affected by a magnitude 5.9 earthquake in June 2022, resulting in over 1,000 fatalities. These countries, with high vulnerability in many respects, have experienced a series of interconnected disasters triggering one another.⁴

The LANCET Countdown 2022 Report was published during a time when the world was facing multiple simultaneous disasters. The report evaluates the healthcare system of countries while conducting an assessment for the year 2022. It highlights that as the world continues to struggle with the health, social, and economic impacts

of the COVID-19 pandemic, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and excessive dependence on fossil fuels have pushed the world into global energy and cost-of-living crises. As these crises emerge, the worsening effects of climate change increasingly threaten the foundations of human health and well-being. The report emphasizes that the vulnerability of the world's population to health risks is worsening simultaneously everywhere.⁸

The IFRC 2022 World Disasters Report titled 'Trust, Equality, and Local Action' has been published. The report confirms that more than 6.5 million people have died in less than three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic surpassing the death toll of any recorded earthquake, drought, or hurricane. The report estimates that the ongoing effects of the pandemic will cause a global economic loss of 13.8 trillion USD by the end of 2024, according to the IMF. In this regard, the importance of being prepared based on the principles of trust, equality, and local action is emphasized. Trust is highlighted because measures against the pandemic, including vaccines, public health information, and isolation precautions, cannot be sustained without trust. Equality is mentioned because pandemics exacerbate existing inequalities, and unless access to services and critical products, including vaccines, is legally guaranteed, controlling the pandemic is not possible. Emphasis is placed on local action because outbreaks begin and end in communities. Governments need to leverage and support local action to build flexibility, security, and healthcare systems. The report provides recommendations based on these three principles, aiming to help communities be prepared, establish robust community health systems, and protect and support frontline responders.⁹

Disaster Management in Türkiye in 2022

2022 was a significant year for disaster management in Türkiye, considering the disasters the country experienced and its capacity to respond. While disasters remained on the global agenda, it is important to evaluate the progress made by Türkiye in terms of legal, administrative, institutional structures, and planning.

The COVID-19 pandemic, a global disaster, resulted in the loss of 6.5 million lives worldwide. In Türkiye, according to the data from the Ministry of Health as of November 2022, the total number of COVID-19 cases related to the virus was 17,042,722, and the total number of deaths was 101,492.¹⁰ The outbreak caused the highest number of casualties in our country from a single disaster and created numerous negative social, economic, and psychological impacts on society.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters occurred in Türkiye in 2022, including forest fires, earthquakes, and floods. Unfortunately, there was also a mining accident resulting in the loss of 28 lives, categorized as human-induced and/or technological disaster. The historical and administrative process related to these disasters is as follows:

Forest Fires

On June 21, 2022, a forest fire occurred in the district of Marmaris in Muğla, and intervention efforts were carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's General Directorate of Forestry and AFAD. AFAD reported that amphibious aircraft, helicopters, and personnel support were received from Qatar and Azerbaijan through the coordination of AFAD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the General Directorate of

Forestry. A total of 3,798 personnel were assigned to the operation, including 43 helicopters, 13 planes, 453 firefighting vehicles, 166 heavy machinery, 22 fire trucks, 28 water cannons (TOMA), and 2 UAVs were used to combat the fire. The Turkish Disaster Response Plan was activated, and nutrition and communication working groups provided services in the disaster-affected area.¹¹



Photograph: AA, Özgür Alantor

On July 13, 2022, a forest fire occurred in the district of Datça in Muğla. The General Directorate of Forestry assigned 520 personnel to intervene in the fire, utilizing 8 planes, 14 helicopters, 103 firefighting vehicles, and 11 heavy machinery. Additionally, in coordination with AFAD and the Governorate, 1 helicopter and 3 water cannons, 5 buses, and 3 heavy machinery were provided

by the Provincial Security Directorate. The General Command of Gendarmerie also contributed to the firefighting efforts with 3 helicopters and 15 water tankers. According to AFAD, 5 houses at risk were evacuated, ensuring the evacuation of 15 people.¹²



Excessive Rainfall and Floods

Following the severe rainfall warning issued by the General Directorate of Meteorology on June 26, 2022, relevant institutions went on high alert in the Western Black Sea Region. Within just 24 hours after the warning, it was reported by AFAD that there were significantly above-normal rainfall amounts in Kastamonu-İnebolu, Bartın-Erit, Düzce-Yığılca, Sinop-Ayancık, Zonguldak-Devrek, and Samsun-Yakakent. For Düzce, Zonguldak, Bartın, Karabük, Kastamonu, and Sinop, a 'Red Alert' was issued, while Ankara, Çankırı, Bolu, Karabük, Kastamonu, Bartın, Zonguldak, and Düzce received a 'Yellow Warning' urging citizens to stay away from river beds through SMS notifications.

Unfortunately, as a result of the ensuing floods and inundations, two people were reported missing: one in Üçköprü, Düzce, and another in İkizciler village, Küre district of Kastamonu. In order to address the damages caused by the disaster in Zonguldak, Kastamonu, Bartın, Sinop, Düzce, and Karabük provinces, a total of 47,150,000 TL in aid was allocated to the affected region. This includes 13,900,000 TL from the emergency assistance fund of AFAD, 4,000,000 TL from a relief campaign, 3,000,000 TL from the Ministry of Family and Social Services, and 26,250,000 TL from the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change.¹³

Earthquakes

On September 16, 2022, at 23:30, an earthquake with a magnitude of 4.9 occurred in the Çat district of Erzurum, affecting Erzurum and Bingöl. There were no casualties or significant property damage.¹⁴ Later, on September

27, 2022, at 17:08, another earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 and a depth of 7 km occurred in the Göle district of Ardahan, specifically in the villages of Çullu, Küçük Altınbulak, Koyunlu, Kuytuca, and Esenyayla, causing minor damage. Three people were injured, and 111 aftershocks were experienced in the region. Various organizations, including AFAD, Gendarmerie, Fire Department, Turkish Red Crescent, Provincial Special Administration, Provincial Directorate of Health, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, mobilized 209 personnel and 47 vehicles in the earthquake zone. AFAD provided 100 tents from its logistics depot for the affected residents, while the Turkish Red Crescent distributed 900 food packages, 700 bottles of water, 1,150 beverages, and 750 bowls of soup. Additionally, AFAD allocated 500,000 TL in emergency aid funds for the recovery of damages in the region. These details were shared with the public.¹⁵

On October 11, 2022, an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 occurred in the Düziçi district of Osmaniye at 18:48 local time. There were no casualties or significant property damage reported as a result of this earthquake. However, on November 23, 2022, another earthquake with a magnitude of 5.9 struck the Gölyaka district of Düzce at 04:08 local time.¹⁶ According to data from the Ministry of Health, a total of 93 people were injured in the following locations: 37 in Düzce, 2 in İstanbul, 14 in Bolu, 10 in Zonguldak, 26 in Sakarya, and 4 in Bursa. The fact that the earthquake did not cause severe destruction or loss of life is considered an important indicator of lessons learned from the devastating earthquake that occurred in the region on November 12, 1999, and the success achieved in disaster management. Following the earthquake, TAMP was



Photograph: AA, Ömer Ürer

activated and 13 working groups were mobilized. Various public institutions and organizations, including AFAD, Gendarmerie, Police, 112 Emergency Services, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change, Turkish Red Crescent, AFAD volunteers, and NGOs, deployed personnel and resources to the affected region. A total of 3,748 personnel and 812 vehicles were assigned

to assist in the response efforts. Working groups such as Disaster Damage Assessment, Disaster Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Stockpile conducted their activities.¹⁷ Additionally, AFAD established 260 container settlements in the city center, and container living areas were created for residents whose homes were damaged in the Gölyaka, Çilimli, and Cumayeri districts.¹⁸

Mine Explosion

On October 14, 2022, an explosion occurred in a coal mine owned by the Turkish Coal Enterprises in the Amasra district of Bartın province, resulting in 41 fatalities and 11 injuries.¹⁹ Following the incident, rescue teams from Bartın Provincial Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, Police, 112 Emergency Services, Fire Department, Gendarmerie, and Turkish Coal Enterprises were dispatched to the area.²⁰ AFAD teams from Sakarya, Kütahya, and Eskişehir provinces were also sent. The Turkish Red Crescent provided 2 catering vehicles, 3 personnel vehicles, 2 mobile coordination trucks, and 1 mobile base station. Additionally, field lighting equipment was sent to the region from Bolu, Karabük, Düzce, Sakarya, and Ankara. In the aftermath of the explosion, it was decided in the General Assembly of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye to establish an investigation commission to examine all aspects of the mining accident.²¹

Legal-Administrative and Institutional Developments

In 2022, significant legal and administrative developments regarding disaster management were experienced in Türkiye, and these changes are summarized in Table 1. The regulations related to disaster response have been updated in an integrated manner with the Presidential system, and following the Disaster and Emergency Response Services Regulation, the Türkiye Disaster Response Plan has been put into effect. The Türkiye Disaster Risk Reduction Plan was prepared for 11 general and widespread types of disasters in line with the priorities of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and was adopted on July 8, 2022. The implementation of the 17

objectives, 66 targets, and 222 actions identified under the TDRRP has been initiated since its enactment. Additionally, a regulation concerning pipeline systems for earthquake disasters has been implemented.

The Nuclear Regulatory Law, which regulates activities related to nuclear energy and ionizing radiation and the entities, facilities, devices, and materials associated with these activities, has come into effect. Subsequently, the ‘Presidential Decree Regarding the Organization and Duties of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority’ numbered 95 was adopted, specifying the duties, powers, responsibilities, organization, and functioning of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority. A regulation governing the impact of aviation activities on greenhouse gas emissions related to climate change has been enacted, and a cooperation agreement has been signed with the United Arab Emirates in the field of meteorology. A decision has been made to urgently expropriate certain immovable properties to heal the wounds caused by the flood disaster that occurred in Giresun in 2020.

Among the institutional changes made throughout the year, an important development related to AFAD is the Decree numbered 103 published in the Official Gazette on June 9, 2022, titled ‘Decree on Making Changes in Certain Presidential Decrees.’ Through this decree, changes have been made in Decree No. 1 and No. 4 of the Presidency, and four new general directorates have been established under the Deputy Presidents of AFAD, namely Earthquake and Risk Reduction, Shelter and Construction Works, Disaster Response and Management Services (Table 1). The laws, presidential decrees, regulations, and decisions of the President adopted during the year are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Legal Regulations Implemented Regarding Disasters in 2022

Official Gazette Date	Regulation Name	Field	Responsible Body
24.02.2022	Regulation on Disaster and Emergency Response Services.	The Regulation on Disaster and Emergency Response Services came into effect.	AFAD
05.03.2022	Regulation on Amendments to the Earthquake Regulation for Türkiye Pipeline Systems and Liquid Storage Tanks.	Some changes were made to certain articles of the existing regulation and additionally provided sections. The purpose of the regulation is to determine the necessary conditions for evaluating and strengthening the performance of petroleum and natural gas transmission and storage systems in terms of earthquake resilience.	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
08.03.2022	Law No. 7381 on Nuclear Regulation	The purpose of this law is to regulate the principles, responsibilities, and protection of the sectors that will be affected during the process of carrying out activities related to nuclear energy and ionizing radiation within the scope of peaceful use principles. It is stipulated that activities related to nuclear energy and ionizing radiation, as well as individuals, facilities, devices, and substances related to these activities, will be evaluated within the scope of the law.	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
08.03.2022	Presidential Decree on the Organization and Duties of the Nuclear Regulation Institution No.95	The duties, authorities, and responsibilities of the Nuclear Regulation Institution, as well as the functioning of its organization and personnel, have been regulated.	Presidency
19.03.2022	International Treaty No. 5328 Decision	The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of meteorology between the Turkish Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change and the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs National Meteorology Center approved.	Ministry of Environment, Urbanism and Climate Change

Official Gazette Date	Regulation Name	Field	Responsible Body
25.03.2022	Regulation on the Monitoring of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Aviation Activities No. 31789	The purpose of the regulation is to regulate the procedures and principles for monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from national and international aviation activities. It is specified that flights for humanitarian aid, medical purposes, firefighting, and flights conducted by state aircraft are exempted from the scope of the regulation.	General Directorate of Civil Aviation
09.06.2023	Presidential Decree on Making Amendments to Certain Presidential Decrees No. 103	By making amendments to Presidential Decrees No. 1 and 4, the organizational structure of AFAD has been revised to establish four general directorates under the vice presidents. These directorates are the Directorate of Earthquake and Risk Reduction, Housing and Construction, Disaster Response and Management Services, respectively.	AFAD
08.07.2022	Türkiye Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (TARAP)	TARAP goes into effect	AFAD
15.09.2022	Türkiye Disaster Response Plan (TAMP)	With the system that changed in 2018, changes have occurred both in AFAD and in ministries and affiliated institutions through Presidential Decrees. The Regulation on Disaster and Emergency Response Services and TAMP have been updated to include both Presidential Decrees and decisions of the Disaster and Emergency Management Board.	AFAD
2022 Presidential Decisions			

Regulation Name	
05.02.2022	The Presidential Decree regarding the Urgent Expropriation by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change of Certain Immovables within the Boundaries of Gül and Tepebaşı Neighborhoods, located in Mardin Province, Yeşilli District, which have been unlawfully constructed in violation of the Major Part of the Zoning Legislation, under Law No. 6306 on the Transformation of Areas at Risk of Disasters.

	Regulation Name
25.02.2023	Presidential Decree regarding the Urgent Expropriation by İyidere Municipality of the immovables with plot numbers 5, 11, 12, 14, and 15, located in Fetiye Neighborhood, İyidere District, Rize Province, under Law No. 5241, with the aim of taking precautionary measures against potential disaster risks following the flood disasters that occurred in 2021.
25.02.2022	Presidential Decree regarding the Urgent Expropriation by the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, for the purpose of constructing necessary housing for the rightful owners affected by the flood disaster that occurred on 10-11 August 2021, of certain immovables located within the boundaries of Otmanlı Village, Ayancık District, Sinop Province, under Law No. 5242.
12.02.2022	Presidential Decree regarding the Support for Small-Scale Fishermen Affected by the Disaster in Bartın, Kastamonu, and Sinop Provinces under Law No. 5292.
22.03.2022	Presidential Decree regarding the Right to Benefit from Public Transportation Services.
23.03.2022	Presidential Decree regarding the Urgent Expropriation by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change of certain immovables subject to private ownership located within the declared Reserve Construction Area in Göztepe Neighborhood, Bala District, Ankara Province, for the purpose of clearing illegally constructed, unlicensed, uninhabitable structures carrying disaster risks, and creating healthy and safe living spaces in compliance with environmental, urban planning, and climate change regulations, along with transportation and infrastructure, in accordance with engineering and architectural standards.
23.03.2022	Presidential Decree on the Urgent Expropriation of Certain Immovables by the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency for the Purpose of Construction of Housing Needed for the Affected Right Holders due to the Floods, Water Inundation, and Landslides Occurred in Giresun Province on August 22-23, 2020; numbered 5342.
22.04.2022	Presidential Decree on the Urgent Expropriation by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change of the Immovable Properties Subject to Private Ownership, Along with Their Structures, Listed in the Annex List within the Scope of Law No. 6306 on Transformation of Areas Under Disaster Risk, Located within Emek and Aksaray Neighborhoods, Antakya District, Hatay Province, for the Purpose of Eliminating Disaster Risk and Creating Healthy and Safe Living Spaces.
22.04.2022	Decree of the President Regarding the Urgent Expropriation by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change of Certain Immovables within the Scope of the Law on Transformation of Areas at Risk of Disasters, which are determined to remain in the Buffer Zone around the Active Fault Line as a Result of the Works Carried Out, Located within Demirciler Neighborhood, Gerede District, Bolu Province, and the Information on Expropriation Provided in the Attached List, According to Law No. 6306.
04.06.2022	Decree of the President Regarding the Urgent Expropriation by the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority for the Purpose of Meeting the Housing Needs of the Disaster Victims who are the Rights Holders due to Certain Disasters Occurred in Elazığ, Tokat, and Trabzon Provinces, According to Law No. 5684.
15.06.2022	Decree of the President Regarding the Principles of Making Amendments to the Regulations on Tenders to be Held within the Scope of Article 3 (B) of Law No. 4734 on Public Procurement, by the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority According to Law No. 5732.

	Regulation Name
21.07.2022	Decree of the President Regarding the Urgent Expropriation by the Mass Housing Administration of Certain Im-movables for the Purpose of Accomplishing the Required Construction in Areas Affected by Floods and Landslides Occurred within the Boundaries of Buyukkoy Town, Cayeli District, Rize Province, According to Law No. 5813.
13.08.2022	Decree of the President Regarding the Urgent Expropriation by the Kalecik Municipality of Private Proper-ties Subject to Law No. 5968 within the Scope of the Law on Transformation of Areas at Risk of Disasters, Located within the Boundaries of Kalecik District, Ankara Province, According to Law Noç 6306.
02.09.2022	Decree of the President Regarding the Principles on Making Amendments to the Regulations on Tenders to be Held Within the Scope of Article 3 (B) of Law No. 4734 on Public Procurement, by the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority According to Law No. 5996.
06.09.2022	Presidential Decree on the Urgent Expropriation by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change of the Real Estates Subject to Private Ownership, Including the Structures on Them, Listed in the At-tachment within the Scope of the Law on the Transformation of Areas at Risk of Disaster, Located within the Boundaries of Yazı Neighborhood, Osmancık District, Çorum Province, Law No. 6007 and Law No. 6306.
05.10.2022	Decree by the President regarding the Urgent Expropriation by Mamak Municipality for the Purpose of Clearing Properties under Private Ownership Falling within the Scope of the Law on the Transformation of Areas at Risk of Disasters, Located within the Boundaries of Mutlu Neighborhood, Mamak District, Ankara Province, along with Structures on them that are Contrary to the Zoning Legislation in the Project Area, Un-licensed, Uninhabited, and Pose a Disaster Risk, Detrimental to General Public Order and Security, in order to Create Healthy and Safe Living Areas in Compliance with the Rules of Science and Art, in conjunction with Transportation and Infrastructure.
08.12.2022	Decree by the President regarding the Urgent Expropriation by İyidere Municipality for the Purpose of Reha-bilitating a Portion of Properties Located on Menderes Street, Merkez Neighborhood, İyidere District, Rize Province, in order to Mitigate Flood and Flash Flood Risks in the Streambed Located in the Town Center.
10.12.2022	Decree by the President regarding the Urgent Expropriation by Kalecik Municipality for the Purpose of Ex-propriating Properties under Private Ownership Falling within the Scope of the Law on the Transformation of Areas at Risk of Disasters, Located within the Boundaries of Kalecik District, Ankara Province.

2022 ‘Disaster Drill Year’

2022 was declared as the ‘Disaster Drill Year’ by AFAD. In this context, a total of 9 regional level TAMP (multi-hazard emergency response plan) drills and 48 provincial-level drills were conducted. These drills involved 51,159 universities and schools, 1,041 religious directorates and training centers, 302 hospitals, 70 judiciary buildings including courts and detention centers, 187 industrial zones, 257 student dormitories, 111 cultural structures

and museums, 870 apartment complexes and residential sites, 2,924 government buildings, 94 nursing homes, 73 libraries, as well as 130 airports, bus terminals, shopping malls, custom ports, and union headquarters where drills were performed. The total number of drills conducted by AFAD in 2022 were reported as 94,207.²²

The Urban Search and Rescue Teams Exercise in Diyarbakır was conducted between 25-26 March 2022 with the participation of 11 AFAD Regional Directorates,

9 AFAD Provincial Directorates, support solution partners including public institutions and organizations, and NGOs. On 20 May 2022, the Evacuation, Placement, and Planning Exercise was held in Istanbul under the coordination of AFAD. Based on a scenario of a 7.5 magnitude earthquake centered in Istanbul's Adalar district, the exercise included field drills conducted by the Evacuation Planning and Placement Working Group.^{23,24} Before the start of summer, on 26 May 2022, AFAD carried out the Forest Fires Exercise simultaneously in Muğla, Mersin, and Adana, with Antalya as the main center.²⁵

On the 23rd anniversary of the Düzce Earthquake on 12 November 1999, at 18:57, the '12 November Earthquake Remembrance National Exercise' was conducted nationwide under the coordination of AFAD with the aim of increasing societal awareness about disasters. This exercise, conducted for the first time in Türkiye's disaster management history with the slogan 'Collapse-Duck-Cover (Hold On)'; involved citizen participation in Türkiye and Northern Cyprus through telephone, television, radio, and local announcement systems, as well as the support of public institutions, media, and NGOs.²⁶

Climate Summit

The Climate Summit was held in Konya between 21-25 February 2022 with the participation of relevant stakeholders organized by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. During the Climate Summit, commissions worked on various sectors related to climate change and decisions were made. At the Summit, it was decided to avoid permissions/allocations that would cause carbon sink losses in forests, agriculture, pastures, and wetlands directly related to disasters, and increase the risk of disasters such as erosion,

floods, landslides, avalanches, droughts, and desertification. The aim was to reduce extreme weather events and associated integrated disaster risk, increase the resilience of interconnected systems for adaptation to climate change, create risk maps and decision support systems, strengthen the agricultural insurance system against disasters, develop an insurance mechanism to compensate for losses and damages caused by natural disasters, transition from crisis management to risk management model in local-level disasters, integrate development plans, spatial plans, disaster plans, and other policy documents, strategic plans with local climate change action plans, and design digitalization in a suitable and climate-friendly manner for disaster risk management. Policy recommendations and decisions were put forward on these issues.²⁷

Calls for the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism

The European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (CPM), established in 2001 with the Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) of the European Commission, is responsible for activities related to the protection of human beings, the environment, and cultural heritage in cases of disaster and emergency situations. Every year project calls are made in line with the 'Annual Work Programme of the Mechanism.' AFAD, as the focal point institution, has also made a project application call throughout Türkiye, focusing on disaster prevention projects, early warning and analysis, civil protection exercises, completion of deficiencies, preparedness projects, expert exchanges, peer assessment programs, meetings, workshops, training, consultancy to increase awareness, and dissemination of good practice examples. The theme for 2022 was determined

as the prevention and preparedness for natural and man-made disasters, including marine pollution at sea and coastal areas. The focus of the theme was to strengthen cooperation among members and other countries.²⁸

October 13 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was declared by the UN General Assembly in 1989 with the aim of creating global awareness of disaster risk reduction. The theme highlighted in 2022 was ‘significantly increasing the access and availability of multi-hazard early warning systems, disaster risk information, and assessments to people,’ which is one of the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. TARAP, the Warning and Alarm System (IKAS) Project, and the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (IRAPs) have been significant outputs serving this theme. Under the coordination of AFAD, the IRAP, which came into effect in 2021 with a total of 12,890 actions, including 2,487 high-priority actions, carried out in all 81 provinces, aimed to be implemented in an integrated structure along with TARAP, which came into effect in 2022.^{29,30}

Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction Efforts

With some measures taken in 2022 and early warnings issued, the transformation of risks into disasters has been prevented. While the physical installation works for IKAS, an important warning and alarm system project of AFAD, continue for the transmission of hazard and warning news to the citizens, sub-systems have already been put into effect. The News Reception and Dissemination (HAY) and Message Alert (MUS) sub-systems were activated in June 2022, first in Western Black Sea and then in Marmara,

to alert citizens through text messages and mobile alarm systems before rainfall events. With IKAS, announcements were made through the central call-to-prayer system in Bartın, Kastamonu, and Zonguldak. It was reported by AFAD that the HAY and MUS sub-systems were used during the Early Warning Exercise in Vakfıkebir in June 2022.³¹ Through the IKAS system, on August 10 at 14:00, a ‘orange alert’ was issued by the General Directorate of Meteorology, and a call for ‘attention and precaution’ against adverse conditions such as floods, lightning, hail, and tornadoes was sent to citizens’ mobile phones via SMS and the e-AFAD application, in the eastern part of Marmara and the Western Black Sea provinces where heavy rainfall was expected.³² Thanks to the warnings sent through early warning systems, significant successes were achieved in the process of authorities and local administrators taking precautions and reducing disaster risks.

Türkiye continues to make significant progress in disaster management day-by-day and constantly improves its capacity from risk reduction to humanitarian aid. By learning from previous disasters in disaster policies, it progresses towards building a resilient society and a resilient country, starting with resilient individuals. Developments in disaster prediction and early warning systems contribute to being more prepared against disaster risks and increasing awareness. Sustainability, ecosystem preservation, integration of risk and reduction and climate change adaptation are among the top priorities. Investments made to reduce disaster risks will form an important foundation for Türkiye to become a resilient country in its sustainable development.

Taking proactive policies for the management of risks, working on risk management from theory to practice,

establishing information flows from central to local levels, fostering collaborations between various stakeholders such as citizens' participation and volunteering, private sector involvement, NGO participation, and R&D studies supported by high technology are crucial steps to ensure the continuity of implemented applications.

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Current Developments and Future Outlook in the Field of Climate Change

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Climate change has various effects in different regions of the world. The Mediterranean Basin, including Türkiye, is one of the regions where the negative impacts of climate change are most pronounced. It is projected that the average temperature in the basin will increase by 2.5 degrees celcius-4 degrees celcius by the year 2100, and the negative impacts will further escalate in the future.¹ Due to climate change, the number of hot days in Türkiye is increasing, and rainfall patterns are becoming regular.² In Türkiye, significant loss of life and property occurs, especially in urban areas, due to climate-related extreme weather events and disasters. As emphasized in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report, climate change will manifest its effects more intensely, frequently, and widely in the near future.^{3,4}

It is stated that countries, including Türkiye, will experience hydrological, meteorological, and agricultural droughts, and socio-economic sectors will be affected by these processes. All these factors necessitate comprehensive efforts in Türkiye to combat and adapt to climate change.

Türkiye's Important Agenda Item in 2022: Climate Change

As a result of the negative consequences it brings, there have been significant efforts to combat climate change in Türkiye in 2022. The groundwork for these endeavors was primarily laid with important developments in the final months of 2021.

Through the Presidential Decree numbered 85, dated October 29, 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization was restructured as the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change. This ministry undertakes the general coordination and secretariat of the Climate Change and Adaptation Coordination Board (CCACB), which determines Türkiye's climate change policies and represents ministries, the private sector, and civil society organizations at the highest level of decision-making. With the Presidential Decree numbered 85, CCACB was also restructured, ensuring the participation of academia and scientific



institutions (Higher Education Council, TUBITAK) and top-level representatives of local governments (Union of Turkish Municipalities).^{5,6}

As of October 7, 2021, Türkiye became party to the Paris Climate Agreement and the agreement entered into force as of November 10, 2021. In line with this, Türkiye announced its 'Green Development' Policy and the '2053 Net-Zero Emissions' target.^{7,8} Türkiye became a party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2004 and the protocol of the convention, the 'Kyoto Protocol' in 2009. However, becoming a party to the 'Paris Agreement' signifies a higher level of commitment to combating climate change and advancing national efforts towards adaptation.⁹ In this regard, Türkiye has set its climate change agenda for 2022 accordingly and has carried out significant work and projects in all sectors.

One of the most important initiatives in the field of climate change in Türkiye was the 'Climate Council,' which was carried out with broad participation from government institutions, academia, the private sector, local governments, and civil society organizations. The purpose of the council was to develop Türkiye's new vision on climate change and to present a participatory understanding of green transformation in light of evolving and changing conditions. Participants expressed their views under seven commissions titled 'Greenhouse Gas Reduction,' 'Science and Technology,' 'Green Financing and Carbon Pricing,' 'Climate Change Adaptation,' 'Local Governments, Migration, Just Transition, and Other Social Policies' as part of the preparation of the Climate Action Plan by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in 2022. A total of 217 decisions were included in the council's final statement.¹⁰ The importance

of these decisions lies in their role in shaping Türkiye's future climate change policies and laying the foundation for relevant legislation. These decisions are significant for the development of Türkiye's Long-Term Strategy on Climate Change.^{6c}

In addition to the preparation processes of these documents, the updating works of Türkiye's National Climate Change Strategy Document prepared in 2010 and 2011, as well as the Climate Change National Action Plan and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan towards the 2023 goals, are also carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization.¹¹

Türkiye fulfills its obligations to report national notifications and greenhouse gas emissions to the UNFCCC Secretariat through biennial reporting within the scope of the UNFCCC, to which it is party. Türkiye's 7th National Communication on Climate Change was presented to the Secretariat in 2018, and the 4th Biennial Report was submitted in 2019. Preparatory work for the 8th National Communication and 5th Biennial Report continued in 2022.¹²

Türkiye's Updated Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target was requested during the process leading up to the adoption of the Paris Agreement at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21) in 2015. Parties to the UNFCCC were asked to submit their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) regarding global climate change mitigation to the UNFCCC Secretariat.¹³ Türkiye submitted its INDC on September 30, 2015, stating a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by up to 21% by 2030 compared to the reference scenario. However, at COP27 held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in

November 2022, Türkiye updated its commitment to a 41% reduction.¹⁴

As a developing country, Türkiye's responsibility in global greenhouse gas emissions is less than 1%. According to the National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory published by TURKSTAT in 2022, the energy sector has the largest share in emission production with 70.2% followed by agriculture (14%), industrial processes and product use (12.7%), and waste (3.1%).¹⁵

Throughout 2022, significant efforts have been made in Türkiye towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including the establishment of the 'Border Carbon Adjustment, Emission Trading System' (ETS). One of the main reasons for this is Türkiye's relationship with the European Union, which accounts for approximately 40% of its international trade. In 2019, the EU initiated the process of making Europe the 'first climate-neutral continent' through its 'European Green Deal,' which has influenced Türkiye. Activities carried out within sectoral working groups established in line with the Green Deal Action Plan, published as a result of the studies coordinated by the Ministry of Trade, have continued throughout 2022.^{16, 17}

Under the heading of green and circular economy in the action plan, topics such as the preparation of Türkiye's Circular Economy Action Plan, National Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan, and Water Reuse Master Plan, as well as 'Green Industrial Zone' certification, 'Türkiye Environmental Label,' waste management, and resource efficiency are included.¹⁸ In addition, the 'Technical Support Project for Assessing Türkiye's Potential for Transitioning to a Circular Economy,' funded by the Instrument for Pre-

Accession Assistance (IPA) of the EU, was launched on February 7, 2022, with the aim of improving and developing circular economy studies and practices in Türkiye and establishing a roadmap.¹⁹

The observations regarding the importance of a circular economy, decarbonization across all sectors, energy efficiency, and electrification in transportation for Türkiye to achieve its 2053 targets are also included in the Türkiye Country Climate and Development Report prepared by the World Bank in 2022.²⁰ Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Murat Kurum announced that greenhouse gas reduction and circular economy are important components of the ‘Zero Waste’ project, with a recycling target of 35% by 2023, and it was stated that the ETS system will be implemented in 2023 as well.^{14, 21}

Studies on renewable energy sources, which are an important alternative to fossil fuels in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, have also been ongoing, and currently, 54% of Türkiye’s installed capacity is provided by renewable sources.¹⁴ Additionally, another significant development in line with the net-zero target is the completion of the work on Türkiye’s first electric vehicle, TOGG, in 2022, and the announcement by the Ministry of Industry and Technology that production of 1 million units is targeted by 2030.²²

In the ‘Medium-Term Program/2023-2025 (MTP)’ published in the Official Gazette on September 4, 2022, and prepared by the Presidency of Strategy and Budget and the Ministry of Treasury and Finance, the topic of green transformation is emphasized, aiming to determine the additional investment and financing amounts required by sectors and the roadmaps for transitioning to low-carbon production in line with their net-zero emission targets.²³

Türkiye’s Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Management Efforts

In Türkiye, in addition to combating climate change, other prominent issues in 2022 were ‘adaptation to the effects of climate change’ and ‘disaster risk management.’ In this context, significant projects are being carried out, particularly benefiting from the EU IPA funds.

Under the coordination of CSIDB and UNDP, the establishment of Türkiye’s first ‘Climate Platform,’ the preparation of Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans in four pilot provinces (Muğla, Konya, Sakarya, Samsun), conducting impact and vulnerability analyses for Türkiye, preparing a Catalogue of Nature-Based Solutions against the effects of climate change, conducting training activities for awareness-raising and capacity development for public institutions, local governments, and providing grants for climate change projects are important components of the ‘Strengthening Climate Adaptation Action in Türkiye’ project.²⁴

Additionally, according to statistics released by TUIK in 2022, in urban areas where 93.2%²⁵ of the population lives, efforts are underway to establish a national standard based on Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAP) prepared by local governments on a voluntary basis to prevent losses and damages caused by climate-related extreme weather events and disasters in Türkiye. The Climate Platform announced that an e-LCCAP system has been established under its umbrella.²⁶

In addition to these efforts, activities within AFAD’s ‘Technical Support for Enhancing AFAD’s Capacity in Reducing Disaster Risks and Adaptation to Climate Change-Induced Disasters in Türkiye’ project continued in

2022.²⁷ AFAD prepared Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (PDRRP) for all 81 provinces and based on them, the Türkiye Disaster Risk Reduction Plan. Climate change was one of the important topics addressed in this plan.^{28, 29}

Another important activity within the scope of adaptation is the increase in awareness of climate change and the development of capacities of different segments of society. In 2022, the Ministry of National Education completed the curriculum for the ‘Environmental Education and Climate Change’ course.³⁰ Additionally, a ‘Collaboration Protocol for the Creation of Sustainable and Climate-Friendly Campuses’ was signed between the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and the Presidency of Strategy and Budget.³¹ TÜBİTAK organized a climate change research project competition for high school students. The Presidency of Strategy and Budget initiated the ‘Climate Ambassadors’ program, ensuring active participation of young people representing universities throughout Türkiye in climate studies.³²

Furthermore, in 2022, various non-governmental organizations such as TEMA, WWF, Clean Energy Foundation, and Global Balance Association implemented significant projects targeting different segments of society, local governments, and employees in various sectors.^{33, 34, 35}

Conclusion

In Türkiye, the impacts of extreme weather events and disasters associated with climate change on various economic sectors such as water, agriculture, energy, industry, tourism, as well as ecosystems, human health, and social structure, necessitate the urgent consideration of greenhouse gas reduction, adaptation, and resilience within the scope of climate change mitigation.

In order to achieve national security and climate-resilient development, it is essential to continue the process of implementing short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions related to climate change. This process involves identifying and implementing measures to address climate change and ensure a transformation towards climate-resilient development.

The ratification of the Paris Agreement and the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2053 have initiated a new era in climate change policies in Türkiye. In future endeavors, it is crucial to diversify climate investments and financial resources, as well as transition to low-carbon technologies and business models across all sectors. This will facilitate effective implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation processes, as well as the creation of green jobs and industries.

Adapting to the current and anticipated impacts of climate change in Türkiye is another important policy area. In locally prepared Climate Change Action Plans, it is necessary to include not only greenhouse gas reduction actions but also comprehensive adaptation measures tailored to local conditions. This is particularly essential in conditions where the adverse effects of climate change are expected to increase. Developing early warning systems and strengthening inter-agency collaboration for accurate and up-to-date collection, impact analysis, and vulnerability assessments related to climate change are vital.

Furthermore, within the scope of adaptation actions, promoting the use of nature-based solutions in cities and prioritizing efforts to enhance societal awareness and capacity-building should be addressed. Strengthening international collaborations and fostering inclusive,

participatory processes across all segments of society are crucial for enhancing efforts to combat climate change. This approach will enable Türkiye to achieve its goal of net-zero emissions by 2053 and green development policies, leading not only to environmental benefits but also to economic and social progress.

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Welfare and Social Services in Türkiye at the End of 2022

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The three main components of the welfare state architecture are: (i) a comprehensive social insurance system, (ii) social services targeting individuals and families in vulnerable conditions, and (iii) an accessible and diverse social assistance system for those in need. In societies where these components are effectively and balanced structure, both the social welfare level and the national identity and belonging of the society are strengthened. Apart from individual, cultural, and biological origins, belonging also has social and sociopolitical roots, and it is evident that preserving and enhancing belonging has become a policy area that requires much more systematic and effective work in today's social policies than in the past.

In post-pandemic Türkiye, as in many countries, there have emerged certain challenges and new solution strategies in the fields of social services and social assistance. To review the previous year's developments in the field of social services in our country, we need to consider two contexts: (I) the global context and changes in social welfare policies during the COVID-19 period, and (ii) the national context and the expanding position and provision of social services within the public administration system in Türkiye.

Global Context

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 and lasted until the end of 2021 had a litmus effect on countries' health and welfare systems, revealing that even advanced welfare regimes were not as resilient as believed. The virus exposed not only the weaknesses in our bodies but also in our societal structures. The need for crisis management and crisis communication skills by public actors was strongly felt. Many countries identified areas where the quantity and quality of healthcare and social service workforce needed improvement. It became evident that vulnerable groups such as children and women in precarious conditions, people with disabilities, the elderly, and those subject to forced migration lacked effective family-oriented early warning mechanisms.

Contrasting Notions of Welfare

In the post-World War II bipolar world, the social cohesion of societies was generally strengthened. The welfare state model was designed as a buffer mechanism against the socialist political pole. Here, the state assumed the role of a parent in meeting social needs while being built upon the

principles of a market economy in the economic sphere. During this period, social services had a crucial function not only in meeting basic needs but also in ensuring full participation of citizens in society; providing sensitive services to population groups at risk of marginalization such as people with disabilities, the elderly, and immigrants.

However, during this period, two contrasting notions of welfare emerged depending on the political orientations of countries in the democratic pole: The first is the collectivist notion of welfare. This is closer to the socialist understanding.¹ The fundamental principle is equality arranged according to needs. It prefers an attitude that recognizes collective identity rather than individual identity. The primary source of social welfare is the state. It operates based on social planning. Its dangerous aspect is the loss of the freedom of individual choice, or in other words, the loss of subject identity in the face of state patronage and the collectivist ethos that says, ‘I don’t exist, you don’t exist, we exist!’ It is the totalitarianization of the welfare regime.

The second notion developed as market welfare. The fundamental principle is the freedom arranged according to individuals’ capabilities rather than needs. It prefers an attitude that recognizes individual identity and rationality over collective identity. The primary source of market welfare is the individual. It operates based on the market. Its dangerous aspect is the deepening gaps between social classes. While collectivist welfare is focused on protection, market welfare (more individualized) is focused on empowerment.

Two Versions of the Welfare State

Debates on the welfare state heavily occupied the 20th century. The actors of welfare were traditionally families

or religious institutions. However, in the modern era, civil society (including the state as the most powerful actor, along with the UN and related transnational organizations) and the market were added to these actors. Thus, the first version of the welfare state emerged. In essence, the welfare state was designed to address the disasters faced by the industrial society. The key components of the first version of the welfare state included a social insurance system with a premium-based social protection, social assistance focusing on women and children, public social policies encompassing education, housing, healthcare, childcare, public transportation, legal aid, and other social work and social services including vocational and evidence-based social support, education, and counseling services for groups such as children, elderly, disabled, women, chronically ill, families of prisoners, refugees, and others.

By the end of the first version of the welfare state, the picture that emerged was clear: this system improved the rights of workers, particularly laborers.² The state developed a sensitivity towards rights from needs. The system contributed to the formation of a prosperous middle class and reduced the gap between social classes, relative equality gained strength. Ultimately, a significant feature of the first version of the welfare state was its regulation of the social sphere, thus giving rise to a dominant societal architecture controlled by the state.

However, as we reached the 1980s, the discourse of a strong welfare state began to be replaced by the discourse of a responsible society. Criticisms from two major sources rapidly transformed the structure of the welfare state. The first source came from advocates of liberal economy. Rapidly rising center-right discourses favored reducing the state’s effectiveness in the social sphere. The second

source was the criticism of managerialism by postmodern thinkers, particularly Michel Foucault. It was argued that protection and closure created a mentality of othering people for social hygiene. The first source of criticism constantly listed limited growth, intractable inflation, excessive bureaucracy, and the persistence of poverty and unemployment. On the other hand, reference was made to the abundance of individuals who deceived the system under the guise of ‘welfare abuse’ in social services.

The debate on whether the distribution of social welfare should be considered a ‘right or charity’ also continued. Concerns were raised about whether strong public social services harmed informal solidarity and shared responsibility. The second source of criticism emphasized the conservative and oppressive nature of social services maintaining mainstream values. In the end, there was a rapid shift from societal welfare to market welfare. The welfare state entered a significant transformation process under the dominance of right-wing critics who found the state’s authority too generous and undisciplined, causing an unfair tax burden on taxpayers and morally corrupting welfare recipients. A typical neoliberal understanding of welfare began to prevail.

The second version of the welfare state can be summarized as a ‘non-employment-focused, conditional and limited social expenditure package.’ In previous models, social assistance, which was a powerful tool has been largely redesigned as ‘conditional social assistance.’ Tax exemptions that ease the burden on the market are frequently encountered. Various adjustments are made to unemployment benefits, and instead of job-seeking allowances with shorter durations and limited amounts, welfare is maintained at a certain level by expanding income-debt stocks (through individuals

being indebted).³ Governance, efficiency, and total quality management, which were previously limited to businesses, began to be effective in social services.

After these developments, the changing welfare regimes of the West, which were positioned politically, can be theoretically examined and compared. The most well-known study on this subject was conducted by Danish researcher Gosta Esping Andersen in his book ‘The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism’ published in 1990.⁴ According to Andersen, the West has been classified into three comparable welfare regimes: liberal, conservative (corporatist), and social democratic. Especially in the Anglophone welfare regimes of the 1990s (US, UK, Australia, etc.) the neo-liberal discourse of ‘workfare not welfare’ deeply questioned the public’s responsibility and authority in the social field. Unconditional cash/material and programs provided for non-workers received intense criticism. As a result, conditional cash transfer programs began to be used more in welfare assistance in the 2000s. Instead of seeing working people in the welfare system, there emerged an image of working people who remained poor.

Welfare regimes undergo changes in times of crisis. We experienced a period where the second version of the welfare state was strong during the pandemic. COVID-19 contributed to the slowing down of this neo-liberal transition, even deviation. Social welfare discussions and practices re-emerged as the first societal reactions. A return to the initial version of the welfare state began. Conventional instruments of the social state started to be used again. Initiatives such as hospitals built in a few weeks, monetary expansions, tax exemptions for small businesses, support for children, disabled individuals, and families, and increasing widespread social assistance were undertaken. Healthcare

and social service workers were elevated to the status of ‘angels’ once again. On the other hand, there was an increased risk of beneficiaries becoming a dependent population. In Türkiye, the social work force has been actively involved in social investigation and field surveys within the ‘loyal social support groups,’ even during the most challenging periods of the pandemic. They have also frequently been praised alongside healthcare workers in the public eye.⁵

During the pandemic, an important issue regarding the nature of social services emerged: the ‘protection versus empowerment dilemma.’ In this period, the social world had to shift its focus from market welfare to social welfare, moving from empowerment to protection-oriented social services and assistance. In essence, the ultimate goal of social services is to protect individuals, families, and the community as a whole against social risks and to strengthen their autonomy and self-help capacities. During the pandemic, there was a greater emphasis on protection-oriented programs and services rather than empowerment. The mandatory isolation experienced by children, people with disabilities, and especially the elderly resulted in some undesirable health and behavioral consequences. While the vulnerability of children and women to domestic abuse increased under these sensitive conditions, preventive functions of public spaces such as schools and hospitals were neglected. These developments have highlighted the need for a greater focus on preventive interventions and early warning tools in social services in 2021 and beyond.

National Context

The distribution of social welfare in Türkiye is naturally influenced by the global dynamics reshaped by the pandemic. Social services and assistance with a social orientation, which

have been strong since the Republican era in the delivery of social services, continue to expand. The responsibility for ensuring the protection and welfare of vulnerable population groups such as children, disabled individuals, the elderly, and women, has been shared between state and family institutions. The contribution and participation of civil society and the market, however, are limited.

Explaining the trends in social services in our country solely based on dominant state patronage and a social orientation may not be sufficient. According to Andersen’s classifications, it is not possible to fit Türkiye into any specific group.⁶ Türkiye represents a typical welfare mix in social welfare services. Our country reflects the need-based service and social assistance practices of liberal welfare regimes, the transfer payments of conservative regimes, policies that uphold and sustain the norms and values of mainstream society, to some extent, and the effective public services of social democratic regimes.

While reviewing the previous year of social services on a national scale, we need to trace the traces of ongoing structural changes in social services in Türkiye in recent years. In the early Republican period, social services were left in the responsibility area of non-state actors, particularly foundations and association organizations, by maintaining ancient traditions. From the 1960s onwards, based on our cultural identity of Turkish solidarity, it became institutionalized and joined the bureaucratic system.⁷ Social welfare was largely shared within the traditional family-kinship system and the bureaucratic state structure until the 2010s. It provided limited services with an organization called the General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection under the Prime Ministry. The establishment of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies in 2011 resulted

in rapid bureaucratic growth and expansion of social services.⁸ This transformation was the first step towards the transition of social services in Türkiye from reactive service models (demand-oriented and institutional care-oriented) to proactive service models (supply and preventive-focused). In parallel with this step and the subsequent development, the implementation of the ‘Family Social Support Program (ASDEP)’ and its presentation through the social service center establishment model took place. However, the identified social problems diversified, and there was a parallel increase in service capacity. A situation emerged where the number of individuals and families benefiting from social services was constantly increasing. Naturally, there has been a significant increase in demand for social services and the social work force.

Orientation towards Proactive Services

A development that sheds light on the changes in the delivery of social services in Türkiye, showing parallelism with the flow of history and the global context, is the transformation of the bureaucratic design of social services to focus on efficiency and accessibility. There is an increase in umbrella organizations that provide multiple services based on principles of governance, efficiency, and quality. One of the typical examples of this in Türkiye is the ‘Social Service Centers,’ whose numbers reached 377 as of January 2023.⁹ In these centers,¹⁰ the service units of the directorates affiliated with the Ministry of Family and Social Services provide services under the same day-care organization structure. Unlike in Türkiye, service intermediaries (companies providing social services) have become widespread in the West. Although not widespread in Türkiye, nurseries and early childhood programs have remained outside public services. Brief mention is made of current developments in

social services for children, women, people with disabilities, the elderly, veterans, relatives of martyrs, and families under the following headings.

Children

In Türkiye, the primary population group in the provision of social services is children. The Turkish child protection reform, which began with the Child Protection Law in 2005, has significantly changed the structure of the child protection system over the past 15 years. In 2005, the number of children residing in residential and institutional care facilities was over 20,000, but by 2017, all of these facilities were closed, and the ‘family-style group homes’ model, consisting of 6-7 children, was adopted. According to official data at the end of 2021, the total number of children in family-style group homes and children’s village sites (formerly known as foster homes) decreased to 13,302.¹¹ At this stage, both the type of institution has changed and the number of children has decreased by more than two-thirds. The most suitable alternative care model for children who are deprived of parental care is undoubtedly foster care. Currently, the total number of children being cared for in foster families is 8,459.¹² One promising practice is the initiation of a social and economic support program (SED) that includes supporting families to prevent children from entering or remaining in institutional care due to socio-economic reasons. From 2005 to the present, the number of beneficiaries has shown a rapid increase, starting with 10,000 children in 2005 and reaching up to 140,000 by the end of 2021. It is expected that the decreasing institutional care model and the increasing foster care and SED services will continue in the child protection system. The development of preventive mechanisms and early warning tools is a prioritized need for the child protection system.

Women

The initiative at the center of women's protection and empowerment services in Türkiye is the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers (ŞÖNİM).¹³ ŞÖNİM centers are field organizations that provide support and prevention services operating on a 24/7 basis. As of 2022, the number of ŞÖNİM centers has reached 81, covering all provinces. The annual number of service recipients has reached hundreds of thousands.

Another key element of social services for women applicants is women's shelters. These establishments are residential social service organizations where women who have experienced physical, emotional, sexual, economic, or verbal abuse or violence can stay temporarily while being protected from violence, resolving their psychosocial and economic problems, and empowering themselves. If they have children, their children's needs are also met. By 2022, 112 women's shelters have been opened in all 81 provinces to expand the services. Women's shelters are also established and operated by municipal governments in many provinces (33 women's shelters in 11 provinces). Together with shelters operated by other institutions, a total of 149 women and their children receive residential protection and care support. Approximately 60,000 women have stayed in these institutions with around 25,000 accompanying children. In fact, the fundamental characteristic of these units, often referred to as 'women shelters' in many countries, is that they provide temporary protection and accommodation until the acute crisis period is over. However, due to concerns for their personal safety, economic dependency, and responsibilities towards their young children, women may stay longer in these facilities. There is a clear need to enhance the women's shelter

services with complementary psychosocial services that promote women's independence. On the other hand, social service interventions should prioritize meeting the needs and welfare of children who stay with their families in these facilities and who are exposed to the risk of isolation.

Elderly Population

The population of Türkiye is rapidly aging.¹⁴ The proportion of the elderly population within the total population increased from 8.3% in 2016 to 9.7% in 2021. When the proportion of the elderly population exceeds 10%, it is an indicator of population aging. One of the priority services for the elderly is residential care. In 2022, approximately 12,000 people received services from 263 private nursing homes in 23 provinces. Approximately, 13,000 people benefited from 165 nursing homes affiliated with the Ministry of Family and Social Services. It is possible to say that around 25,000 people receive this service and the number is increasing.

In addition to residential care and support services for the elderly, preventive daytime services have also been preferred in recent years. The ministry aims to improve the quality, capacity, and prevalence of home social services and daytime elderly living centers by creating a model to support active aging by increasing the institutional capacity of central and local organizations in the coming years. However, today, elderly care and support services continue to be centered around conventional care models rather than primary care services.

In recent years, macro initiatives that have drawn public attention to the issue of aging have also taken place in Türkiye. A National Aging Country Report was prepared in connection with the UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging and the regional implementation strategy.¹⁵

People with Disabilities

People with disabilities in Türkiye are a population group considered together with elderly services in the provision of public social services. According to the ASHB Disabled and Elderly Statistics Bulletin 2022 data¹⁶, the number of people with at least one disability is approximately 5 million, constituting almost 7% of the population. It is also reported that this rate is showing a steady increase trend. One of the reform areas of social services in Türkiye has been disabled individuals, and the Disabled Persons Law came into effect in 2005. Thus, a fundamental law has been established that facilitates the access of disabled individuals to services and rights in the public domain.

The priority practice in social services for people with disabilities is ‘home care assistance.’ By the end of 2021, the number of individuals receiving home care assistance payments was around 530,000, which corresponds to more than one-tenth of the disabled population.

The second important aspect of social services for people with disabilities is institutionalized day care services. The main goal in ensuring the care of disabled individuals is to provide this service without separating them from their families and the social environment they live in. With this aim, care services provided to disabled individuals in need of care focus on family and rights-based care services. Priority is given to the provision of care within the family, and if it is not suitable within the family, importance is given to the provision of care services in barrier-free living centers and ‘hope houses,’ which are the household-type social service institutions. In 2017, 459 disabled individuals benefited from day care services in 6 day living centers. This number increased to 1,233 disabled individuals being served in 129 day living centers in 2021.¹⁷

In addition, residential care services for people with disabilities are also provided. There are 51 ‘Barrier-Free Living Care and Rehabilitation Centers’ nationwide. In 2018, 7,745 disabled individuals benefited from 97 residential care and rehabilitation centers (including barrier-free living centers), while by the end of 2021, services were provided to 7,211 disabled individuals in 104 residential care and rehabilitation centers (including 51 Barrier-Free Living Centers). Another service in residential care is hope houses. Hope houses, resembling children’s homes, are social service institutions opened in independent houses or apartment buildings for disabled individuals to integrate with the society they live in and to ensure their active participation in social life. In ‘Hope Houses,’ the care of 4 to 6 disabled individuals is provided in a house under the supervision of a caregiver and the supervision of professional staff. By the end of 2021, there were 152 hope houses. In 2022, the efforts for the National Action Plan for Disability Rights to strengthen the rights of disabled individuals in Türkiye also continued.

Veterans and Martyrs’ Families

Veterans and martyrs’ families services are a special area of service structured within the organizational framework of social services in Türkiye. According to the ASHB 2021 Activity Report published in 2022, psychosocial support services are provided to the families of martyrs during the mourning process through crisis interventions initiated after receiving the news of martyrdom. At the end of 2021, work was conducted for 117 martyr families.

Employment support is also available as another aspect of service for martyrs’ families and veterans. Recommendations for appointment to public institutions and organizations are made for martyrs’ families, veterans,

their families, civilian victims of terrorism, war and duty-disabled individuals of their families. Around 1,600 people were provided with this service in 2020.¹⁸

Family

The Turkish family continues to dissolve and shrink. The expectation of a ‘minimum of three children,’ emphasized by all political authorities for over twenty years, is necessary from a demographic perspective. According to the latest national data on Family Statistics published by the Turkish Statistical Institute in May 2022, the average household size, which was 4 people in 2008, has shown a decreasing trend and dropped to 3.2 people in 2021.¹⁹ Interestingly, the percentage of single-person households consisting of individuals living alone, which was 13.9% in 2014 increased to 18.9% in 2021. The proportion of nuclear families, which accounted for 67.4% in 2014, decreased to 64.4% in 2021. While nuclear families are shrinking, single-parent families are increasing, and a family system that is modernizing and shrinking is becoming more widespread.

According to the same data, the poverty rate has also risen to one in five. Particularly within larger families, this rate has reached close to one in three people living in poverty. It is evident that we are facing a Turkish family that is generally shrinking and experiencing a decrease in economic power.

Being an advocate for policies that focus on the family, preserve and strengthen the family system has always been on the agenda of the social work profession since its inception. However, placing the family at the center and putting the responsibility of the problems on the family is not the same as putting the family at the center of social policy intervention. Therefore, when creating family-oriented policies, it is essential to prioritize programs that

balance the objective burden of social welfare on the family. One of these programs is undoubtedly early childhood education and daycare programs. In order to promote the early development of children and increase women’s participation in the workforce, it is necessary to prioritize the reintroduction of nursery schools, daycare centers, and preschool services into the agenda of social policies. As mentioned earlier, in the 90s when the state limited its responsibility in the social field, the first area left to the private sector was nursery schools and daycare centers. Today, among the population of approximately 25 million children in Türkiye, the number of children under the age of 5 is around 6 million. In 2021, about 100,000 children between the ages of 0-5 benefited from 2,305 nursery schools and daycare services affiliated with ASHB (Preschool Education and Daycare Services General Directorate). According to the 2021-2022 statistics of the Ministry of National Education (MEB) on formal education, the total number of children enrolled in official/private kindergartens and pre-primary programs for children aged 4-6 is approximately 1 million 885 thousand.²⁰ These figures indicate that a significant proportion of children under the age of 5 do not have access to early childhood education. According to MEB’s 2021 data, the enrollment rate for 5 year olds is only 56.9%.

Social Assistance

According to the results of the income and living conditions survey published by the Turkish Statistical Institute in May 2022, relative poverty was reported as 28.7% (based on 70% of the median income).²¹ It is observed that one out of every three families is below the poverty line. The rate of material deprivation in the survey was 27.2% and the rate of those living in rented accommodation, which is similar to poverty, was 26.8%.

In 2021, social assistance, which amounted to around 100 billion Turkish Lira in GDP, had a rate of 1.74% for eligible recipients. It is also reported that this rate has shown a rapid increase compared to previous years. The range of social assistance has been expanding every year. 53 different social assistance models have continued to be used in nine categories (family assistance, housing-food assistance, disability-elderly assistance, health assistance, education assistance, project support).

In Türkiye, an important practice initiated in the field of social assistance in 2022 was the 'Family Support Program.' This program is designed as an application that includes cash payment support for low-income families, even if they are in the workforce. Regular payments are made in varying amounts based on the total amount of income per person in the household (salary, wages, daily wages, and regular social assistance income).²²

Social assistance programs that include both in-kind and cash transfers are an indispensable instrument of social protection. However, when used as the sole means of combating poverty, they can have both inadequate and harmful effects. They are inadequate because they provide temporary compensation for deprivation rather than addressing economic poverty. They are harmful because they create a risk of dependency on the part of beneficiaries and service providers. They are harmful because they create a risk of dependency on the part of beneficiaries and service providers that is detrimental to the beneficiaries' interests. From a social services perspective, it is clear that providing assistance entails generating services that strike a balance between autonomy and equality.

Conclusion

Social work is deeply embedded in social policies. The effectiveness of social services is among the key determinants of social cohesion. While the world focuses on the challenges of the 'post-COVID' era, we should continue to focus on the structural changes in the architecture of social services in our Republic's new century.

OECD data shows that Türkiye's social expenditure as a percentage of national income is eight points below the OECD average of 12% to 20%. It is inevitable that social services continue to rapidly develop in terms of quality and quantity and be further developed with a professional notion.²³ In Türkiye's second century, the social welfare system should be designed in a context that is compatible with the global community architecture and showcases our country's role as an actor in international social policies²⁴ while serving as an example to neighboring countries in the social service model it implements. Additionally, our social welfare system should be organized at the local level as it is global. To be able to respond to complex social problems with local and regional human and material resources, there should be a transformation in the delivery of social services according to the principles of decentralization.

Conceptual designs that can turn the beneficiaries of social services, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities, women, and at-risk families, into moral shields of real politics should be avoided. For example, while analyzing the problem of poverty, while designing forms of poverty such as 'child poverty,' 'woman poverty,' 'disability poverty' may have operational reasons, these subgroups definitions should also be fundamentally prevented from being used as moral tools by rival politicians in real politics.

It may be necessary to recognize that the weight of social assistance formulated as conditional cash transfers may lead to conditionality in belonging. In addition, it would be beneficial to review the much-debated ‘universal basic income’ model in recent years. Undoubtedly, people should be active, and there should be criteria that discourage a passive-dependent life and hinder the formation of a mentality that creates demand for such a life when considering the universal income model.

The discipline of social work has an academic mission to identify, classify, analyze, and solve social problems. A strategy should be adopted that recognizes the social work workforce and the structuring of social services as both bureaucratic and professional fields. In Türkiye, where the central-local organizational structure has been transformed into an executive ministry in the last decade, it is necessary to develop our social services system based on professional principles and methods, which continue to grow and expand rapidly.

The fundamental orientation of social welfare policies should be protective and empowering. Service models that uphold the delicate balance between the two should be developed. Instead of individualistic and collectivist service oppositions arising from the polarization of welfare notions, a welfare concept should be constructed based on the ancient African philosophy of ‘ubuntu,’ which is expressed as ‘I am because we are.’ For this purpose, a system should be established where the responsible actors of welfare, namely the family, state, civil society, and market are balanced. It should be recognized that we need a welfare distribution system where the dominance of any one or few of these actors is mitigated, and the culture of solidarity within society is preserved. All our efforts should contribute to an inclusive social transformation and the collective construction of the future.

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- 24 Türkiye has the potential to be a pioneer in many social issue areas, as demonstrated by its pioneering role in the Istanbul Convention, which came into effect in 2011 and includes inclusive mechanisms for combating violence.

International Humanitarian Aid in 2022: Deepening Crisis, New Roles, and ‘Localization’

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In 2022, the world and our region faced new crisis while hoping to heal their wounds from the COVID-19 pandemic by reducing its speed and severity and trying to compensate for the losses incurred in the past period through the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Droughts, floods, ongoing or emerging conflicts, and hunger affected many countries and displaced people. The global demand for staple food items such as corn, soybeans, and grains increased, leading to price hikes due to droughts, reaching its peak when Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24.¹ It is quite thought-provoking that prices of basic food items, except for rice, reached these levels before the 2007-2008 global financial crisis and the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

In addition to affecting food exports, the disruption of energy supply disrupted global food security by also impacting fertilizer prices. Developed countries faced inflation rates unseen in recent years due to interrupted

energy supply, while the expenditures made during the COVID-19 period and declining incomes caught many developing countries unprepared. Due to the war², approximately 8 million Ukrainian citizens became refugees according to the latest data.³

Natural disasters, along with war, continued to affect the global humanitarian situation. Heatwaves caused by global climate change affected a wide geography from China to America, leading to occasional wildfires. In Europe, the worst drought in 500 years resulted in the emergence of warnings dated back to the 19th century and earlier (such as the Hungerstein), while the inability to generate electricity in the Yangtze River basin in China affected industrial production in some regions. In Pakistan, heavy rainfall in July and August, twice as much as the average rainfall in the past 30 years, combined with glacier melting, turned into a flood that caused the death of at least 1,391 people. The disaster affected 33 million people



Photograph: AA, Ömer Ürer

and caused \$30 billion in damages. Before completing a year in power, the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan faced an earthquake on June 22nd, which claimed the lives of approximately 1,000 people, followed by a flood.

Türkiye played an important role in many crises in 2022 through official or civil society aid. It would be appropriate to give some examples in this regard. Due to the war in Ukraine, 50,000 Ukrainians sought refuge in Türkiye, including 1,000 orphans and adopted children.

After the flood disaster in Pakistan, 'Goodness Trains' departed from Türkiye and delivered food and other aid materials. In the following weeks, the 'Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Tent City' was opened in the Bholari region of the Sindh province. For Afghanistan, Türkiye contributed to both the UN Development Programme Special Trust Fund⁵ and sent aid after the earthquake.⁶ Türkiye's role in humanitarian crises continues in line with previous years in this respect.

In 2022, we see that Türkiye has acquired new roles. The country made efforts to keep diplomatic channels open by hosting peace negotiations during the Ukraine War. In addition to the prisoner exchange facilitated by Ankara,⁷ Türkiye contributed to stabilizing global food prices and ensuring food security through an initiative known as the ‘grain corridor,’ benefiting from diplomacy.

Türkiye’s experience of preventive diplomacy dating back to previous years had transformed into the ‘Mediation for Peace’ initiative launched with Finland in 2010. Türkiye also contributed to its knowledge in this regard through regular Istanbul Mediation Conferences. This mediation effort, however, includes some originality. Unlike other examples, the initiative for the grain corridor not only affected Ukraine and Russia but also impacted all developing countries, especially food-dependent countries like Egypt and Lebanon. Additionally, many African countries also need the corridor to remain open for food aid. Another uniqueness is that in this example, Türkiye not only utilized its diplomatic expertise and balanced relations with Ukraine and Russia but also effectively used its geographical location. In this way, Türkiye assists global food security not only as a provider but also as a facilitator.

The official name of the initiative, ‘Black Sea Grain Initiative,’ also known as the ‘Safe Initiative from Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports,’ came into the spotlight with the warnings issued by the UN from March. Before the corridor was decided, various options were proposed by the international community for the transportation of Ukrainian grain. These proposals included implementing a military practice similar to a no-fly zone, adopting a UN Security Council resolution, establishing a humanitarian corridor from Belarus, and Germany’s Grain Bridge Project.

It must have been realized over time that these options were not realistic, as the UN presented the grain corridor plan to Ukraine and Russia at the end of April. During this process, the UN and Türkiye made intensive efforts for Russia and Ukraine to reach an agreement.⁸ By June 8th, the plan started to take shape, and finally, on July 27th, an agreement was signed, and a joint coordination center involving Russia, Ukraine, Türkiye, and the UN powers was established for the inspection of Ukrainian vessels. Although Russia announced the suspension of its participation after the attack on the Sevastopol Port on October 29th, it rejoined the initiative on November 2 with Türkiye’s efforts.⁹ These efforts demonstrated Türkiye’s humanitarian role during wartime and received appreciation from the UN, the EU and other world leaders.

Localization Agenda

One of the important developments of 2022 was the localization agenda. As known, while the local and national organizations are the first responders to the needs arising from humanitarian crises, the international humanitarian system is shaped around a few Western states and organizations. While local and national organizations identify and address the needs on the ground, Western actors become visible through the financial resources they provide. The increasing and protracted conflicts that deeply affect societies, the funding challenges in the humanitarian aid system, and the critical perspectives focusing on decolonization have been questioning the hierarchical structure of the aid sector for some time. One of the significant debates at the World Humanitarian Summit hosted by Istanbul in 2016 was the strengthening of local and national actors, referred to as ‘localization.’

Although the empowerment of local organizations has been on the agenda of the humanitarian aid field for a long time under different forms and names, localization was emphasized more strongly and comprehensively at this summit, and the 'Grand Bargain' committed major donors and organizations to deliver more assistance to people and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the system. With the increase in the number of donors and organizations signing the 'Grand Bargain,' the framework was updated. In 2022, concrete actions were taken under the headings of 'increasing transparency, providing more support and funding to local and national actors, conducting joint and impartial needs analysis, involving beneficiaries in decision-making processes, and simplifying reporting processes.

In Türkiye, the 'Localization Advocacy Group,' established in 2020, kept the issue on the agenda of civil society. In 2022, while establishing connections with localization advocates in different countries, the 'Localization Advocacy Group' also created a dialogue platform among civil society organizations, international organizations, and donors working in the humanitarian aid field in our country. One of the members of the Localization Advocacy Group, the Turkish Refugee Council, facilitated the publication of a research report to assess the extent to which the commitments of the 'Grand Bargain' were fulfilled and to highlight the problems related to localization based on data. Another report, supported by Hayata Destek Association from Türkiye and published by ALNAP, presented international comparative information on localization to the public.

These developments indicate that the issue of localization will continue to be on the agenda of the global humanitarian aid system and that the Turkish civil society, which has gained significant experiences in the Syrian crisis, embraces the issue as a local dynamic.

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Türkiye's Humanitarian Diplomacy Activities in 2022

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When viewed from the broadest perspective, humanitarian diplomacy corresponds to the efforts made at the international level to produce solutions that prioritize human beings and address issues related to human security. In other words, all processes aimed at persuading decision-makers and actors in the field to use tools that focus on humans and towards finding solutions to humanitarian problems can be considered as humanitarian diplomacy.

In terms of its processes, tools, and actors, humanitarian diplomacy significantly differs from traditional diplomacy conducted by official diplomats in the field of foreign policy. However, both forms of diplomacy progress within their own realms and are complementary to each other rather than being contradictory or alternatives. In this sense, humanitarian diplomacy fills an important gap in the international policy-making process through practices that prioritize fundamental humanitarian values alongside state interests. Additionally, due to its human-centered and human rights-based nature, humanitarian diplomacy can be regarded as one of the highest areas of legitimacy in international politics. Considering all these qualities,

it is unquestionable that humanitarian diplomacy is an effective source or soft power and a genuine instrument of foreign policy.

Although the concept of humanitarian diplomacy evokes notions such as humanitarian aid or advocacy for human rights, it is not limited to these alone; it goes beyond them. Depending on the context, humanitarian diplomacy encompasses these concepts while finding meaning within a different and much broader framework. The concept of humanitarian aid, which occupies a certain central position in humanitarian diplomacy practices, includes all kinds of activities aimed at ensuring the survival, security, alleviation of suffering, and ultimately the sustainable resolution of problems primarily for individuals who are exposed to various difficulties they cannot overcome on their own due to reasons such as disasters, poverty, drought, hunger, and war.

On the other hand, when referring to humanitarian diplomacy, it primarily brings to mind 'humanitarian' activities directed towards the protection of human life and dignity in the face of any problem that can be characterized

as a humanitarian crisis caused by either natural or human-made factors. These activities include the realization of urgent humanitarian aid measures as a priority, followed by efforts for rehabilitation and sustainable recovery through international cooperation. At this stage, civil society organizations, among others, take the forefront as key actors. Particularly in the context of wars/internal conflicts where humanitarian tragedies are more prominent, the efforts such as rescue and protection of civilians, establishment of dialogue among conflicting parties, mediation initiatives, temporary or permanent ceasefire agreements, and the establishment of peace correspond to the direct 'political' dimension of humanitarian diplomacy. In this stage, official actors play a more prominent role, primarily represented by states and supranational institutions.

Humanitarian diplomacy, carried out by both civil and official actors, operates through collaboration and can be categorized into two main instruments: international humanitarian assistance – including development aid – and peacebuilding activities. In other words, regardless of how diversified they may be, it is possible to relate each humanitarian diplomatic activity to humanitarian aid and peacebuilding.

In the context of Türkiye's humanitarian diplomacy activities conducted by official and civil actors throughout 2022, it would be more meaningful to refer to the explanations provided. In this regard, if we need to separately consider activities related to natural and/or human-induced problems within the year, Türkiye's humanitarian relief efforts following the earthquake in Afghanistan and the flood disaster in Pakistan can be cited as examples. When it comes to human-induced crises, efforts to find solutions to the humanitarian problems caused by the Russia-Ukraine War would undoubtedly

stand out. By briefly addressing the humanitarian diplomatic activities related to these three humanitarian crises, it is possible to concretize the situation.

Afghanistan Earthquake

Following the earthquake that occurred in Afghanistan in June 2022, resulting in the loss of over 1,000 lives and leaving nearly 2,000 injured, prominent humanitarian organizations such as AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority), Turkish Red Crescent, and IHH (Humanitarian Relief Foundation) were observed swiftly arriving in the region to provide assistance.

AFAD teams promptly reached the most affected area of the earthquake, the Giyan district in Paktika province, where they provided food aid to 250 families whose homes were destroyed or damaged.¹ Additionally, based on on-site assessments, plans were made for various types of assistance including setting up tents, providing blankets, beds, food, and hygiene materials. In coordination with TCDD and AFAD, a 'train of kindness' consisting of six groups organized by contributions from 10 different civil society organizations was sent to Afghanistan from Ankara Central Station on August 24, 2022.²

The Turkish Red Crescent mobilized its teams in the region's delegation to address the needs of the earthquake victims and delivered food packages to 500 families in coordination with Afghan Red Crescent. Turkish Red Crescent teams also provided support at hospitals for the injured in the earthquake, and continued urgent humanitarian aid activities by transporting food and non-food assistance materials after conducting needs assessments.³



IHH Afghanistan Representation immediately took action, first distributing hot meals to over 1,500 earthquake victims and then providing tents, blankets, and other relief supplies to sustain their aid efforts.⁴

Pakistan Flood Disaster

Following the flood disaster caused by heavy rainfall in Pakistan, the first country to arrive in the region for humanitarian aid was once again Türkiye.

Within the framework of cooperation between AFAD and Turkish NGOs, over 7,500 tons of relief supplies were sent to Pakistan. In the initial stage, 34,452 family tents, 442,892 food and hygiene kits, nearly 3 million medical supplies, over 43,000 shelter materials, 10,000 kitchens, over 50,000 clothing items, 2 large mobile health units, and 50 boats carrying relief supplies were delivered to the affected areas of the disaster. AFAD teams set up 28,808

tents in 21 different regions, providing temporary shelter for nearly 180,000 people residing there.⁵

The Turkish Red Crescent, taking action from the early hours of the flood in the most affected regions of Balochistan, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, and Kashmir, supported the healing process of Pakistan by providing locally procured relief supplies in Pakistan, aid sent from Turkey by road, the 'Train of Kindness' prepared under AFAD coordination, and humanitarian aid materials placed on cargo planes.⁶ The Turkish Red Crescent continues its assistance in terms of food, clothing, hygiene, and shelter needs for several months.

IHH, from the very beginning, actively participated in relief efforts by providing hot meals, food packages, clothing and hygiene materials, blankets, mosquito nets, healthcare services, and medicine supplies to thousands of affected families.

Russia-Ukraine War

The two phenomena previously mentioned serve as examples of 'international humanitarian assistance' from a human diplomacy perspective, while the activities aimed at solving the multidimensional humanitarian problems caused by the Russia-Ukraine war have highlighted Türkiye's pioneering role in both 'international humanitarian aid' and 'peacebuilding.' Starting with air and missile attacks targeting pre-determined objectives in Ukraine by Russia on February 24, 2022, the war immediately overshadowed many issues and became the most important agenda item in international politics. From the very beginning of the war, Türkiye's stance has developed within the framework of the strong and frequently emphasized understanding of 'Entrepreneurial and Humanitarian Foreign Policy.'

International Humanitarian Assistance

As in other humanitarian crisis situations, it has been observed that Turkish official and civil humanitarian aid organizations are at the forefront of the rescue and protection of civilians affected by Russia's attacks. In this regard, the activities of the same institution can be cited as examples.

Within a few days following the start of the war, humanitarian aid materials prepared with the support of relevant institutions, organizations, and NGOs under the coordination of AFAD were delivered to the Ukrainian people and Turkish citizens in the region to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the Ukrainian people. On the Romania border of Ukraine, in Poland, and Moldova, approximately 10,000 people per day were provided with nutrition support in the area created by the AFAD team.⁷

The Turkish Red Crescent initiated the Ukraine Humanitarian Aid Operation in response to the request for assistance from the Ukrainian Red Cross. Since the beginning, humanitarian aid has been delivered in response to the health, shelter, protection, food, and hygiene needs to affected civilians both within the country and along evacuation and migration routes by the Red Crescent teams deployed in Ukraine and neighboring countries, in collaboration with operation stakeholders. The assistance has continued to increase over time.⁸

In order to meet the urgent humanitarian needs in Ukraine, IHH took action and provided support by supplying humanitarian aid materials such as bread, hot meals, food packages, and blankets to civilians living in bombarded Kiev and refugees in neighboring countries.⁹

Activities Towards Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding activities are multidimensional and can take place in various categories and levels of interaction. These include establishing peace between states, resolving internal conflicts among state actors, combating terrorism, and other related areas. However, peacebuilding processes always require mutual communication and contacts between conflicting parties or parties with the potential for conflict.

Official and civilian humanitarian diplomacy actors assume roles such as peace diplomacy, mediation, and most importantly, persuading decision-makers and opinion leaders to take action in order to eliminate political, military, economic, and other conditions that contribute to conflicts.

Throughout 2022, efforts towards achieving a ceasefire followed by a permanent and fair peace agreement have become Türkiye's top priority in its foreign policy agenda.

Türkiye has been one of the few countries capable of directly engaging in high-level talks with both Russia and Ukraine. As a result, it has successfully played a role as a mediator and facilitator in negotiations between the two countries since the beginning of the war, leading to positive outcomes in peacebuilding.

While the war continues with full force, Türkiye, Russia and Ukraine Foreign Ministers came together at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum on March 10. With the participation of Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavuşoğlu, the trilateral meeting provided the first direct political contact between the parties. Then, on March 29, technical teams met again in Istanbul and significant progress was made in the negotiations. It can be said that these two meetings formed the basis for the ongoing ceasefire and peace negotiations in the future.

President Erdoğan's intensive diplomatic efforts at the leaders' level, as well as the triple contacts established by the foreign affairs and national defense ministers, have made it possible to prevent both existing and potential humanitarian crises. In this context;

- Opening a humanitarian corridor for the evacuation of civilians from areas of active conflict,
- Safely brining Turkish citizens living in both countries, especially in conflict zones, to Türkiye,
- Signing and implementing the 'Grain Corridor Agreement,' which serves to prevent potential food crises on a continental scale outside the warring parties, and addressing occasional problems through direct negotiations at the leaders' level,
- Ensuring large-scale prisoner exchanges between Russia and Ukraine through mediation and facilitation efforts,

- Conducting discussions between the Russian nuclear company Rosatom and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Istanbul to protect the Zaporizhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest nuclear power plant, from conflicts,¹⁰

Each of these diplomatic activities should be considered as humanitarian diplomacy practices conducted by Türkiye within the framework of peacebuilding.

In conclusion, considering the performance exhibited in the aforementioned examples, Türkiye has increasingly strengthened its humanitarian diplomacy capacity and, as a result, pursued a people-centered foreign policy within the international system.

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International Migration in 2022 and Its Reflection on Türkiye

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As of 2022, Türkiye is the country that hosts the largest number of refugees worldwide, including nearly 3.5 million Syrians under temporary protection and over 400,000 refugees of various nationalities under international protection. By the end of 2022, the top three nationalities granted international protection in our country are Afghanistan with 19,400, Ukraine with 7,131, and Iraq with 4,083 individuals.

However, official figures indicate that the number of Syrians under temporary protection has seen a decrease of over 200,000 compared to previous years. This decrease is attributed to some Syrians returning voluntarily to their home country, while the number of deported Syrians has increased by 161% compared to the previous year.

To prevent spatial concentration and maintain a homogenous structure, services for new foreign applicants and address changes have been suspended in 1,169 neighborhoods across 63 provinces where the foreign population exceeds 20% of the Turkish citizen population. This move can also be seen as an outcome of various policies related to repatriation, social integration, and recognition of basic rights for the existing immigrant population.

Türkiye has become one of the significant participants in migration projects initiated by both international organizations and local institutions due to the mass forced migration it has accepted from Syria since 2011, as a result of the civil war. In this context, with the support of international organizations such as the IOM and ICMPD, in coordination with the Directorate General of Migration Management and the Turkish Red Crescent, more than a hundred projects have been implemented or sustained in 2022. Looking at the content, the majority of these projects have been directed towards Syrian individuals under temporary protection residing in cities such as Istanbul, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Adana, and Mersin, as well as those granted international protection status.

In the field of irregular migration, Afghanistan-related activities have come to the forefront in 2022 due to the Taliban taking over the country and migration pressure through Iran. Although the number of apprehended irregular migrants did not reach the peak of 454,662 in 2019, it gained momentum after the pandemic and remained above 258,000. Nearly half of the irregular migrants in 2022 were Afghan nationals. Syria ranks second as a source country for irregular migration with

45,000 individuals. Law enforcement forces have fulfilled their duties in combating regular migration at sea and land borders. In 2022, migrant smugglers, one of the actors in irregular migration, were found to be the most frequently apprehended with a total of 9,149 cases in the past 10 years. As a reflection of humanitarian migration policies, Turkish Coast Guard teams also conduct rescue operations in the Aegean Sea, which has turned into a death sea on the journey of hope, in response to Greece's pushback activities.

The prominent topics highlighted in studies announced by the institutions of the Republic of Türkiye in 2022 are the prevention of irregular migration, improvement of return processes, and deployment of legal regulations. The projects implemented by the DGMM include 'Return and Reintegration of Irregular Migrants in Türkiye' and 'Support the Capacities of Return Centers and Developing Alternative Measures to Administrative Supervision.' Turkish Red Crescent also aims to support the establishment of camps and orphanages outside our country's borders and facilitate voluntary return of migrants in the region. According to the data announced by the DGMM, the number of return centers was increased to 30 with a capacity of 20,540 in 2022, and 58,758 Syrian volunteers returned to safe areas in Syria. Additionally, efforts for the social and economic integration of migrants continue nationwide. Under the scope of 'Social Integration and Life Training (SUYE),' education was provided to 1,395,055 individuals last year.

One of the prominent legal regulations in 2022 was the 'Exemption from Work Permit for Foreigners' defined within the scope of the International Labor Force Law Implementation Regulation, which was published by the General Directorate of International Labor Force of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye and came into effect 02.02.2022, as announced in the Official Gazette. With this regulation, it is expected

that professional and qualified human mobility will be positively affected.

One of the most significant developments in the field of international migration at the beginning of 2022 was the forced migration of Ukrainian citizens to Türkiye as a result of Russia's occupation starting on February 21, 2022. In the first two months following the start of the war, more than 12 million people, 90% of whom were women and children, were displaced. Within a short period, over five million people sought asylum primarily in countries such as Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia, Germany, Moldova, and even Spain and Italy. Türkiye also hosts a significant number of temporary and permanent forced migrants from Ukraine. Since the beginning of the war, over 600,000 Ukrainians have come to Türkiye, but most of them have left for various reasons. According to recent data, there are approximately 46,000 Ukrainian residents with residence permits and 7,131 Ukrainians who have applied for international protection in Türkiye. It should be noted that Ukrainians are a highly heterogeneous group. In addition to the Ahıska Turks who were forcibly displaced during the Stalin era, Crimean Tatars who migrated to other cities in Ukraine after the annexation of Crimea in 1994 have also turned to Türkiye due to the recent war.

There are ongoing efforts in the field of migration of Ukrainians to Türkiye. The Turkish Red Crescent has continued its aid operations within Ukraine throughout 2022, providing cash support through Kızılaykart to Ahıska Turks placed in temporary accommodation centers. Financial support has also been provided by Turkcell to the Ukraine Aid Campaign initiated by Turkish Red Crescent. Civil society organizations have focused on social integration and humanitarian assistance. Steps have been taken to create safe spaces for psychological counseling, equal opportunities and access to education, as well as expanding existing initiatives, particularly for women

and children, in economic and social matters. Initiatives such as the ‘Counseling Hotline for Ukrainian Refugees and Al Farah Child and Family Support Centers Project’ conducted by the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) have been implemented to address the needs of new migrant groups, women, children, and youth at a more local and solution-oriented level.

The projects carried out by international organizations, public institutions, and civil society organizations regarding the access of Ukrainians in Türkiye to various services are listed below:

- A counseling hotline has been established for Ukrainian refugees (SGDD/ASAM)
- A ‘Back to School Project’ has been initiated (SGDD/ASAM)
- Efforts have been intensified to improve the psychological health and psychosocial support awareness of refugees living in Türkiye (SGDD/ASAM)
- Various protection services have been provided, particularly in the areas of mental health and psychosocial support, emergency case management, and school transportation (IOM)
- Support has been provided to children coming from Ukraine in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services and UNICEF
- A series of projects have been launched to ensure information flow between government agencies and relevant organizations for the coordination of Ukrainian migrants (UNHCR)

In addition to Ukrainians, there has been a significant increase in the number of Russians coming to Türkiye since the Kremlin’s mobilization declaration in 2022,

mainly consisting of white-collar workers in the digital sector or also known as digital nomads. According to April 2023 data, there are 154,000 people residing in Türkiye with residence permits from Russia, 131,659 people staying in the country with short-term residence permits, and 7,465 people staying with family residence permits. The number of Russian companies in Antalya, one of the cities where this group is concentrated, has increased by 527% compared to the previous year.

In 2022, projects in the field of international migration can generally be classified as those aimed at meeting the urgent needs of refugees coming from Ukraine and those focused on ensuring the social integration of over 4 million temporary protection and international protection beneficiaries who arrived in Türkiye in previous years. Accordingly, these projects include initiatives related to voluntary returns, combating human trafficking, increasing the capacity of return centers, raising public awareness on international migration, correcting misconceptions, managing irregular migration, developing regular migration opportunities and migration policies based on sustainable development, facilitating access to decent work and enhancing skills. Turkish public institutions and civil society are implementing numerous projects in collaboration with international organizations. Among these projects are,

- Project for Supporting the Strengthening of the Capacity for Conducting Forced Return Operations in collaboration with the DGMM and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
- Research on Child Trafficking and Human Trafficking Based on Exploitation of Children and Labor to support the decisions taken and evidence-based policy-making process in Türkiye’s fight against human trafficking, in collaboration with the DGMM and ICMPD (Human Trafficking Research Laboratory/Türkiye)



Photograph: AA, Valeria Ferraro

- Project for Supporting the Strengthening of ‘Return Centers’ in collaboration with the DGMM and IOM, in accordance with international human rights standards (Phase II), and supporting social cohesion policies in Türkiye
- Enhancing public awareness on migration and international protection issues in collaboration with the DGMM and EU; strengthening the protection of foreigners and victims of human trafficking in Türkiye from a human rights perspective
- Support for the DGMM in the management, reception, and accommodation of irregular migrants
- Support for the capacity building of return centers and the development of alternative measures to administrative detention in collaboration with the DGMM, UNHCR, and IOM
- Project for Supporting the Development of Return Counseling Capacity in Türkiye in collaboration with the DGMM and ICMPD (ReCONNECT)
- Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) of Irregular Migrants in Türkiye in collaboration with

the DGMM and IOM

- Support for the Implementation of the National Supported Voluntary Return and Reintegration Program in Türkiye in collaboration with the DGMM and ICMPD (N-AVRR/Türkiye)
- Analysis of the Impact of Syrians under Temporary Protection on the Turkish Economy in collaboration with the DGMM and ICMPD (ECOIMPACT)
- Strengthening the Effectiveness of National Asylum Procedures in accordance with International Standards and National Legislation in collaboration with the DGMM and UNHCR
- Project for Strengthening Cooperation with Countries of Origin and Strategic Partners to Prevent Irregular Migration through Complementary Activities in collaboration with the DGMM and ICMPD (COMPLEMENT)
- Strengthening Analysis and Operational Capacity Develop a Framework for Regular Migration Policies in Türkiye in collaboration with DGMM and ICMPD (ANAPOL)

- Project for Supporting the Implementation of Development-Sensitive Sustainable Migration Management Policies in collaboration with the DGMM and ICMPD (SUMMIT)
- The project 'Promoting Decent Job Opportunities, Resilience, and Social Integration' implemented by the International Labour Organization with various components

In other projects carried out by international organizations, efforts are focused on providing employment opportunities, creating vocational training opportunities for migrants and refugees, and enhancing the capacities of institutions serving both regular and irregular migrants. Various initiatives have been implemented with a focus on gender equality and equal opportunities in cities such as Istanbul, Ankara, Hatay, Şanlıurfa, and Kayseri, through entrepreneurship training, mentoring support, and economic contributions. These initiatives include the 'Supporting Decent Job Opportunities for Syrians under Temporary Protection and Turkish Citizens Project' implemented by the IOL Türkiye Office, the 'Enhancing Entrepreneurship Capacities for Sustainable Socioeconomic Integration (ENHANCER) Project' led by ICMPD, and the UNDP's 'From Work to Social Inclusion Project'. Many migrants have benefited from these entrepreneurship trainings, mentoring support, and economic contributions, and continue to benefit from them.

The migration research centers established within the university have formed collaborations with foreign universities for international knowledge exchange and migration studies, conducted national and international projects, and generated academic knowledge to enhance the local community's awareness of immigrants. The Center for Global Migration Studies and Applications at Ankara Social Sciences University initiated webinar series on various topics in migration with the participation of Turkish and foreign academics, in collaboration

with IOM and the DGMM. Istanbul Bilgi University has launched a podcast series titled 'Other Stories: Migration, Art, Coexistence,' and Koç University is conducting interdisciplinary research and education at the intersection of migration and urban studies through open classes, lectures, and conferences to support. The 'BROAD-ER' project, carried out by Koç University, exemplifies these efforts.

In light of all these projects, the fact that there are still a large number of refugees/migrants in Türkiye after 11 years of migration from Syria to Türkiye indicates a lack of establishment in terms of improving participation in the workforce and working conditions. It is observed that the efforts directed towards immigrant groups in Türkiye mostly focus on Syrian refugees. However, it should not be overlooked that as of 2022, Türkiye is open to human mobility from other countries, particularly Afghanistan and Ukraine. Although they are currently seen as a small group compared to Syrians, their addition to the already established immigrant groups striving for social integration may hinder the progress achieved. Therefore, it is crucial that the ongoing projects are developed to encompass all immigrant groups within their scope and impact and to address intra-group differences, prioritizing effectiveness and change-oriented approaches rather than the type or size of the project.

2022 is a period in which there is a significant increase not only in migrations to Türkiye but also in the number of people leaving the country. Although data for 2022 has not yet been published, according to 2021 data, 287,651 people have left the country. Of these, 103,613 were Turkish citizens, while the others were foreign nationals. It has been observed that a group of Syrians who acquired Turkish citizenship have also gone abroad. Of this group, 12.3% are in the 20-24 age range, 12.1% are in the 25-29 age range, and 10.7% are in the 30-34 age range.

Türkiye's experience and management capacity regarding forced migration have increased in recent years. In addition to social integration efforts, emphasis is also placed on voluntary return. Looking at recent developments, it is essential for the political and academic focus to shift towards both the migration of qualified individuals coming to Türkiye and those leaving. A new approach focusing on qualified regular migration requires a multifaceted investigation into the reasons for Türkiye's loss of qualified migration and the migration motivation of these individuals. It is also important to determine the push and pull factors for skilled immigrants coming to Türkiye to understand the capacity size and direct them more efficiently.

Among the topics expected to be on the agenda of researchers and institutions working in the field of international migration next year are undoubtedly climate and disaster-induced migrations, new burden-sharing with the EU and other countries, and accelerating voluntary returns. Additionally, migration policies related to internal migration processes and economic policy developments in Türkiye; human-induced climate change in the Anthropocene Age; internal displacements due to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and excessive rainfall; potential new waves of migration due to conflicts and new wars from other countries; identifying issues related to the resettlement of existing and new migrants in third countries and social contact points with the local population can be expected to be addressed through the creation of sustainable economic areas and the establishment of qualified migration attraction areas.

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Grain Corridor and Its Importance

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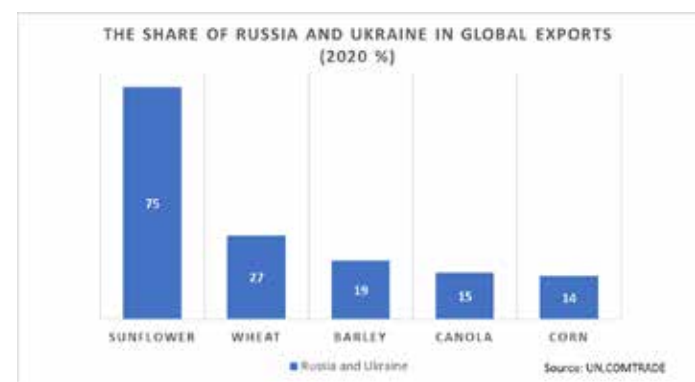
The Russia-Ukraine War, which began with Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, has created significant impacts in many areas, especially in food and energy. It has resulted in unprecedented economic, social, and political changes worldwide. Particularly, the grain crisis and the 'Black Sea Grain Initiative Agreement,' also known as the 'Grain Corridor Agreement,' have been the most significant international initiative in 2022, providing a solution to the crisis.

The agriculture sector is the only sector that produces food, and no matter how advanced technology becomes, it is not possible for another sector to produce food naturally. The agricultural sector, an area that produces essential food for people's survival, needs to continue production during crises and wartime periods. In addition, it is necessary for the produced goods to be delivered smoothly and at reasonable prices throughout the entire supply chain from producers to consumers. In recent years, multiple crises such as climate change, pandemics, regional conflicts such as the war in Syria, and others, have caused disruptions in the flow of food from producers to consumers and have also increased problems such as rising food prices and food security. According to the Global Food Crisis Report published by the UN in early 2022, more than 190 million people were reported to be food insecure and in need of urgent assistance in 2021. It is predicted that these record

levels in the world will worsen in 2022, especially with the effects of the Russia-Ukraine War. Furthermore, it has been reported that the food insecurity risk will increase due to Russia and Ukraine being the main suppliers of food aid provided by the World Food Program to poor countries.^{1,2}

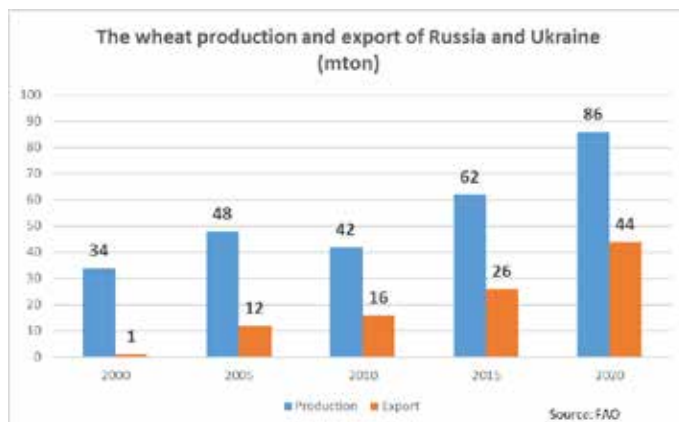
As predicted, Russia and Ukraine being major exporters in basic agricultural products and input raw materials in the global markets have put pressure on many countries in terms of agricultural products in 2022. For example, in 2020, Russia and Ukraine amounted for 75% of sunflower (sunflower seeds, sunflower oil, and meal) exports, 27% of wheat exports, 19% of barley exports and 14% of corn exports worldwide (see Graph 1). Therefore, the war has also affected global food, fertilizer, and energy prices in the world markets.

Graph 1. Share of Russia and Ukraine in Global Exports



Russia and Ukraine have expanded their cultivation areas in basic agricultural products over the past decade, increasing their production and yields and gaining importance in global agricultural markets. For example, they have significantly increased wheat production, reduced their dependence on imports, and become exporting countries. In Russia, wheat production has increased from 34 million tons in 2000 to 84 million tons in 2020, while in Ukraine, it has risen from 10 million tons to 25 million tons. The total production increase, reaching 111 million tons from 44 million tons, has boosted exports. Russia has found buyers in the world market with exports reaching up to 60 million tons in some years, while Ukraine has exported up to 25 million tons (see Graph 2).³

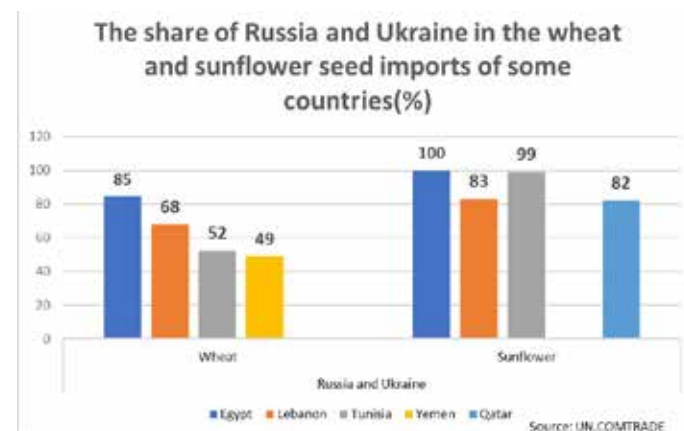
Graph 2. Wheat Production and Export of Russia and Ukraine



On the other hand, access to basic food is important, especially for developing countries that are dependent on imports. Many importing countries have become dependent on Ukraine and Russia for food during this process. Currently, North African, Middle Eastern, and Asian countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Nigeria, Yemen, Qatar, and Bangladesh import a large portion of their grain needs from Russia and Ukraine. For example, Egypt, which is the world's largest wheat importer,

obtains 61% of its imports from Russia and 24% from Ukraine. Lebanon, Tunisia, and Yemen rely on these two countries for 68%, 52%, and 49% of their wheat imports respectively. In terms of sunflower seeds, Egypt is 10% dependent on Russia, Qatar is 82% dependent, Tunisia is 66% dependent, and Lebanon is 35% dependent on these two countries for imports (see Graph 3).⁴

Graph 3. The Share of Russia and Ukraine in Wheat and Sunflower Seed Imports in Some Countries



Therefore, it is predicted that the Russia-Ukraine War, which started in February 2022, will have significant effects due to the countries' shares global markets. It has been announced that the increasing population under the threat of hunger, especially in some less developed countries dependent on imports, is a significant risk by international organizations. The increase in food prices, which already existed due to reasons such as the pandemic and climate change, has accelerated in the early days of the war, further exacerbating existing risks. According to data from the International Grains Council, the price of wheat in world markets has increased with Russia's occupation of Ukraine. Wheat prices have experienced increases of up to 40% during the year compared to the January 2022 period (see Graph 4).⁵



Fotoğraf: AA, Emrah Yorulmaz

Graph 4. Global Wheat Price Index



Effects of the Grain Corridor Agreement

Being the export leader in global sunflower exports, third in barley, fourth in corn, and fifth in wheat, Ukraine, one of the world's largest grain exporters, normally supplies approximately 45 million tons of grain to the global

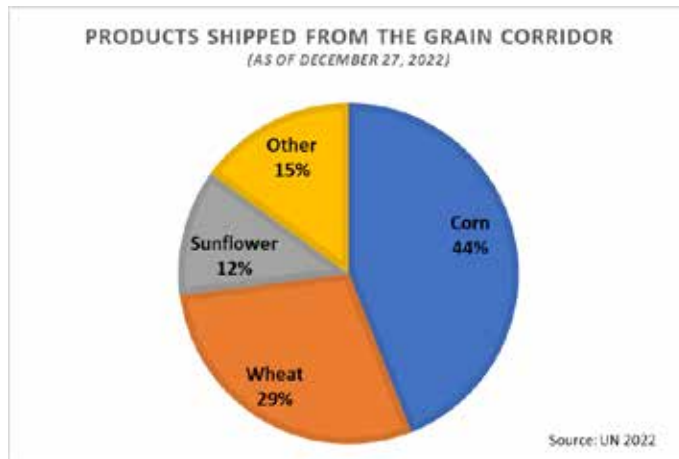
market every year. However, due to the Russia-Ukraine War in late February 2022, the products remained stored in silos, and it was not possible to safely ship the grain from Ukrainian ports or use the land route safely. This situation has led to additional increase in global food prices. It has also affected fertilizer and energy prices. On July 22, 2022, the UN, Türkiye, Russia, and Ukraine signed the 'Black Sea Grain Initiative' in Istanbul, enabling the resumption of grain exports from Ukraine, including other food products and fertilizers, through a secure sea corridor from three important Ukrainian ports (Chornomorsk, Odessa, Yuzhny/Pivdennyi).^{6,7} The decrease in prices in the markets on the day the agreement was signed was considered a positive sign.

The Joint Coordinator Center (JCC), consisting of high-level representatives from Türkiye, Ukraine, Russia, and the UN, has been established in Istanbul to implement the agreement. Successful ship voyages have continued since the first ship departed from Ukrainian ports in August 2022. However, in late October, the agreement was suspended by Russia but was quickly resumed with Türkiye's initiative.⁸

The developments that occurred approximately five months after the signing of the agreement are as follows:

- From 1 August, when the first ship set sail, until the end of the year (December 27, 2022), approximately 15.5 million tons of products have been shipped from Ukrainian ports. Among the shipped products, corn has the largest share with 44%, followed by wheat (29%) and sunflower (6%) (see Graph 5).⁹

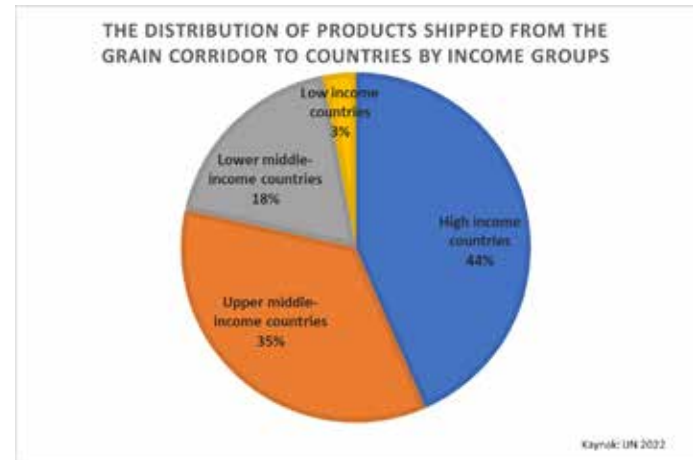
Graph 5. Products Shipped from the Grain Corridor



- In the distribution of products shipped from the Grain Corridor to the countries reached by the ports, high-income countries have taken the largest share. Of the total shipments, 44% were made to ports in high-

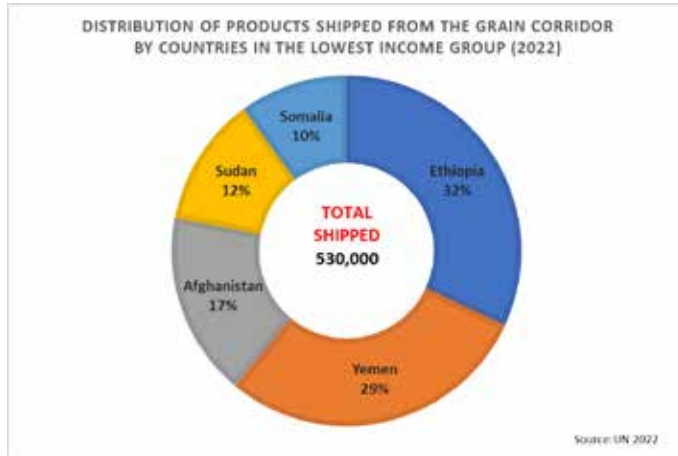
income countries such as Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, South Korea, Romania, Germany, France, Greece, Ireland, and Israel. The second-largest share, 35%, was taken by upper-middle-class-income countries such as Türkiye, China, and Bulgaria. Türkiye has the largest share within this group, with over 3 million tons of shipments, accounting for more than 50%. The share of the lowest-income countries was only 3%. Countries in the lower-middle-income group accounted for 18% of the share (see Graph 6).

Graph 6. The Distribution of Products Shipped from the Grain Corridor to Countries by Income Groups



- Out of the products with a shipment of 15.5 million tons in 2022, only 530 thousand tons reached the ports of the lowest-income countries, including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Wheat constituted the entirety of the products shipped to these countries (see Graph 7).

Graph 7. Shares of Countries in the Lowest Income Group in the Grain Corridor



The countries in the middle-income group have purchased 3.2 million tons of products. Among these countries, Egypt, Djibouti, and Bangladesh are the countries that received the highest amount of products.

Although middle and low-income countries account for 21% of the total share, it is reported that some of the products shipped to high and upper-middle-income countries are within the framework of the WFP. Four ships leased by the UN are carrying wheat purchased to support humanitarian aid in African countries, Yemen, and Afghanistan under WFP. Some of these products are also shipped to Turkish ports. The first ship leased by the WFP docked in Djibouti on August 30 to support drought relief efforts in Africa, and a second UN ship loaded with 37,500 tons of wheat arrived in Türkiye to be processed into flour. This flour will later be sent to Yemen as part of the WFP's humanitarian aid support. The third and fourth ships leased by the WFP are also supplying wheat for humanitarian aid operations.¹⁰

On the other hand, Ukraine's wheat exports during the January-August 2022 period amounted to 4.1 million tons. This value is half of the exports made in the same months of the previous year (87 million tons). It is estimated that due to the war in Ukraine, the area of wheat cultivation will decrease by 29% in 2023, by 35% in barley, by 14% in corn, and by 35% in sunflower. This contraction is expected to reduce Ukraine's production by 38% in wheat, 35% in barley, 8% in corn, and 43% in sunflower.¹¹ Keeping the Grain Corridor open will serve the continuation of both the exports of the 2022 products and the exports the products to be harvested in 2023.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, regional conflicts (such as the Syrian crisis), migrations, and most recently, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War since February 2022 have caused changes in global food markets.

With the 'Grain Corridor Agreement' signed with Türkiye's initiatives, safe shipment from Ukraine by sea has been ensured and sustained, which has had significant effects on trade liberalization.¹²

The first of these reducing the risk of inadequate nutrition and hunger in developing and underdeveloped countries, preventing increases in food prices. The transported products, especially wheat, are staple food in many countries around the world. Bread and other bakery products are the largest share in daily food consumption for low-income populations developing and underdeveloped countries or within all countries. This is because their price is lower compared to other food items, and they are an essential part of the culinary culture. When evaluated in terms of the estimated impact of the 'Grain Corridor



Photograph: AA, Metin Aktaş

Agreement' in meeting the food needs of the population in developing and underdeveloped countries, it can be said that this has been fulfilled within a five-month period for some countries.

If the grain corridor had not been opened, due to Ukraine's share in exports, there could have been a global decrease in agricultural product supply, leading to higher food prices. Not only plant products such as wheat, barley,

corn, sunflower, but also prices of animal products such as meat, milk and eggs would have increased. This could have resulted in increased risk of malnutrition and hunger, especially in developing countries and low-income groups, including countries dependent on imports.

The second impact of the 'Grain Corridor Agreement' is to prevent social problems, including a new wave of migration. The agreement ensures that Ukrainian farmers



can earn income and sustain production through grain shipments. Agricultural production is carried out on small family farms worldwide. Farmers who rely solely on agriculture as their livelihood may abandon production if their products are not sold, which can lead to various social problems, particularly economic issues and the initiation of a new wave of migration. In order to avoid such problems, the importance of the grain corridor is significant.

Its third effect is the provision of the chemical fertilizer that will be needed in future production periods worldwide. Russia accounts for 14% of global chemical fertilizer exports. Russia is the leading exporter of nitrogen fertilizers and ranks second in potassium and phosphorus fertilizer exports worldwide. The increasing trend in fertilizer prices in recent years will further rise if shipments cannot be made from Russia. The deterioration in the global fertilizer market will have significant impacts on crop yields and farmer income. Therefore, it is important for the Grain Corridor to also serve the transportation of fertilizers from Russia. Ensuring the supply of the required fertilizer, maintaining normal yield levels, and preventing cost increases will help prevent food price hikes.

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Türkiye in 2022 from the Perspective of Public Health

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2022, like in the rest of the world, has been a year that contained many significant events affecting public health in our country as well. The COVID-19 pandemic, which started in 2019, is still ongoing worldwide and in our country. The measures taken during the pandemic, efforts in testing and vaccination, have yielded results, and the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak has decreased compared to previous years. Another consequence of the measures taken due to the pandemic (such as wearing masks, social distancing, school closures, etc.), is the increase in respiratory tract infections, especially 'RSV, Influenza A and B, COVID-19,' which were not commonly seen in previous years, as these measures have been relaxed this year.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) data, more than 83,000 Moneypox cases have been reported in 110 countries in 2022, while the virus has been detected in 12 people in Türkiye. In addition, some regional public health incidents have occurred in our country in 2022. In July, cases of gastroenteritis were observed in some individuals affected by drinking water in a village in Bolu, with 14 of them being admitted to intensive care and one person losing their life. Some patients were diagnosed with Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) during their examinations. In November 2022, one of two children bitten by a dog were diagnosed with rabies.

In 2022, within the scope of the ‘SIHHAT’ project developed by the Ministry of Health, access to healthcare services for vulnerable groups such as immigrants has been increased and services for vulnerable groups such as immigrants has been increased and services have been continued. Towards the end of the year, there have been some new developments in terms of health. It has been decided that the HPV vaccine will be provided free of charge by the Ministry of Health, and screening for SMA disease will be included in the newborn metabolic and endocrine disease screening program (NTP).

COVID-19

The number of COVID-19 cases has been increasing since it was first reported to the WHO in December 2019. According to the latest data updated by the WHO on December 19, 2022, there have been 649,038,437 cases and 6,645,812 deaths worldwide.¹ In Türkiye, up until that date, there have been a total of 17,042,722 cases and 101,492 deaths.² In 2022, the weekly number of COVID-19 cases reached its peak on February 8 with 103,375 cases and has been decreasing since then.³ Due to the decreasing number of COVID-19 cases, the Minister of Health, Dr. Fahrettin Koca, announced in March 2022 that the mask requirement in outdoor and indoor spaces was lifted, and the HES code application was completely discontinued.⁴ On April 4, 2022, it was decided that the Coronavirus Science Committee would not convene except for extraordinary circumstances.⁵ Subsequently according to a circular from the Ministry of Interior, the obligation to wear masks would only continue in healthcare facilities.⁶

According to the latest data in Türkiye, as of December 19, 2022, 93.6% of the population received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while 85.68% received the

second dose. A total of 152,598,271 doses of the vaccine, including the first, second, and third doses, have been administered.² Additionally, the Phase 3 interim results of the domestic COVID-19 vaccine ‘TurkoVac,’ were published in an internationally peer-reviewed journal in November 2022, entering the scientific literature.⁷

One Kit Four Tests

Due to the decrease in the number of cases and the increase in vaccinations in 2022, the relaxation of mask and social distancing rules, and the transition to fully face-to-face education in schools as of the 2022-2023 academic year, people have increased contact with each other due to reasons such as a decrease in flexible working hours and remote work.^{4,5,6} As a result of approximately 3 years of social isolation and the impact of non-pharmacological measures, various respiratory diseases, which had been decreased in frequency, have started to reoccur together. The frequency of lower respiratory tract infections has increased in the entire community, especially in younger children, and there have been increases in hospitalizations.⁸ Based on assessments, it has been determined that COVID-19, Influenza A, Influenza B, and RSV are common infectious agents in the community during the winter period.⁹ In order to detect these four disease-causing agents, the Türkiye Health Institute has been assigned the task of developing a single kit, as announced by Health Minister Dr. Fahrettin Koca on November 29, 2022.¹⁰

HUS-Monkeypox-Rabies

With the detection of numerous cases of monkeypox in several non-endemic countries in May 2022, a new concern emerged worldwide due to the increasing number of cases reported by the WHO on July 23, 2022,



Photograph: AA, Günay Nuh

regarding the monkeypox virus. As a result, a global state of emergency was declared.^{11,12} The first case in Türkiye was announced on June 30, with Health Minister Dr. Fahrettin Koca stating that a 37-year-old patient was in isolation and placed under treatment.¹³ A total of 12 cases of this virus have been detected in Türkiye.¹⁴

In July 2022, some individuals in a village in Bolu were diagnosed with gastroenteritis due to drinking water contamination. Among them, 112 cases were reported, including children, and 14 of them were admitted to intensive care. Unfortunately, one person lost their life.¹⁵ During the examination of these patients, some were

diagnosed with ‘Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS),’ which presented with bloody diarrhea, anemia, and acute kidney failure. Cleanliness and disinfection measures were taken in the sources that provide drinking water to the village, and the pipeline system of the water reservoir was replaced. The water needs of the village residents were provided by the governorship and the Turkish Red Crescent teams.¹⁵

In November 2022, one of the two children attacked by street dogs in Bitlis was diagnosed with rabies and placed under intensive care treatment. Following this incident, the District Health Board conducted a screening and directed suspected contacts bitten by stray animals to healthcare institutions, but no other cases of rabies were found.¹⁶ The 10-year-old patient who was admitted for rabies treatment passed away on November 9, 2022.¹⁷ Subsequently, certain neighborhoods and villages in Adıyaman, Kars, and Bandırma were quarantined due to suspicion of rabies, and rabies virus was detected in several animals, leading to a rollout of the vaccination of stray animals in the region.¹⁸

SMA Screening-HPV Vaccine

In Türkiye, importance has been given to pre-marital health checks and screening programs to protect individuals, families, and the community. As part of the pre-marital screening program in our country, those who apply to family physicians to obtain a mandatory marriage report are subjected to ‘Anamnesis’ and physical examination, as well as laboratory tests such as blood collection; ‘Hemoglobinopathy’ screening, blood type determination, and screening for infectious diseases (HIV, HBV, HCV, VDRL, Syphilis) are conducted.¹⁹

According to 2019 TURKSTAT marriage statistics, while 5.9% of official marriages in 2010 were consanguineous marriages, this rate decreased in subsequent years and was 3.8% in 2020.²⁰

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a genetic disease characterized by muscle atrophy and weakness. Considering that there were 1.2 million live births in Türkiye annually, it is estimated that the annual number of new cases for SMA is between 130-180, and a total of 3,000 SMA patients are being monitored. As of December 2021, the premarital ‘SMA Carrier Screening Program’ has been implemented in all provinces.²¹ Following this development, as of May 9, 2022, the screening for SMA disease has been added to the newborn metabolic and endocrine disease screening program. While Phenylketonuria (PKU), Cystic Fibrosis (CF), Congenital Hypothyroidism, and Biotinidase Deficiency are screened with the heel blood sample taken from newborns, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH) was added to the screening panel in 2017, and SMA was added in 2022. Currently, a total of 6 diseases are screened, and studies are being conducted regarding diseases that can be added to the panel.²²

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a virus that is primarily transmitted through sexual contact and is known to cause cervical cancer in women, as well as vulgar, vaginal, anal, penile, and oral cavity centers.²³ WHO called for global action in 2018 aimed at eliminating cervical cancer and stated that if action is not taken, the mortality rate from cervical cancer will increase by 50% by 2040.²⁴ Therefore, since 2014, the Ministry of Health Cancer Department has been implementing the ‘National Cervical Cancer Screening Program.’ As part of this program, cervical

samples are taken every five years from women aged between 30 and 65 for HPV testing or Pap smear. National community-based cervical cancer screenings are carried out by Cancer Early Diagnosis, Screening, and Training Centers (KETEM) within Family Health Centers (ASM) and Community Health Centers (TSM). Currently, vaccines have been developed against the types of HPV that are most likely to cause cancer.²³ There are three types of HPV vaccines available: ‘Cervavix 2,’ ‘Gardasil 4,’ and ‘Gardasil 9.’ The bivalent and quadrivalent vaccines are approved for females and males aged 9-26, while the nonvalent vaccine is approved for females and males aged 9-45. Many countries, including developed countries worldwide, are attempting to include HPV vaccines in their national immunization programs.²⁴ As of November 2022, Minister of Health Dr. Fahrettin Koca announced that the HPV vaccination would be initiated in specific groups and gradually expand, and subsequently, it was announced that the vaccination would be included in the national vaccination schedule and provided free of charge.²⁶

Project on Migrant Health and Wellbeing

As a result of the internal turmoil that broke out in Syria in 2011, a large number of people had to migrate to Türkiye. Currently, according to official data, there are 3,561,183 Syrians living under temporary protection in our country.²⁷ Türkiye ranks first among refugee-receiving countries, according to the IOM 2022 Report.²⁸ The nationalities of irregular migrants apprehended most frequently are Afghanistan, Syria, and Pakistan.

Health services for Syrians under temporary protection in Türkiye are provided in accordance with the ‘Principles Directive on Health Services to be Provided to Persons

Under Temporary Protection,’ dated November 4, 2015, no. 9,648. Syrians registered and issued temporary identification numbers in Türkiye can benefit from emergency health, preventive and basic healthcare services, as well as curative health services free of charge. For those who do not have a temporary identification number, services related to combating infectious diseases, immunization, and emergency health care are provided in line with the ‘Temporary Protection Regulation.’²⁹

Since 2016, healthcare services for Syrian refugees have been provided under the Ministry of Health. These services are carried out within the scope of the ‘SIHHAT Project’ financed by the European Union. The aim of the SIHHAT Project is defined as supporting and improving the primary and secondary healthcare services provided by the Ministry of Health for Syrian refugees in Türkiye.³⁰ The health services provided consist of Migrant Health Centers, Enhanced Migrant Health Centers, Health Services, and Community Mental Health Centers.

In line with this aim, so far:

- 181 Migrant Health Centers and Enhanced Migrant Health Centers have been opened in 29 provinces.³¹
- Approximately 4,000 personnel have been employed (general practitioners, dentists, specialist doctors, psychologists, social workers, midwives/nurses, laboratory and radiology technicians, interpreters, patient guidance and support staff).
- According to 2021 data, there have been approximately 5,517,000 patient visits to migrant health checks, over 17 million examinations, and 6,371,669 vaccine doses administered.³¹

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Emerging New Forms: Realities Recognized with the Pandemic

Necdet Subaşı

Ministry of National Education, Advisor to Minister

The global COVID-19 outbreak has rapidly started to change the familiar rhythm of everyday life. We are not struggling to adapt to new ways of living, patterns, and forms. Severe pressures are constantly shaping the normal flow of human relationships.

The announcement made by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020, signaled the collective quarantine process caused by the COVID-19 pandemic would now take on a different form in the world. Pressure of the pandemic, which rapidly made its impact felt at national and international levels, wasted no time in occupying an effective place within everyday life with a wide range of attacks that openly threatens states, peoples, and certain lifestyles.

The threat is not limited to ordinary and customary fear; on the contrary, it has gained a power that proves it is a phenomenon that it is itself destructive and lethal, not only for individuals but also for politics, economics, belief systems, and areas of thought.

The Severe Pressures of the Pandemic

The outbreak has had a similar impact across the world, resulting in comparable outcomes. The pandemic's ruthless pressure has ultimately condemned everyone to wear masks, staying at home, and living in isolated and hygienic environments. It has led to an unprecedented increase in the clarity and intensity of the fear of death, as well as its normalization in daily life. As the realms of meaning are being reconsidered, the value of given paradigms has rapidly come into question. Death, contrary to general expectations, has become quite routine; this has accelerated the emergence of profound and extraordinary questions about the meaning of life, our relationship with the universe, our perspective on nature, and how reciprocity between belief and life should continue from now on. Undoubtedly, the life perspectives and future imaginations that the process has not struggled to influence will have to be reconstructed in light of these developments.

The pandemic's borderless impact, along with its pressures that inevitably equalize almost everyone in terms of its consequences, made it possible to reassess certain

established assumptions and attitudes. These panicked quests, driven by philosophical and intellectual concern, can no longer be sustained without taking into account the existence of COVID-19 in a substantial way. In fact, the pandemic is now unhesitatingly making itself felt as the new nature of reality in a concrete manner.

The horror created by the pandemic has disrupted the rhythm of daily life with its impact on almost every individual, while also leading to the compression and questioning of fundamental reference points that are frequently turned to in coping with such severe interventions. For those who have had to overcome the problems experienced in the face of the anxiety and panic generated by the outbreak, this situation has provided an opportunity for new vital problems to emerge in ways that have never been seen before. The question of how the language flow through which the fear of death surrounding everyday life can be rationalized in a certain way against the relentless progress of the virus, and how the disrupted balance of historical, social, religious, and cultural relations between people can be restored with what spiritual or social capital, is still prevalent and not only humans but also the reference points that construct their knowledge worlds seem to be quarantined together.

Extraordinary Results

It would be appropriate to remember the unmeasured relationship between humans and nature in the analysis of the extraordinary results that have emerged and will continue to emerge in this challenging process. The effort of knowledge and control, which has been observed in contact with nature and particularly spread over the last two centuries without arrogance and compassion, has

ultimately accumulated new burdens for our world that sustains itself on a balance. It is sad that today, instead of the spiritual/traditional perspectives that unquestionably perceive nature as a trust in any case and deepen their connection with it based on spiritually, we are compelled to surrender to a different mentality that tries to hostage nature in a quite reckless manner within a progressive perspective. It is evident that the respectful closeness established with nature since ancient times has been disrupted by interventions aimed at disrupting its natural selection in today's world.

On the other hand, it is not possible to participate in a collective effort to overcome the global pressure generated by the pandemic calmly without excluding the contributions of science, religion, and cultural traditions. This also necessitates reevaluating these areas of contribution with new forms of knowledge, understanding them, and testing them once again in the face of life.

A notable debate, discussion, and learning about how the future world will be/should be has started to manifest itself with an attempt to consume the day with a familiarity that is not unfamiliar with the fluidity that does not allow much opportunity for it. Contrary to the main eschatological theses that suggests the end of the world, we are facing an extreme existentialism that ignores the sense of finality. It is difficult to predict the direction of the new mental state deliberately and willingly excluded from religious and cultural reference codes in terms of future design.

It is quite possible to foresee on what competencies a mindset cycle that tries to supposedly update yesterday's weakening theses and arguments with

rushed compensatory programs will rely on to meet the world of tomorrow. It is clear that there is a real delay in establishing contact with the superior language produced by those who evaluate the costs of the process without all these mediocrity and banality. The attention that avoids understanding the process correctly and testing the existing knowledge with provocative and profound questions about the future of human condition is at risk of succumbing to new times.

Revived Disciplines

The outbreak has not struggled to activate a new sociology, psychology, and even theology within its own reality. As society is rebuilt once again, the value of existing data and qualifications is disregarded, and there is a strange sense of uncertainty about which existential codes a new form of understanding will operate on. The stagnation in human relationships has quickly triggered a sense of contentment. The older generations, who prefer to revolve around a strong nostalgia for remembering the past, focus on the value of managing the present day, while the younger generations, having surrendered to the impositions of this suddenly emerging situation, seek ways to find life within a different normality. Being together, deepening conversations, touching one another, or staying in communication can now be experienced only at the back of our minds, accompanied by a feeling of death and fear. Anxiety is intimidating, and uncertainty becomes a powerful force in spoiling the enjoyment of life.

Virtual platforms have emerged as impressive means of reaching people. Scientists, writers, intellectuals, preachers, and charismatic figures tirelessly engage in creating their virtual audiences through various channels. Social media

and digital platforms waste no time in producing their own pedagogies. An information flow that goes beyond the sharing of educational units engages both the truth and false, making them part of the conversation in this context. Now, everyone opens a new window for themselves by ignoring the fact that they are prisoners in their own homes, and in every possible medium where they can reach others, they experience the anxiety of circulating their messages with the accompaniment of digital media. People are either talking or listening. Thanks to these programs, many individuals have no difficulty in determining their own pleasure quotas or systematizing a satisfying flow of language. Today, for people who were previously restrained in the ordinary course of life under different circumstances, new channels serve the same purpose. However, with an irreversible loneliness progressing towards it, digital platforms bring a different style of living.

Many individuals now struggle to keep up from one conference to another. The hustle and bustle within homes implies that everyone has something to share. Dozens of people who manage to fit on screens believe that they have the competence to convince each other with argument sets that they think are loyal to the values of the old world, and they need preaching, guidance, and announcements. There is a serious delay in paying attention to what sociology, psychology, and ethnomethodology promise to emerge in the new area. It seems that there is no chance of integrating tested knowledge of the past into the flow of a changing life. Yet, what is experienced is both a new fate and an extraordinary reality with no equivalent in history. A new morality and value flow that does not need the help of theology is striving to cover life by strengthening itself. A personality pattern that has already challenged

individuality trapped within theories is gaining vitality, revolving around its own existence, and is poised to change the course of all human relationships.

Finding Oneself

The new era has also created a fertile ground for a more productive questioning and self-reflection on confronting oneself and finding meaning in one's existence. Isolation, staying at home, and the conceptualization of a new sense of time have opened the door to profound questioning and searches for the meaning of life, which are shaped by philosophical, intellectual, and religious thoughts and have become influential. The question of whether the pain and suffering experienced during this process, which increases the possibilities for introspection about human limits and conceptions of God, is a divine punishment or a test has accelerated the efforts of 'thinking and focusing on oneself and God' that have long been neglected. Additionally, with great concern, it can be said that there will be a more energetic pursuit of 'truth' in terms of re-examining the unique helplessness faced by humans today, independently of modern discourses that have not hesitated to establish a connection with nature.

We no longer live in a constructed world of fantasy literature but under the embrace of genuine reality, and it must be acknowledged that we are integral part of the risk society. Fears, anxieties, loss of meaning, and the search for solace are now part of the ordinary flow of life. Religions, philosophical systems, and intellectual endeavors are hosting interconnected thoughts for the first time on how this process will ultimately result in favor of humanity.

In a time when interpersonal relationships are increasingly narrowing, this process has been a significant beginning

for rediscovering and remembering each other. In a way, it was inevitable for a way of life that did not seek each other and had become overly confident in personal competence within the tools and apparatuses of the new world to encounter such a severe trial. Indeed, significantly unequal ways of life have found an opportunity to reintroduce themselves within the heavy cost of death and deprivation brought about by the pandemic, which has spread unequally. It should be emphasized that the difficulties experienced by those who have been left behind have triggered empathy processes that cannot evolve into mere literature. The poor, the elderly without access to medical treatment, children coping with loneliness, immigrants, and those facing violence or being a substantial part of war have created significant opportunities for us to understand and feel the urgent aspects of the human condition. It is evident that everyday life practice, which has turned its back on solidarity, support, and collective progress, is compelled to change in the face of needs that value these aspects. So much so that the pandemic period can be said to have provided highly instructive opportunities for people to realize that their lives can never be unique without others.





INSTITUTIONAL

E V A L U A T I O N S

Solution-Oriented Journalism for Natural Disasters and Environmental Problems

Serdar Karagöz

Anadolu Agency Chairman of the Board of Directors/General Manager

In 2022, our world witnessed conflicts and crises on a global scale, while also experiencing disasters caused by climate change. These tragedies affected all of humanity regardless of religion, language, or race. As we strive to overcome the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we increasingly need solution-oriented activities and methods of combating new crises in our current order. The need for taking action against climate change and environmental issues is growing day-by-day worldwide.

Media organizations have crucial roles both in raising societal awareness regarding climate and environment and in documenting developments in this regard. As one of Türkiye's oldest rooted institutions with a 102-year history, the Anadolu Agency takes important steps in ensuring accurate communication during crises and disasters and in combating climate and environmental problems, in line with our responsible journalism approach. While we progress confidently towards becoming the leading reference news source in our field without disregarding our humanitarian responsibilities,

we also dedicate our strength to finding alternative solutions to the crises faced by humanity.

In line with this, since 2012, we have been organizing 'War Journalism Training' not only for times of war but also to train journalists who can provide accurate and verified information to the public during natural disasters and in crisis areas. This program, which has had the participation of 487 individuals so far, is the most comprehensive program for training journalists who will work in natural disaster and crisis areas worldwide. It offers 46 hours of theoretical and 62 hours of practical content. Journalists whom we provide training in various areas ranging from survival skills in extraordinary situations to water survival, gas mask usage, and advanced driving techniques, successfully carry out their activities while ensuring their own safety in natural disaster and crisis areas around the world. In 2022, journalists who received this training worked in various conflict, crisis, and disaster zones, including the Russia-Ukraine War, witnessing and conveying the crises and dramas that unfolded there.



Photograph: AA, Şebnem Coşkun

In 2022, as Anadolu Agency, we launched our ‘Yeşilhat’ project with the aim of creating awareness for a more livable world in the fight against climate and environmental problems and bringing a new voice to climate and environmental journalism. ‘Yeşilhat’ informs the world by documenting developments in various subjects such as climate change, green economy, zero waste. It encourages relevant institutions and organizations to think in solution-oriented ways and take action. AA subscribers have free access to the content of ‘Yeşilhat.’ Thus, we provide environmental news that we produce and distribute with effort to the public free of charge as part of our responsibility in this field. At the Environment Forum, which we organized this year with theme of ‘reshaping the narrative of environmental and climate crises,’ we brought together the most influential decision-makers, journalists, and civil society representatives in the field of climate and environment. In the coming years, we aspire for the forum to become the most influential platform globally in the field of climate and environmental journalism, determining the international discourse.

As members of Anadolu Agency, we operate with the spirit inspired by the historical identity and deep-rooted experienced of our institution. We fulfill our responsibilities with principled journalism that does not remain indifferent to global issues, takes action, and becomes a part of the solution. In line with our publishing principles that prioritize public interest, social benefit, and solidarity, we strive to publish exemplary and informative content that contributes economically, socially, and psychologically to society. Our publishing principles, which value human dignity and do not tolerate discrimination and hate speech, make us accountable to humanity from our establishment to this day. As members of Anadolu Agency, while fulfilling the requirements of this responsibility, we continue to dream of a more livable world, take on new responsibilities, and contribute as much as we can to this fight.

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Meteorological Disasters and their Assessments in Türkiye

Volkan Mutlu Coşkun

General Director of the Turkish State Meteorological Service.

Natural phenomena that persists on Earth and significantly impacts human lives are referred to as ‘natural disasters.’ According to the United Nations, natural disasters are defined as ‘natural events that significantly disrupt socioeconomic and sociocultural activities, resulting in loss of life and property but cannot be adequately managed with local resources.’ In addition to causing loss of life and property, natural disasters force millions of people to relocate, resulting in extensive damages to national economies.

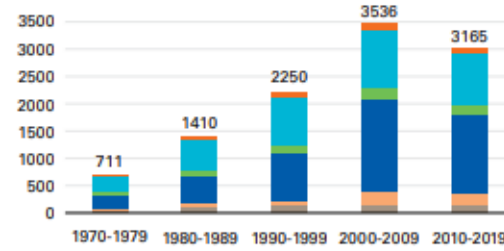
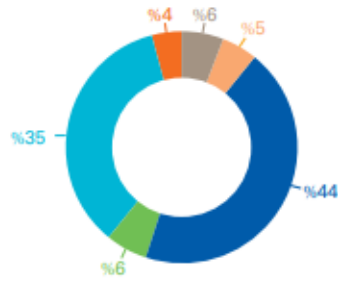
Meteorological disasters constitute a significant portion of natural disasters. Forest fires, agricultural pest invasions, drought, desertification, rising lake and sea levels, avalanches, and floods are natural disasters closely related to weather conditions. Precipitation, severe local storms, tropical cyclones, storm surges, severe winter conditions, frost, and freezing are directly caused by weather conditions. All natural disasters directly or indirectly linked to meteorological conditions are referred to as meteorological disasters or weather-related disasters.

In recent years, numerous unprecedented weather events have occurred worldwide in terms of intensity, impact, duration, and location. These events pose a threat to global biodiversity, as well as the socioeconomic development of societies. The World Meteorological Organization’s (WMO) Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate, and Water Extremes, published in 2021, emphasizes that between 1970 and 2019, 11,072 weather, climate, and water-related natural disasters occurred globally, resulting in approximately 2,064, 929 deaths and around 3.6 trillion US dollars in economic losses.

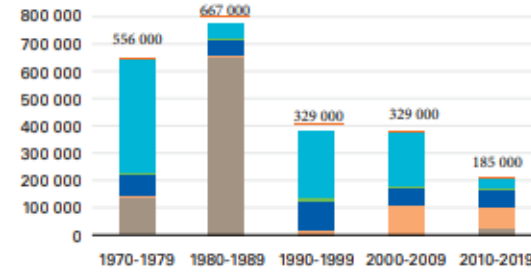
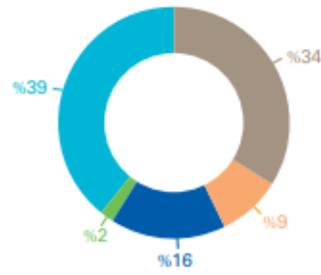
According to the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT), meteorological disasters caused by severe weather events (including technology disasters) accounted for 50% of all recorded disasters during this period, 45% of fatalities, and 74% of economic losses.

Worldwide 1970-2019 Meteorological Disasters and their Effects

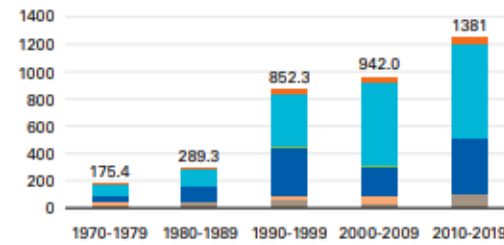
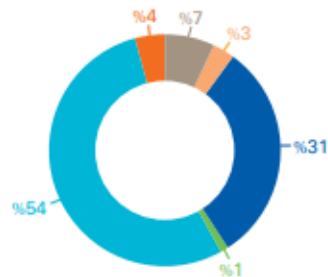
Number of disasters reported
Total = 11,072 disasters



Number of deaths reported
Total = 2,064,929 deaths



Economic damages reported (in USD)
Total = 3.6 trillion USD



■ Drought ■ Extreme heat ■ Floods ■ Landslide ■ Hurricane ■ Rural fires

Figure 1. Meteorological Disasters and Losses 1970-2019

Figure 2. Distribution of Meteorological Disasters in Türkiye between January 1 and November 30, 2022

With the exception of tropical storms and active volcanoes, Türkiye is susceptible to a significant portion of natural disasters that occur worldwide. Like many other countries, Türkiye's vast geography and diverse climate regions make it prone to frequent meteorological and hydrological disasters, particularly droughts and floods, resulting in severe loss of life and property.

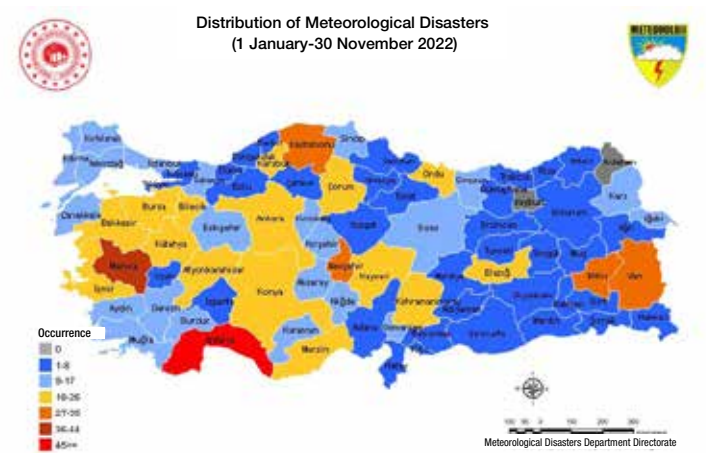


Figure 3. Distribution of Meteorological Disasters in the Long Term Between 1940 and 30 November 2022

Between January 1 and November 30, 2022, meteorological disasters mainly occurred in Antalya. During this period, meteorological disasters occurred more frequently in the Aegean Region, Central Anatolia Region, Marmara Region, and Black Sea region.

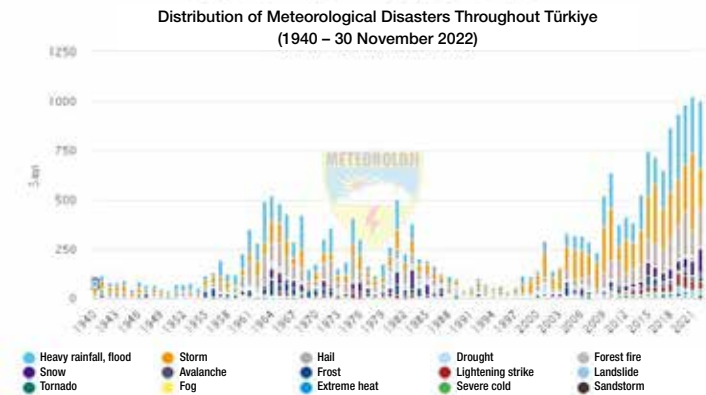
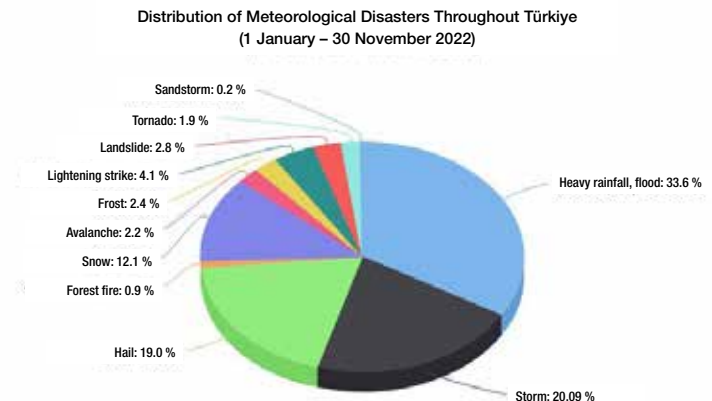


Figure 4. Distribution (%) of Meteorological Disasters in Türkiye between January 1 and November 30, 2022

Between November 1940 and 2022, there has been a significant increase in the number of meteorological disasters over the past few years. From January 1 to November 30, 2022, a total of 1,004 meteorological disasters occurred. The most frequent meteorological disaster during this period was heavy rainfall and flooding. The share of heavy rainfall and flooding among all meteorological disasters is 33.6%. Additionally, storms accounted for 20.9%, hail for 19%, and snowstorms for 12.1% during this period.



Evaluation of Meteorological Disasters

In this section, assessments have been made on province-by-province basis of the most frequent severe rainfall/flooding, storms, hail, snow, and lightening events that occurred throughout the year in Türkiye.

Heavy Rainfall/Floods



Figure 5. Distribution of Severe Rainfall/Floods in Türkiye between January 1 and November 30, 2022

Storm

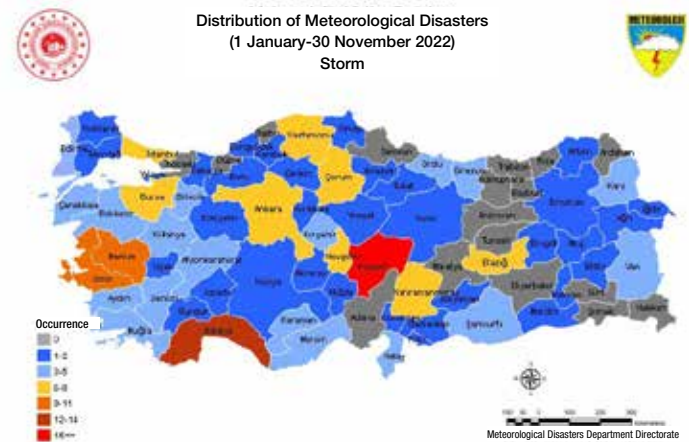
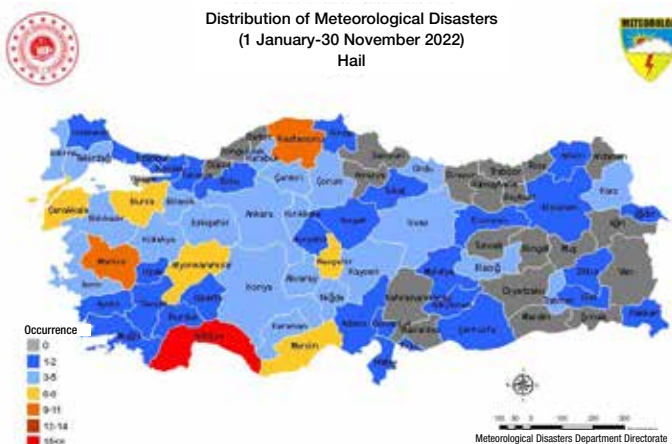


Figure 6. Distribution of Storm Disasters in Türkiye between January 1 and November 30, 2022

Between January 1 and November 30, 2022, the cities most affected by storms were Kayseri, Antalya, and Manisa

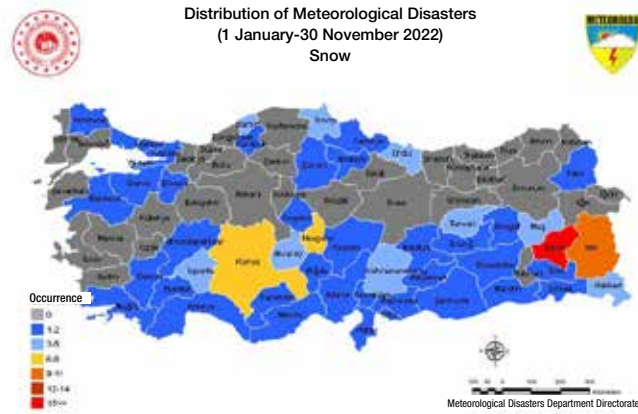


Hail

In the ranking of hail disasters observed in Türkiye between January 1 and November 30, 2022, Antalya, Manisa, and Kastamonu are in the top positions. Following these provinces are Mersin, Nevşehir, Afyonkarahisar, Bursa, and Çanakkale respectively.

Figure 7. Distribution of Hail Disasters in Türkiye between January 1 and November 30, 2022

Snow



Between January 1 and November 30, 2022, the heaviest snowfall occurred in Bitlis and Van. Following these provinces were Konya and Nevşehir.

Figure 8. Distribution of Snow Disasters in Türkiye between January 1 and November 30, 2022

Lightening



Between January 1 and November 30, 2022, lightning strikes were mostly observed in Van, Sivas, Balıkesir, and Manisa.

Figure 9. Distribution of Lightning Disasters in Türkiye Between January 1 and November 30, 2022

Conclusion and Evaluation

Meteorological disasters have always existed throughout human history and will continue to exist. The human and material losses caused by these types of disasters are the biggest obstacle to sustainable development. The most important feature that distinguishes meteorological disasters from other natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions is that the natural events that can cause meteorological disasters can be predicted in advance. It is vital to publish accurate forecasts and warnings in a format that can be easily understood.

The General Directorate of Meteorology continues to work in an integrated and coordinated manner with other international, regional, and national organizations within the scope of disaster risk reduction activities. In order to reduce the negative effect caused by meteorological events and minimize damages and losses, meteorological warnings are prepared to inform the public about the necessary precautions to be taken by citizens and relevant authorities.

The meteorological warnings shared with our citizens and officials have been adapted to the 'meteoWARN' system and have been available to our citizens and officials since February 9, 2019.

- 1 Kadioğlu, M., (2012). Türkiye'de İklim Değişikliği Risk Yönetimi. Türkiye'nin İklim Değişikliği II. Ulusal Bildiriminin Hazırlanması Projesi Yayını, Ankara
- 2 Kadioğlu, M., (2007). TMMOB İnşaat Mühendisleri Odası Sel-Heyelan-Çığ Sempozyumu Bildiriler Kitabı, 47-56. & Ceylan, A., Kömüşçü, A.Ü. (2007)., Meteorolojik Karakterli Doğal Afetlerin Uzun Yıllar ve Mevsimsel Dağılımları, Türkiye İklim Değişikliği Kongresi Bildiri Kitabı, 93-104.
- 3 WMO(2021). WMO Atlas Of Mortality And Economic Losses From Weather, Climate And Water Extremes (1970–2019). WMO-No. 1267. World Meteorological Organization.
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- 5 Kadioğlu, M., (2012). Türkiye'de İklim Değişikliği Risk Yönetimi. Türkiye'nin İklim Değişikliği II. Ulusal Bildiriminin Hazırlanması Projesi Yayını, Ankara

The Academic Power of Disaster Management: Universities Disaster and Emergency Centers Platform (AYMEP)

Kürşat Esat Alyamaç

Prof. Dr., Head of AFAD Disaster Research Center

In today's world, there has been a shift away from a strategy that focuses heavily on disaster response in disaster management, and more emphasis is given to pre-disaster risk reduction efforts. In fact, both globally and in Türkiye, the concept of 'risk management' has been adopted and implemented rather than the understanding of 'crisis management.' The concept of 'risk management' encompasses pre-disaster preparedness and risk reduction efforts.

The coordination of disaster and emergency operations, the formulation education policies, and the necessary legislative regulations in Türkiye are the responsibilities of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) under the Ministry of Interior. AFAD carries out disaster management activities in an integrated, community-based, research and development-oriented, and pioneering manner, aiming to prevent loss of life, injuries, and economic losses, as well as to preserve socio-cultural structure, national environment,

cultural and natural assets, ensure business continuity, and support sustainable development. Since its establishment, AFAD has conducted its work in a project-based manner and continues to do so with this culture. As a manifestation of this culture, a theme has been determined for each year, and activities in line with the objectives of this theme have been carried out.

2020 was declared the 'Year of Disaster Preparedness,' 2021 as the 'Year of Disaster Education,' and 2022 the 'Year of Disaster Drills.' In 2021, activities related to disaster education were carried out intensively in collaboration with stakeholder institutions and organizations. Within the scope of the education year activities, the idea of establishing stronger and more effective cooperation between AFAD and universities in the field of disaster management emerged, and collaboration with 'Disaster Management and Application Research Centers' of universities was proposed.

The application and research centers of universities and academic units established with the recommendation of university rectors and the approval of the Higher Education Council (YÖK), where education, teaching, and R&D activities are conducted, bring together experts from various disciplines for working in a specific area or expertise or interdisciplinary studies. There are numerous research centers in Türkiye that carry out successful activities related to disasters and have expert researchers within their structure.

AFAD took the first step in bringing together the application and research centers, which are important stakeholders in disaster management in Türkiye, and forming an academic power in the field of disaster management in the last quarter of 2021. Under the leadership of AFAD, 42 different disaster management and related application and research centers from 39 universities gathered in Ankara on December 22, 2021. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Interior, Süleyman Soylu, and conducted by AFAD President, Governor Yunus Sezer. The meeting was



Photograph: AA, İlkan Toprak

attended by Deputy Minister of Interior, İsmail Çataklı, university rectors and vice-rectors, directors of research centers, and AFAD department heads.

The Minister of Interior and AFAD President delivered speeches at the opening of the meeting. The Minister of Interior stated, ‘No one needs knowledge that just sits on shelves. It brings no benefit to anyone.’ This signifies the fundamental purpose of the collaboration. In his statement, ‘Our centers and AFAD, along with other stakeholders, possess a rich scientific knowledge about disasters. The research, application, and education centers of universities offer a scientific richness in the field of disasters,’ AFAD President Yunus Sezer indicated the already close relationship AFAD has with universities and underlines how it aims to formalize this relationship under an institutional identity. This meeting marked the announcement of the establishment of the Universities Disaster Management Application and Research Centers Platform.

On May 17, 2022, a meeting led by Deputy Minister of Interior İsmail Çataklı and AFAD President at AFAD Headquarters, with the participation of 35 universities and 37 different disaster management, application, and research centers, the decision was made for this structure to function as a platform and continue its activities under the abbreviation ‘AYMEP,’ with its goals and objectives outlined.

AYMEP’s 3rd meeting was held on July 28, 2022, in Elazığ, hosted by Fırat University. In this meeting, AYMEP’s mission was determined as ‘Bringing together centers engaged in disaster research, application, management, and education at universities under AFAD coordination to facilitate communication and collaboration, monitor and assess the conducted work.’ Its vision was defined as,

‘To be a dynamic and academic platform recognized at an international level, leading the change and development with an integrated perspective on disaster management for a disaster-resilient Türkiye.’

The 4th meeting of AYMEP took place on September 22, 2022, under the presidency of Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu, and was hosted by Boğaziçi University’s Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute. During this meeting, significant presentations from various research centers were held and important decisions related to disaster management were made.

AYMEP continues its efforts under AFAD coordination with great diligence and enthusiasm. It is steadily progressing towards its goal of becoming Türkiye’s largest and most effective academic platform in the field of disaster management, aiming to extend its recognition globally. Through its established subcommittees, AYMEP maintains its work on building risk assessment, suitability of settlements for geological and climate disasters, settlement suitability for fires, disaster education, volunteerism, and similar topics.

In 2023, AYMEP will continue to contribute to Türkiye’s efforts in reducing disaster risks and will further increase the number of research centers within its structure.

A Transition Year for IFRC in Türkiye

Ruben Cano

IFRC Head of Delegation In Türkiye

In December 2021, DG ECHO Commissioner Lenarčič together with our Secretary-General, Jagan Chapagain announced an additional €325 million to extend the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme addressing the basic needs of refugee populations until 2023¹. Parallel communication was made on the ESSN transition towards development assistance so that it will be funded by DG NEAR through the Ministry of Family and Social Services, and implemented by Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).

The transition process will enhance the ESSN while progressively emphasizing on the transition to Socio-Economic Development programming.

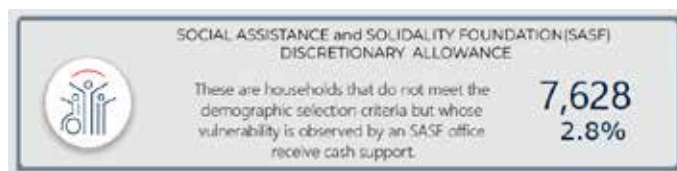
Enhancing the ESSN

Within 2020-2022, IFRC-TRC provided a total of 10 billion TRY to 1.6 million vulnerable refugees. Provided the worsening economic climate, on May 2022, IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent introduced programmatic adjustments to address the increasing vulnerabilities of the population:

- Targeting adjustment, increasing eligibility of smaller families with children impacting positively on exclusion error.



- Increasing the SASF quota to enable more vulnerable families, not meeting ESSN criteria, benefit from the program.
- Cash top up adjustment of 1,400 TRY to address the socio-economic hardship and contribute to the reduction of debt levels among beneficiaries.



Preparing the ESSN handover

During the second half of 2022, IFRC and TRC has worked with its partners on the parameters to guide the handover of ESSN program, under three key guiding principles:

1. Ensuring the seamless and continuous delivery of core ESSN services
2. Shared governance process among all stakeholders: DG ECHO, DG NEAR, MoFSS, TRC, and IFRC through the creation of a Steering Committee that will meet regularly to guide the handover.
3. Synergies, insights and learning: deliberation on future directions for the ESSN will be informed by feedback and findings from M&E, research, and surveys; key lessons from other transition processes; and synergies between ESSN and C-ESSN.

Within the above principles, IFRC-TRC and its partners will prioritize the following:

- Planning: the handover will be planned well in advance and establish clear roles, responsibilities, and expectations for the transition.
- Communication: Effective communication is key to a smooth handover, ensuring that all necessary information is shared, and any potential issues are addressed in a timely manner.
- Transfer of knowledge and skills: IFRC will ensure that the MoFSS and TRC have the necessary knowledge and skills to take over the work from the IFRC.
- Documentation: Proper documentation is essential to ensure that the handover process is transparent and accountable.

- Monitoring and evaluation: The handover process will be monitored and evaluated regularly.

Stronger emphasis on Socio-Economic Development

Hosting the world's largest refugee population since 2011, Türkiye remains a major country of both destination and transit². Amidst the protracted nature of the humanitarian context, IFRC-TRC are moving towards a nexus approach by which basic needs are covered while enabling social cohesion. Progress made in 2022 in this direction include:

- The completion of a Livelihoods Pathways Study to strengthen the ways in which ESSN connects to socioeconomic empowerment (SEE) opportunities and ultimately supports vulnerable families to transition away from basic assistance.
- Exploring partnerships and piloting initiatives with other humanitarian and government partners with the objective of expanding and diversifying Turkish Red Crescent work in socio-economic empowerment.
- Co-chairing the Task Team on Referral and Transition to Livelihoods Opportunities (under 3RP³) to provide technical recommendations to inform a transition process for individuals to access livelihoods opportunities.
- Increasing the number of referrals to TRC Community Based Programs, as well as to external stakeholders.

Beyond ESSN

2022 started with the closure of our COVID-19 program and, unfortunately, ended with a new operation to support Ukrainian refugees displaced by the war and hosted in Türkiye.



In its COVID response, Turkish Red Crescent completed its support the Government of Turkey as per its auxiliary role by providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), masks and hygiene kits to health facilities and community members; conducting risk communication campaign to raise awareness on COVID-19, protective hygiene practices and vaccination; providing health and Psychosocial Support (PSS) activities; conducting blood services including production and distribution of convalescent plasma; and conducting livelihoods activities. By the end of 2021, thanks to the financial support of IFRC donors, TRC had reached a total of 16,122,811 people including refugees and host communities across Türkiye.

While I write this note, Turkish Red Crescent has already received financial support from IFRC to support the needs of thousands of Ukrainian refugees, focusing on the following areas:

1. Health and Care through mental health and psychosocial support and health promotion and disease prevention through community-based health and first aid.
2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) through distribution of hygiene parcels and awareness raising on hygiene promotion
3. Shelter and household supply through non-food item (NFI) distribution
4. Multi-purpose cash (unconditional) to cover basic needs
5. Protection, Gender and Inclusion including establishment of two Mobile Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) to support well-being and education of affected young adults and children; referrals to case management and accompaniment services.

In 2023, IFRC will focus its support to Turkish Red Crescent in ensuring a responsible ESSN transition, expanding and enhancing the socio-economic and social cohesion interventions and supporting the needs of Ukrainian refugees. But our cooperation goes beyond that as we will continue our capacity building work, leveraging TRC strengths to build the capacities of IFRC secretariat and membership and contributing to further expand TRC programs and development in areas such as disaster management, migration and climate change.

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- 1 The ESSN provides more than 1.5 million refugees in Turkey with monthly cash transfers to cover their essential needs, it is implemented through a partnership between the IFRC, the Turkish Red Crescent and the Ministry of Family and Social Services. It is the biggest humanitarian programme in the history of the EU, and the world's biggest humanitarian cash assistance programme.
 - 2 People under temporary or international protection in Turkey
 - 3 *The Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) is a strategic, coordination, planning, advocacy, fundraising, and programming platform for humanitarian and development partners to respond to the Syria crisis. More info: <https://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>*

UN Türkiye in 2022

Alvaro Rodriguez

On behalf of the UN Türkiye Team, UN Türkiye Resident Coordinator

Current Situation

Since 2014, Türkiye has been managing the world's largest population of persons under temporary and international protection. In October 2022, the number of Syrians under temporary protection was over 3.65 million, almost half of whom are children while 46 per cent of Syrians under temporary protection are women and girls.¹ Türkiye also hosts approximately 320,000 international protection applicants and status holders from other countries.²

In February 2022, Türkiye opened its borders to over 400,000 people fleeing the war in Ukraine, of which around 40,000 remained in Türkiye by the end of the year, adding to the already significant population of refugees in Türkiye.

In addition to the challenges faced by many refugees due to the protracted nature of their displacement, with the Syria conflict already in its 12th year, at-risk groups including refugee women, children, older persons and people with disabilities have been amongst those worst affected by COVID-19 and the slowest to recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

Action Undertaken

The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) Türkiye chapter for 2022, largely implemented through national and local public systems and services, supported the Government's efforts to address the needs of persons under temporary and international protection, host communities, and relevant institutions in line with Türkiye's inclusive legal and policy framework. This included providing access to services in national systems, such as health, education and social services.

Throughout 2022, 3RP partners embedded the COVID-19 response in all sector activities with a gradual return to normality by mid-2022 enabling more in-person events and direct service delivery in health, education, vocational training, community mobilisation, and engagement with local public institutions.

Projects aiming at employment generation, job retention, vocational training in the agriculture and industrial sector, language training, and capacity reinforcement and support to small and medium enterprises enhanced the self-reliance and resilience of refugees, communities, and institutions.

Priority interventions included information dissemination and protection services to persons at-risk or survivors of violence, key refugee groups and persons with disabilities, while protection trends were monitored to inform multi-sectoral responses. 3RP partners also worked closely with public institutions to support durable solutions and promote social cohesion.

To mitigate the impacts of the pandemic and cost of living crisis, refugees were supported with cash and in-kind assistance to mitigate resorting to negative coping mechanisms while supporting municipalities with capacity building and community infrastructures (e.g. waste management). UN and NGO partners continued working with the Ministry of Family, and Social Services through cash-based assistance modalities and the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education programme to provide a social safety net for the most vulnerable refugees and support refugee families with school-aged children to continue their access to formal education. Educational facilities were also supported to safely increase face-to-face learning while supporting a multi-sectoral response to address the impacts of learning loss due to the pandemic, particularly for the most vulnerable children and youth.

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, health support to migrant health centres included mental health and psychosocial activities. Immunisation coverage and free access to COVID-19 treatment and vaccinations were prioritized, while health partners also supported the provision of sexual and reproductive health services.

To ensure that humanitarian programmes continue to reach the most vulnerable individuals and households, disaggregated gender, age and child-sensitive data collection will remain crucial.



- 1 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management, Temporary Protection, 27 October 2022, <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27>
- 1 UNHCR, UNHCR Türkiye Operational Update May-July 2022, 26 August 2022, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/95132>

UNHCR Türkiye in 2022

Philippe Leclerc

UNHCR Türkiye Representative

Displacement is becoming increasingly complex as new factors intersect with traditional drivers. With growing conflicts, climate change, pandemics, energy and food crises, the number of forcibly displaced people globally surged to 103 million, 32.5 million of whom are refugees, in the first half of 2022, according to UNHCR's Mid-Year Trends report released on 27 October 2022. The international armed conflict in Ukraine has driven the fastest and largest displacement witnessed in decades. One in every 77 people on earth now being forcibly displaced represents a horrific reality.

The impact of the pandemic on opportunities for durable solutions has greatly diminished. Refugees' voluntary returns and resettlement increased in the first six months of 2022 compared to the same period in the previous year. Nevertheless, given the sheer volume of new displacements worldwide, these solutions remain available to very few people.

Countries neighbouring Syria, including Türkiye, have hosted Syrians for over a decade as the conflict in Syria is entering its 13th year. In 2021, Afghans in Türkiye were increasingly approaching authorities for international protection as the situation in Afghanistan evolved. These crises, and many more, including countless protracted

situations, are not only fading from media attention but are being hindered by the lack of strong determination by the international community to prevent and durably end conflicts.

In early 2022, the Ukrainian conflict prompted the arrival of Ukrainians in Türkiye. Since 2014, Türkiye has been home to the largest refugee population in the world, with some 4 million refugees and asylum-seekers, 3.6 million of whom are Syrians under temporary protection. There are around 50,000 Syrians (around 1.3%) hosted in seven temporary accommodation centres operated by the Presidency of Migration Management in the south of Türkiye, while over 98.6% live across the country in 81 provinces. Around 3,000 Ukrainians are hosted in a temporary accommodation centre in Türkiye's Elazığ province.

The Turkish State leads the refugee response in Türkiye, based on a comprehensive legal framework, particularly the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (2013) and the Temporary Protection Regulation (2014). The United Nations in Türkiye assists the coordination of humanitarian and development partners under the umbrella of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), which is co-led by UNHCR and UNDP, and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework



Photograph: AA, Metin Aktas

(UNSDCF). UNHCR complements the state's efforts by advocating for the rights of all those in need of protection through a whole-of-society approach in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.

In Türkiye, as efforts to increasingly include refugees in services provided through the national system continue, in line with the principle of harmonization put forward by both the law and the National Strategy on Harmonization and a National Action Plan adopted in February 2018, UNHCR continues to engage in a comprehensive response in support of refugees, their inclusion in national systems, access to solutions, and fostering of social cohesion through programmes that benefit refugees, the host community members, national institutions and local administrations. Throughout 2022, UNHCR implemented its activities, strengthening access to protection services by working closely with state institutions including border authorities as well as lawyers and bar associations, and increasingly engaged with municipalities and universities.

Since 2020, there has been an impressive response by Türkiye in combatting the health and other impacts of the pandemic, including giving free access to refugees and migrants to the vaccine. However, the residual impacts of COVID-19 are still challenging, particularly for vulnerable groups and individuals, putting them amongst the hardest hit and slowest to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic. The latest inter-agency protection needs assessment conducted between 9 August – 19 September 2022 shows the

generally adverse effects of these dynamics on the lives of refugees, with up to 80% of them reporting a negative change to their working status throughout the pandemic while 90% of households cannot fully cover monthly expenses and basic needs.

Against the significant progress made in Türkiye, global challenges that could not have been foreseen have put many refugees at serious risk, undermining some of the hard-won achievements. It is more important than ever to continue supporting Türkiye in implementing its inclusive legal framework. Providing protection to refugees is and should be a collective global responsibility in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. It is a collective job to ensure that those who have made the hard choice of leaving everything behind and fleeing are protected, helped, and empowered.

IOM Türkiye's 2022 Perspective

Gerard Karl Waite

IOM Türkiye Mission Chief

In 2022, within the scope of its cross-border operations, IOM implemented various projects in partnership with on-ground actors in the Northwestern Syria region, covering WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), livelihoods, cash assistance, camp coordination and management, shelter, protection, and health. These projects were carried out in support of 11 planned camps in Idlib and Aleppo, managed by IOM.

IOM delivers assistance to displaced communities, provides support for climate-related risks such as fires and floods by constructing shelter units, WASH facilities, and delivers protection services. Expanding its reach to sixteen additional regions, IOM aims to reach seven more regions in 2023. IOM's shelter units are designed to offer a living space

that complies with humanitarian standards, providing durability, proper insulation, ventilation systems, and a multi-purpose open area, private WASH facilities, a kitchen, and lockable doors for up to ten years or more.



Photograph: AA, Muhammad Said

IOM constructed or repaired water and sewage systems, conducted sediment removal and solid waste management, distributed hygiene kits, and provided water tankers and hygiene support in addition to flood-preventive structures in the camps. Health services played a crucial role in the fight against cholera outbreaks. IOM's improvement team established a system that interconnects livelihoods, nutrition, food security, and infrastructure support while emphasizing mutual assistance. This system, implemented with beneficiaries, enhances community self-governance.

Within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan, IOM delivered cash assistance support to 46,908 individuals for their market needs and winter preparedness. They distributed hygiene kits and non-food items to 172,185 people and repaired 430 shelter units for 2,358 beneficiaries. Additionally, IOM provided livelihood support to 2,958 individuals.

At Gaziantep University, through the IOM-led Innovation Center for Integration, students and refugees designed and produced prototypes for innovative projects. They also supported agricultural productivity by implementing greenhouse, livestock, and solar-powered drying projects for needy villagers. Finally, 27 local communal areas were restructured.

IOM increased service access for 89,593 migrants and refugees in Türkiye's Southeastern Region through case management, mental health and psychosocial support, legal counseling, and Municipal Migrant and Community Centers. These efforts, conducted at individual, group, and community levels, encompass access to information, awareness campaigns, case management, counselling, and referrals for individuals and families in need, as well as mental health and psychosocial support services.

In collaboration with the Ministry of National Education, IOM provided transportation services to 6,429 students, ensured access to special education for 123 children, and delivered Turkish language courses to 826 individuals. IOM worked closely with local authorities in the Aegean Region and on the northwestern border to consider the sensitivities and meet the special needs of apprehended migrants. Among the services provided to over 70,000 migrants were food and non-food item assistance, interpretation, referral services, psychosocial support, and medical assistance.

Another part of IOM's 2022 activities focused on data-based migration studies. Assessments were conducted for Uzbek and Turkmen migrants in Istanbul, improving the visibility and service access for persons with disabilities, Afghan, Iraqi, and Iranian migrants with international protection status, various needs of Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, and displaced Ukrainian citizens in Türkiye. A total of 9,288 migrants from 18 provinces in Türkiye were surveyed, contributing to a better understanding of migrants and migrant trends.

Starting from March 2022, IOM dispatched 849 trucks filled with relief supplies to Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine. The IOM supply chain center in Gaziantep supplemented various products to meet the urgent needs of hundreds of thousands affected. Locally sourced items, including shelter, non-food items, WASH products, and logistical costs, totaling over 27 million dollars, were sent to local markets.

An Assessment on Humanitarian Aid and Labor Market Policies in Türkiye in the Era of Social Contradictions

Numan Özcan

ILO Türkiye Representative

It would not be accurate to characterize the current century as one marked by natural disasters, climate change with escalating impacts and drought, and forced displacement due to wars and conflicts. As emphasized in the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Global Wage Report on the Monitoring of the World of Work¹, the effects of political, economic, and natural crises are increasing, often triggering each other and disproportionately affecting vulnerable segments of society.

One of the dynamics through which we can see the repercussions of these crises is undoubtedly migration and forced displacement. According to the UNHCR data for 2022, it is observed that more than 89 million people have been forced to migrate within their own countries or across borders. This massive mobility includes 20% children and youth aged 0-17 and 26% men and women of working age. As several scientists have also emphasized, facilitating returns is a highly challenging and long-term process.^{2,3} The fact that the displaced population is quite young and the likelihood of

return is low underscores the necessity of humanitarian aid policies that address their basic and immediate needs from the early stages, as well as development policies that support access to education and employment.

Since its establishment in 1919, the ILO, with its unique tripartite structure (including governments, employers, and workers' representatives), has been working to ensure social justice and labor peace worldwide. It develops international labor standards to support access to decent work, and it has recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. Throughout its history, the ILO has been actively engaged in efforts to help forcibly displaced individuals access decent jobs and rebuild their lives. In this context, ILO constitution also includes all persons who enter the labor force in countries other than their own.

The normative framework of the ILO, consisting of conventions and recommendations on critical issues such as access to social security, occupational health and safety,

and the prevention of forced labor, offers a comprehensive portfolio of cooperation for forcibly displaced groups on a global scale in Africa, Arab countries, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, encompassing labor force participation and integration policies. This portfolio places critical importance on strengthening and developing the link between humanitarian aid programs and development and social policies.

The experiences gained by the ILO Türkiye Office, which is implementing one of the most comprehensive refugee support programs, have shed light on and contributed to the development of all these programs in different regions. The ILO report published in 2020, which evaluates the experiences and best practices related to the labor market access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, also emphasizes the importance of Türkiye's refugee support programs.⁴ Under the title 'Guiding Principles on Access to the Labour Market for Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Persons,' the report lists 34 fundamental principles. These principles are also included in Recommendation No. 205 concerning Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience. All these reference documents serve as examples of the normative role played by the ILO, which implements a wide range of active employment for refugees, in shaping policy-making processes that support sustainability and resilience.

The 'Refugee Support Program,' implemented in Türkiye since 2016, has been designed to reflect both the normative role of the ILO and its tripartite structure involving government, employer, and worker representatives. It consists of three main components, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Supporting labor supply through active employment policies that address skill development and transformation needs.

2. Increasing formal employment through programs tailored to the needs of the labor market and supporting businesses in transitioning to the formal sector.

3. Ensuring decent work for all.

In the 12th year of the Syrian crisis, which has resulted in the largest refugee movement in world history, Türkiye continues to be the country hosting the most refugees. Considering the ongoing conflict and security risks since the beginning of the war, it would not be wrong to conclude that it is still early for scenarios to return to take place. Therefore, refugee support programs need to align with global socio-economic developments, particularly for host countries that have had to contend with challenging socio-economic conditions even before the refugee influx.⁵ The ILO, which designs policy-making and implementation processes with this in mind, regards refugee labor as a critical factor in enhancing the competitiveness of host countries and as an added value that attracts global businesses.^{6,7} In this context, the ILO Türkiye Office has emphasized two crucial themes in recent years that play a determining role in the changing and transforming labor markets: (i) global climate change and green jobs, (ii) skills transformation driven by automation and digitalization, and their certification.

As global climate change continues to have an increasing impact on social and economic aspects, developments related to the balance between conservation and utilization of nature are gaining more prominence on global policy platforms. It should be emphasized that climate change needs to be a critical parameter in national public planning processes. Accordingly, programs focusing on green jobs and green skills are coming to the forefront. It should be noted that in today's and tomorrow's business world, the social

and economic fabric must be rebuilt on the foundations of environmental sustainability and inclusive production and consumption. To support sustainable and green recovery, policies and investments are required that do not repeat or exacerbate existing injustices in the transition to a green and circular economy. It is essential to highlight that for a job to be considered green, it should not only create environmental benefits but also be dignified for individuals: Fair wages, social security, occupational health and safety, organization and collective bargaining, gender equality, opportunities for professional and personal development are all integral components of the definition of green jobs.

When defining green jobs, it is essential to include the concept of the green economy, which has gained more prominence in the development agenda since the early 2000s. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines the green economy as a model that aims to increase social justice and well-being while reducing environmental risks and ecological problems.⁸ Building on this definition, the ILO and UNEP summarize green jobs as those that contribute to the protection of the environment or the improvement of environmental quality in various sectors such as agriculture, industry, R&D, administrative roles, and services.⁹ Throughout its work, the ILO emphasizes the agendas of just transition and climate justice, highlighting their critical importance.

The ILO places green growth at the center of its human resources policies. According to the findings of the report ‘The Social and Employment Impacts of Climate Change and Green Economy Policies in Turkey,’ prepared in partnership with UNDP, Türkiye has the potential to increase its gross domestic product by an additional 8 billion USD annually by 2030 by investing in renewable

energy instead of fossil fuels. Additionally, it can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8% compared to 2019 levels and create over 300,000 new jobs.¹⁰ Furthermore, investments in green energy sources such as wind and solar are expected to not only benefit the environment but also provide a solution to the energy crisis, one of the most critical challenges the world is facing. In parallel with these findings, designed education programs and employment support can contribute to both the formal employment of refugees and provide social, economic, and environmental benefits for Türkiye.

For forcibly displaced groups to sustain their lives with fair wages and actively contribute to host country economies without the need for social assistance mechanisms, it is critically important for them to adapt their technical and vocational skills in line with changing modes of production. They should have access to opportunities for professional development and transformation. In this context, numerous studies highlight the need to develop a qualified workforce for high-tech production and emphasize the central role of human and social justice in policy-making processes.^{11,12,13,14} This situation serves as a concrete example of the strengthening connection that should exist between development policies, such as humanitarian aid, education, and employment.

In accordance with the principles of social justice and the lifelong learning right defined by the ILO, the ILO Türkiye Office also implements education-focused activation programs in parallel with digitalization and automation trends. As examples, (i) various software training programs selected in parallel with open positions in the market and (ii) skill development training on artificial intelligence technologies for customer service employees

providing online services in different languages, whose job descriptions and structures are changing with technological advancements, to enhance data analysis and coding skills, can be provided. However, as mentioned above, considering that one of the most prominent characteristics of the current century is the mobility of people, goods, and services, it is essential to emphasize the importance of refugees having access to internationally recognized vocational qualification systems. The functionality of regional and international qualification frameworks in verifying and certifying competencies and experiences is a policy area that requires focus. Steps taken in this area have gained increased importance and momentum in the context of policies for refugee labor force access in Türkiye.

The traditional definition of humanitarian aid activities should be seen as not just innovative but as a necessity for parallelism with the changing employment policies driven by global climate change, digitalization, and automation. It is a critical turning point for the acceptance of this perspective for forcibly displaced groups to transition from passive beneficiaries to productive individuals who contribute social, economic, and environmental benefits to host countries. Considering that the parameters triggering forced migration have remained unsolved for decades and are expected to persist, strengthening the connection between development policies and humanitarian aid policies is not a mere hope but a necessity.

Therefore, decent work emerges as one of the Sustainable Development Goals accepted by all United Nations member countries, focusing on ending poverty, taking measures against the climate crisis, and allocating resources for fair sharing and peace. Lastly, it should be emphasized that inequalities and poverty can be eliminated, justice

can prevail, and a greener and better future with peace and justice is possible for forcibly displaced individuals, women, children, and all people. All the work of the ILO is built upon this principle: *Si vis pacem, cole justatium* (If you want peace, work for justice).

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Challenges Overcome in 2022 and Social Resilience: The Helping Hand of a Distant Friend

Yuko Tanaka

Chief Representative of JICA Türkiye Office

Türkiye and Japan are two countries with strong and longstanding relations in mutual assistance. For nearly a century, the Japanese Government has been providing both financial and technical support to strengthen the socio-economic development of the Republic of Türkiye. Türkiye is simultaneously continuing its economic and social progress while effectively addressing challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and refugee influx. International cooperation holds a significant place in the sustainability of this development.

In this context, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) continually updates its areas of operation through periodic needs assessments to better align with the requirements and conditions of Türkiye. Capacity building programs in various areas, including urban infrastructure and environmental improvement, private sector development, disaster risk reduction and management, and intervention in the refugee crisis, are among the main areas of cooperation with Türkiye.

COVID-19

JICA, in partnership with KOSGEB, has implemented the 'Rapid Support for Micro and Small Businesses' project in Türkiye to contribute to the country's COVID-19 response. In addition to the 300 million USD support from the World Bank to help micro and small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic maintain their employment levels during the crisis, JICA has provided an additional 300 million USD in interest-free credit support.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Türkiye and Japan, both being countries exposed to natural disasters and facing similar challenges, have notable cooperation and close collaboration, particularly in the areas of disaster preparedness and post-disaster response. JICA's first activity in this regard dates back to 1959 when Japan invited Turkish participants for a disaster management course. In this context, JICA has continued to share experiences through numerous online seminars aiming to reach various segments of the community, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of these seminars include the ‘Student Exchange Seminar Series’ organized between Turkish and Japanese middle and high school students from 2020 to 2022; the ‘Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness Seminar’ held in February 2022 for teachers in the EQUAL-IM Platform, as well as ‘Climate Change and its Effects on Türkiye Seminars’ conducted during the same period. In January 2022, JICA also organized a seminar on ‘Experience Sharing on Disaster Risk Reduction Activities for Societal Resilience’ with the participation of Japanese and Turkish NGOs. These seminars were conducted in collaboration with the Turkish-Japanese Foundation, JICA Alumni Association, and other Turkish and Japanese institutions and organizations.

With the Technical Cooperation Agreement signed between Türkiye and Japan coming into effect at the beginning of 2022, three technical cooperation projects have been signed with the aim of enhancing disaster risk management from various perspectives. The first of these projects is the ‘Capacity Building for Local Governments in Waste Management, Pollution Control, Disaster Management, and Response,’ which will be carried out in collaboration with the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye. The second project, ‘Establishment of a Research and Education Complex for Developing Disaster-Resilient Communities (MARTEST),’ will be implemented through the joint efforts of Turkish and Japanese universities, AFAD, Turkish Red Crescent, and various public, private, and civil society organizations. The third project is the ‘Capacity Building for Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Disaster Risk Management Master Plan,’ to be conducted in partnership with Bursa Metropolitan Municipality.

Syrians Under Temporary Protection and Migration

JICA collaborates with Türkiye in humanitarian crisis response and efforts to mitigate the impacts of such crises. In this context, JICA became the first international organization to provide credit support to municipalities in order to strengthen the infrastructure of provinces that provided temporary protection to a significant number of Syrians. The second credit agreement was signed in 2021, expanding the scope of support areas and target provinces. Both projects, with a total amount of 90 billion Japanese yen, are being closely coordinated with the State Planning Organization. Additionally, between 2016 and 2019, JICA supported the Ministry of Family and Social Services in identifying the needs of vulnerable Syrian individuals and families.

As is well known, Türkiye has been hosting the largest number of refugees globally for the past seven years. In addition to refugees, Türkiye also has a substantial foreign population, including residence permit holders. According to the Ministry of Interior, the total number of foreigners in Türkiye is approximately 5.2 million. Recent earthquakes have highlighted the importance of reducing the disaster risk for these foreigners and involving them in disaster response efforts. In November 2022, a webinar was organized with the participation of representatives and academics from AFAD and various NGOs, as well as Japanese NGOs, to share experiences and lessons learned in integrating foreigners into such processes.

In summary, JICA supports development and sustainability through multifaceted collaborations while aiming to maintain Japan’s active support for disaster risk reduction and management in the face of all kinds of natural and human-induced disasters that could hinder these efforts.

The Earthquake will Pass, Life will Continue

Mesut Güçlü

Secretary General, Turkish Catastrophe Insurance Pool

The Turkish Catastrophe Insurance Pool (TCIP) has worked on all cylinders to fulfill its duties and responsibilities in 2021, which has been the case since the first day. The works and projects we carried out in 2022 involve new topics put on the agenda in 2022, in addition to the ongoing and regular ones. In this article, we will cover the works of TCIP in 2022.

Based on the approach of “The Earthquake Will Pass, Life Will Continue,” TCIP mediates in ensuring that citizens can continue their lives following an earthquake. Since its establishment, TCIP has been carrying out activities regarding the acquisition of the “Compulsory Earthquake Insurance” policy by the people and the management of the system. It has been working by its mission to encourage all citizens of Turkey, an earthquake-prone country, to prepare for an earthquake. At the heart of this task is preparing Turkey for a safer future.

Thanks to the “Our Priority is Trust, Our Responsibility is Assurance” project developed by TCIP, one of the most important steps has been taken to carry Turkey to a safer future, with the motto “Long Live Prevention!”

This project, implemented by TCIP and the Ministry of National Education targeting 4th graders, started in the 2018-2019 academic year and reached 70,000 students in 500 schools in the 2021-2022 academic year with the aim of increasing students’ awareness of earthquakes and “Compulsory Earthquake Insurance” by organizing special events for the 1-7 March Earthquake Week and 23-28 May Insurance Week. As for the 2022-2023 academic year, training programs were carried out in 250 schools in 25 provinces. As a result, we have reached approximately 500 thousand people. You can access all the content related to the training prepared for the 1-7 March Earthquake Week, from the “Social Projects” tab at dsk.gov.tr and TCIP Turkey YouTube channel.

This year, we held the “Earthquake Resistant Building Design Competition” for the seventh time. Our objective is to offer civil engineering and architecture students the opportunity to work in earthquake-resistant building design and model making, introduce earthquake engineering, encourage students to specialize in this field and raise awareness of earthquake-resistant buildings.



As TCIP, our priority is to provide support to our citizens as soon as possible during and after natural disasters and to ensure business continuity. Based on this, TCIP Emergency Management Center was opened in Ankara, and its main data center was moved to Ankara, with a backup in Istanbul.

The floods and forest fires we have experienced in the recent period brought up issues regarding other types of natural disasters that could be integrated into TCIP and the transformation of “Compulsory Earthquake Insurance” into “Disaster Insurance.” In this respect, we started working on including other types of disasters, especially floods, in the compulsory earthquake insurance, taking into account the public interest. Within this framework,

we are creating a product that will meet the demands of insurance companies and citizens with an experienced team of academics. We aim to complete our work in the first quarter of 2023.

As of 2022, TCIP updated the tariff and coverage of the Compulsory Earthquake Insurance by increasing the discount on policy renewals and doubling coverage.

As we leave behind a year in which we took successful and strong steps, we invite all our citizens to secure themselves financially with the “Compulsory Earthquake Insurance” and become a part of our target of a 100 percent insurance rate.

The Turkish Green Crescent's Fight Against Addiction

Mücahit Öztürk

President of Green Crescent

With the same determination from the very beginning, the Turkish Green Crescent continues its fight against alcohol, tobacco, drugs, gambling and technology addictions on national and international levels. We continue to raise awareness with the help of our 120 branches, thousands of volunteers, board of directors, stakeholders, and other supporters.

As the Turkish Green Crescent, we carry out many projects, events, and activities every year. We launched a significant project in 2015, which paved the way for the Green Crescent Counselling Centers. This allowed us to provide psychosocial treatment services to addicts and their relatives free-of-charge. We help thousands of people maintain an addiction-free life through our 105 Green Crescent Counseling centers across Türkiye. Approximately 45,000 people received services from these centers between 2016 and 2022. As a result of our cooperation with the Turkish Employment Agency, we helped 169 clients find a job. A book named '*Renklerini Yeniden Kazananlar*' (*Those who Re-gained their Colors*), which includes fictionalized stories of our clients who overcame their addictions, was published to give people hope that they can do the same.

As the Turkish Green Crescent, we work closely with the state. We are a member of the High Council of Fight Against Addiction, which was established in 2019 with a presidential decree. Within the framework of action plans, we are a member of the Technical Board and Provincial Boards of Fight Against Addiction. We play an active role in working groups of stakeholder institutions, national workshops, and regional assessment meetings. With the 95 Green Crescents across the globe, our network has an impact in every continent.

We prioritize scientific and evidence-based early prevention activities. Therefore, we place great importance on raising awareness among children and youth. With this in mind, we carried out the 'Türkiye Addiction Prevention Training Program' in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education. The program aims to raise alcohol, tobacco, substance, gambling, and technology addiction awareness among children and young people and to provide information in this respect. As a consequence of our cooperation with public institutions and organizations, we provided train-the-trainer courses to 43,000 trainers. Within this scope, we reach around 10 million students and 3 million adults each year.



Photograph: AA, Yeşilay

Practitioners engage in individual meetings with students at risk of tobacco, alcohol, substance, and internet addictions to prevent them from becoming addicts. We also aim to integrate these children into the educational system in order to ensure they do not feel marginalized. The ‘School-Based Addiction Intervention Program’ remains the first and only school-based intervention program in Türkiye. The ‘Green Crescent Life Skills Training Program’ aims to equip students with skills that will enable them to lead an addiction-free life, gain positive habits, and protect themselves from risky environments and situations. Through a 15-week activity-based program, we help them acquire certain skills such as stress management, decision-making, critical thinking, and the ability to say “no.”

The Turkish Green Crescent has been organizing the ‘International Green Crescent Cartoon Contest’ since 2017 with the aim of drawing people’s attention to addictions and raising awareness through the universal language of cartoons. 1,386 cartoonists from 67 countries submitted 2,380 works to the contest in 2022. We have also been organizing the ‘Healthy Generation Healthy Future Talent Contest’ to increase addiction awareness among students and to encourage them to display their talents. We received a whopping 421,216 applications in the literature and visual arts categories in 2021. More, 152 submissions were made to the 2022 ‘Healthy Ideas Short Film Contest,’ which was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism with the aim of raising awareness by using the healing power of art.

In addition, the Turkish Green Crescent organized the 10th 'Green Crescent Bicycle Tour,' with the highest level of participation across Türkiye. 12,000 people from over 70 provinces participated. The 'Young Green Crescent Youth Camps' was organized for young people to engage in various social, cultural, and sporting activities away from the perils of addiction. 82,700 young people joined 8 camping sites, 5,560 took part in 44 youth camps, and 120 in two leadership camps between 2016 and 2022.

Nearly 10,000 students applied for the debate training in 2022 to prepare for the 'Green Crescent Inter-High School Debate Tournament,' which is designed to introduce some beneficial extra-curricular activities for high school students and to enable them to develop skills that will protect them from addiction. 1,300 students participated in the regional championships and the tournament ended with the Türkiye finals on 22-23 June 2022. The 8 winning teams (made of 160 students) competed in the final round.

Addiction is a universal issue that sincerely threatens our world. We, as the Turkish Green Crescent, organize and participate in many events with the aim of raising awareness of this significant matter. Under the leadership of the Turkish Green Crescent, 10 different national Green Crescents held sixteen separate sessions during the 65th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 14-18 March 2022. We were one of the 11 institutions to make a written statement during this session. We also participated in the *Trainings on Addictions and Approaches to Addictions* organized by the Turkish Consulate General in New York on 29-30 March 2022. We hosted an online side event entitled 'Youth Advocacy Forum with a Specific Focus on Quality Education for Sustainable Development,' with-

in the scope of the 2022 ECOSOC Youth Forum, which took place on 18-21 April 2022. We made a statement at the *United Nations Meeting for the International Narcotics Control Board Civil Society Session* on 5 May 2022. We are proud to be one of the eight NGOs among 38 that applied for the session. We organized a side event entitled *The Role of Sports and Healthy Life Activities in Crime Prevention*, within the scope of the *Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)*, held online by the UNODC on 16-20 May 2022.

We will continue to work towards a better and healthy future in our 103rd year along with our branches, volunteers, board of directors, stakeholders, and many others who support us. We will work harder by carrying out various new projects, events, and activities. We will continue to try and make Türkiye a leading figure in the fight against addiction.

Educational Volunteers Foundation of Türkiye in 2022

Aykut Saka

Director of Volunteer Operations, TEGV

The main purpose of TEGV, established on 23 January 1995, is to help children of primary school age (7-16) with the basic education provided by the state and to equip them with various life skills. TEGV develops and implements training programs to contribute to the development of children as individuals who stick to the basic principles and values of the republic, who do not discriminate based on gender, race, religion, or language in human relations, who think and question, who are rational, sensible, self-confident, peaceful, and respectful of different thoughts and beliefs, and who can activate their creativity.

TEGV provided educational support to more than 3 million children across Türkiye with the help of its more than 97 thousand volunteers, reaching more than 60 thousand children through activities carried out at “8 Education Parks,” “29 Learning Units” and “18 Firefly Learning Units” between 2021 and 2022.

Since its foundation, TEGV has been working on protecting human rights and raising children’s awareness of human rights based on the *Universal Declaration of*

Human Rights and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. All activities at TEGV consider children’s rights and the right to education, and activity environments help enable children to develop life skills and discover their potential. Activity planning and implementation is child-centered, age-appropriate, and play-based, and it encourages participation and sharing. TEGV signed the *United Nations Global Compact* in 2007 to adapt to global values and published the *Global Compact Progress Report* between 2007 and 2022.

TEGV Training Programs are prepared and implemented by considering the development level of the children in the target group. Training programs aim to develop children’s multi-dimensional development, including cognitive, emotional, psychomotor/physical, and social aspects.

TEGV aims to encourage children to question and guide them on issues such as access to information and the use of different resources in this sense. TEGV sees respect for human rights as an indispensable part of life, and after signing the *Global Compact*, it has been accelerating its

actions by extending them. The following studies serve as an overview of TEGV's activities in this field:

At TEGV, we prepared the "Workshops for a Better World" program associated with the skills and values stated in TEGV's mission regarding "Human Rights and Democracy," "Discrimination," "Gender Equality," "Ecology," "Peace," and "the Rights of the Child." We continued our workshops throughout the year with the participation of our children. At the workshops, we shared detailed information and experience with our volunteers.

Through "Free Workshop," "Design and Skills Workshop on Climate," and "Istanbul Asks Children" projects, our children and volunteers were encouraged to display solution-oriented approaches. In addition, we tried to raise awareness of the sensitivity and importance of the issues by providing multiple training programs and organizing events on climate, environment, health, transportation, sustainability, and recycling.

As part of our "Four Seasons" training project, we sent our "Firefly" mobile activity unit to schools in the regions where seasonal agricultural workers work during the harvest period. We helped our children develop a positive attitude toward learning and improve social and emotional skills, such as recognizing and managing emotions, establishing and managing relationships, and making responsible decisions, through relevant content, materials, and activities suitable for their age levels, in consideration of the principle of active learning, play, and experience.

The Van Nirun Şahingiray Education Park, opened by TEGV on 28 October, has a closed area of 1,850 square meters and an open area of 12,900 square meters,

consisting of a multi-purpose hall for 120 people, a library, a design and skills workshop, a knowledge and technology room, seven activity rooms, sports fields, and an agricultural area. The park was designed with the contribution of relevant disciplines to achieve a sustainable "green campus."

Electronic wastes are recycled within the scope of our project called "Do not Throw Away. Donate," to reduce the damage to the environment and increase efficiency,

Distance volunteer training programs and virtual volunteering activities that we started in 2022 during the pandemic period made progress. Our volunteers continued to provide quality education support to our children. With the hope that 2023 will be a special year in terms of volunteering, TEGV aims for virtual volunteering to become more common and to reach 100 thousand volunteers by the end of the year. In the coming period, we will focus more on digitalization in education. Motivated to continue carrying out our face-to-face activities, we will continue to build a better future for children.

Overall Evaluation of Environmental and Social Risks from the Perspectives of NGOs

Musa Kaya

President of the Tohum (Seed) Association of Education and Nature

Türkiye has witnessed many social and environmental issues in 2022 due to global factors, such as the pandemic, climate change, and war, which have environmental and social impacts and risks. Modern societies are at risk in many ways due to national and global factors in the 21st century, which Ulrich Beck calls “risk society.” Civil society analyzes these risks and carries out activities accordingly.

Climate change is a significant high-risk factor for communities. The risks of climate change include water scarcity, declining agricultural production, food insecurity, and habitat loss of plant and animal species. The producers and consumers in Türkiye are directly affected by this issue. Farmers have difficulty increasing production and meeting the inputs required for agricultural production and animal husbandry, resulting in financial hardship. There is a risk of population decreasing in villages and people abandoning villages due to financial conditions in rural areas, declining agricultural production and animal husbandry, and

farmers’ inability to make a gain. Thus, farmers need to be supported, and activities should focus on increasing local production, using local seeds, developing climate-friendly and nature-friendly agricultural production techniques, minimizing water use, and ensuring sustainable production.

Climate change, the pandemic, and the war revealed the importance of local production in 2022. The universal aspect of agriculture and agricultural products started being taken into consideration following the challenges in wheat production and distribution experienced by Ukraine, the “breadbasket” of Europe. Indirectly affected by the war, Türkiye became a significant element of grain shipment due to the initiative of the United Nations and natural/human factors. The war affected the food supply-demand balance, increasing the number of people in need of emergency aid, and the importance of local production once again came to light. While supply, price, and supply chain disruptions affected the whole world, agriculture, and animal husbandry in Türkiye had difficulties due

to many natural and human-related impacts, especially climate change, which again indicates the importance of local production and food security.

The constant increase in population, especially in the urban population, resulted in migration-related problems. According to the United Nations Population Fund, the world population reached 8 billion as of 15 November, and the population of Türkiye reached 84,680,273 as of 27 December. This increase resulted in resource scarcity problems. The key matters include the use and management of natural resources, agricultural production, and animal husbandry in this regard.

Another point that remained significant was the forest fires. Forest fires are defined as the complete or partial burning due to natural or human-related factors. They are directly related to climate change, natural resources, and sustainability. Many forested areas and forest villages, especially on the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts, are affected by fires. Following the forest fires in Antalya's Manavgat district in 2021, the Tohum (Seed) Association implemented a project called the "Post-Fire Impact Assessment Report: Social, Cultural and Economic Evaluation" with the help of the Turkish Red Crescent Academy. In the context of the project, we made observations and carried out interviews with the fire victims and the institutions and organizations in the region. As a result, we put forward the social, cultural, and economic impact of forest fires and suggestions in this regard. Natural disasters impact the livelihoods, the level of income, immovable assets, social life, cultural areas, and cultural heritage of the people in the region. These impacts create significant social consequences in the long term, which is why this study must be carried out

regularly, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities, to observe the long-term impacts of the disaster.

Tohum (Seed) Association conducts various activities on "sustainability, climate change, nature-based resource management, supporting local production, evaluation of natural disaster consequences, protection and increase of forested areas," based on the environmental and social impacts and risks mentioned above. We aim to reduce, albeit slightly, the problems faced across the country with our efforts and give hope to people.

Bear in Mind: "The key is the Seed."

Humanitarian Aid Activities and Experiences in 2022

Murat Yılmaz

Orphan Foundation President

The Orphan Foundation, which is a specialized institution, was established in 2017 with the aim of contributing to the physical and psychological well-being of orphan children as they grow and develop with love and care, both in Türkiye and around the world. Our foundation includes not only orphans but also vulnerable children, encompassing 40% of the world's child population, numbering 2.5 billion. The mothers of orphaned children are also supported by our institution. In the services provided by our foundation, there is no age limit, and we continue to support orphans from early childhood until they are self-reliant.

As the Orphan Foundation, we aim to help children who have experienced the loss of a parent and their family members cope with this loss and alleviate the psychological impact it has on individuals through psychosocial support activities, educational support, in-kind and cash assistance, as well as development projects. We implement various projects such as 'Welfare Stops,' 'Sponsorship Support Project,' 'Sibling Family Project,' 'Goodness Next in Line Project,' 'Goodness Ship,' 'Paintings that Touch Dreams,' 'Kills Pre-school,' 'Warm Love Melts the Cold,'

and 'My Street is Celebrating,' which include educational programs, protective and preventative social services, social assistance, psychosocial support, and development workshops for orphaned children.

Currently, through the 'Sponsorship Support System,' we provide monthly cash assistance to 9,600 orphan children in Türkiye and 21 other countries. Throughout the year, we provide seasonal support to over 700,000 orphans through dozens of projects in 33 countries, including Türkiye, the Middle East, Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Far East.

In 2022, we witnessed the impact of the pandemic receding, normalization of travel between countries to a large extent, but countries becoming more cautious in economic terms. We also witnessed Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its global repercussions, especially affecting Europe. Due to the war, over 11 million Ukrainians, mostly women and children, were forced to migrate. The problems centered around legacy child centers from previous years certainly did not pass 2022 without affecting us. In the activities we conducted throughout the year as the Orphan Foundation, we can list the problems we encountered as follows:



Photograph: AA, Muhammad Said

The majority of the 33 countries where our foundation operates are primarily plagued by the most significant issues of war and poverty. War and poverty, which create problems that are difficult to remedy when timely measures are not taken against their effects, lead to children becoming orphaned and deprived. Among the negative aspects we observe at the Orphan Foundation are migration and child refugees, shelter issues, violence within families and on the streets, physical and emotional abuse, security problems, child labor, street children, educational issues, and child marriages.

In this context, the countries in which the Orphan Foundation operates, including Syria, Palestine, and Yemen in the midst of violence, as well as Sri Lanka, Iraq, Lebanon, Iran, Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Benin, Togo, the Philippines/Moro, Bangladesh, Myanmar/Arakan, and Afghanistan, are among the first countries that come to mind with local conflicts and poverty. In these countries, the Orphan Foundation carries out humanitarian aid activities during Ramadan

and Eid al-Adha, at the beginning of the school year, during the winter months in affected countries, and in times of urgent humanitarian needs.

In the context of Syria, our range of activities extend to a broader area. In Hatay/Reyhanlı, Kilis, Idlib, our foundation conducts psychosocial support and social service activities and deals with more than 5,000 mothers and children in this field alone throughout the year. In Syria, various activities are carried out, including orphan settlement

support, social and cash assistance, education, health, and vocational training programs.

While our country's institutions have the mission of standing by the oppressed and victims anywhere in the world, to leave a more lasting impact in these regions, we need to be more effective in the economic, political, and cultural fields. Taking steps in chronic disaster areas and in the pre-disaster period in the field of humanitarian aid is vital to prevent the heavy toll of the crisis period and to prevent humanitarian disasters. For this reason, it is essential to ensure the fair distribution of the more than 30 billion USD in UN humanitarian aid funds.

In today's world, where more than one billion people suffer from poverty and related causes, one in every four children lives in war, poverty, and disaster-prone areas. To address these issues affecting children, the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is crucial.

The Focus Area in Humanitarian Aid: Persistent Problems and Innovative Approaches

Erdem Ayçiçek

Dr., Programs Officer at the Association of Assistance, Solidarity and Support for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers (ASRA)

Türkiye hosts millions of people displaced from their homeland. As a result, many actors have become responsible in ambiguous areas. During this period, the positions attained by the public authority in cooperation with local, national, and international actors, sometimes in opposition and sometimes in complementarity, highlight that a certain level of coordination in aid has been reached. We can categorize all humanitarian action in Türkiye based on the level of the problem at hand. In this respect, we can analyze the changes and transformations targeted by the services produced in terms of individuals, society, and institutions/organizations.

Basic humanitarian services provided by the Association of Assistance, Solidarity, and Support for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers (ASRA) include physical therapy and rehabilitation in healthcare facilities, mental health, and psychosocial support, comprehensive protection/social services, and programs on vocational training and resettlement in a third country. ASRA operates according

to five operational guiding principles: (i) a consolidated regional approach to asylum seekers, (ii) adaptability to needs, (iii) coordinated relationships with local authorities and actors, (iv) operational consolidation, and (v) strong technical lead. The broad experience of ASRA in these areas forms the basis of service designs that support local, individual, and institutional resilience and meet the emergency needs of communities that are constantly changing, adaptable, and affected.

Forced migration can also devastate the informal support networks of social communities who have migrated from their homeland. Re-establishing and relocating families and other social support networks provides emotional and financial stability for these groups. ASRA puts lots of work into consolidating the natural relationship networks of this community, as improved social support, advice and information, shelter, emotional help, and approval will be a permanent and community-based response to practical needs at high levels of vulnerability. In this regard, it can



Photograph: AA, Ömer Ürer

be stated that the current mission of civil society is the “restoration of life in all aspects,” thus raising the self-confidence of vulnerable people, strengthening their social capital, and improving their access to fundamental rights and services.

For ASRA, 2022 means “a year of optimization of services, especially for high-sensitive groups who have arrived in Türkiye as a result of forced migration.” During this period, our activities to further strengthen the bond between humanitarian aid and life itself include physical therapy and mental health services for disabled individuals and their caregivers, a health special needs fund to cover health

expenses that are not covered or partially covered by general health insurance, mental health and psychosocial support activities for disability acceptance and caregiving processes. Anyone who is in a medical emergency or has a chronic illness can benefit from these services. Therefore, we focused on the most relevant aspect that will ensure the participation of disabled people in social life and have carried out activities to ensure that people in emergency health need have access to health services.

An Important Stage of Disaster Preparedness: Logistics

Ahmet Emin Dağ

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation Board Member

Logistics constitute one of the cornerstones of the aid system. Many factors related to the quality of the logistics infrastructure are directly linked to disaster response and the rapid delivery of necessary aid materials to those in need. In humanitarian aid efforts, logistic planning is critically important for saving lives.

In the preparation phase of logistic planning, factors such as the location and capacity of fixed warehouses, aid stockpiles, sources of origins of these stocks, transportation vehicles, their specifications, locations, capacities, and the division of labor among professional or volunteer workers are important.

The success of humanitarian logistics is measured by its ability to be in the right place at the right time with the right resources. Our foundation, with over 25 years of experience in humanitarian aid efforts, has significantly increased its logistic activities as part of its preparations throughout the year, aligned with the priorities on our country's disaster map. In this context, 2022 has been a period of significant advancements in logistics. The 'Emre Yerli Disaster Management and Logistics Center,' spanning a total of 14,000 square meters in Istanbul's Tuzla district,

with 8,000 square meters of enclosed storage space, has become operational. This logistics hub has not only played a crucial role in responding to disasters within our country but has also started to provide advantages in aid efforts to all regions reached by Türkiye's humanitarian hand.

For example, during the challenging response to the floods in the Western Black Sea region, our foundation, thanks to its robust logistic infrastructure, successfully fulfilled its responsibilities promptly and efficiently. Similarly, in the midst of a severe economic crisis in Afghanistan and Ukraine, where conflict continues, these massive logistics centers offer hope for the delivery of humanitarian aid materials, whether it be the transportation of tons of humanitarian aid materials to Afghanistan by train or the delivery of humanitarian aid supplies to civilians in Ukraine.

Since the outbreak of the war in Syria, our foundation has sent thousands of trucks loaded with humanitarian aid materials, and our strong logistics network and centers played a vital role in the swift organization of these aid materials. There is no doubt that our newly established center will fulfill a significant need in responding to disasters both within the country and in neighboring regions.



Photograph: AA, MSB

One of the most crucial pillars of institutional preparedness for humanitarian aid and disaster response is volunteer mobilization. In this regard, our foundation, which has tens of thousands of volunteers in almost all provinces of Türkiye, has trained and prepared thousands of volunteers throughout the past year, ranging from search and rescue to emergency aid. They have undergone training, participated in drills, and have become more equipped to respond to potential disasters. Currently, more than three thousand volunteers across Türkiye are trained and well-prepared for emergency response, maintaining continuous coordination.

Humanitarian organizations that are sensitive and meticulous about participating in humanitarian efforts around the world may sometimes experience their own difficulties during these interventions. In this sense, 2022 was a year of great sorrow for the IHH family. First, on May 27, 2022, our Disaster Management Officer Emre Yerli, who had gone to Lebanon to provide disaster training, passed away due to a heart attack. His loss was not only a significant loss for the IHH family but also marked an important figure in the field of disaster and emergency response in our country.

Last year, the experiences of the IHH team that went to Togo in West Africa for humanitarian aid also illustrate that humanitarian organizations can face hardships in critical moments. While travelling to a region in this country for humanitarian intervention, the aid team was involved in a traffic accident. Bursa IHH staff member Ercan Aksoy and IHH volunteers Resul Çerezoglu and Togolese IHH volunteer İbrahim Chabane lost their lives, while other members of the team were injured. Such experiences represent not only a noble and dedicated cause but also a significant humanitarian legacy for those who risk their lives, as well as for families and colleagues left behind.

Humanitarian diplomacy continued in 2022 with various dimensions aimed at protecting human lives. Within this framework, efforts to reunite children and women who had been stranded in war zones with their families and countries continued throughout the year. Humanitarian diplomacy activities were conducted to support these individuals in returning safely to their homelands. Thanks to humanitarian diplomacy efforts carried out to facilitate the return of dozens of Azerbaijani, Iraqi, and various European citizens who were trapped in Syria, these individuals were able to return safely to their countries.

Civil Society, Solution Partnerships and Sustainability

Okan Tosun

President of the Education, Research, Solidarity, and Search and Rescue Association (ANDA)

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia War have led the relevant actors to have a clearer understanding of global crises and emphasized the importance of exploring unconventional ways to address these issues. In this context, it is promising to see many institutions, both globally and in our country, beginning to structure their activities within the framework of social responsibility, even though we are still at the beginning of the road, for the common future of humanity.

As ANDA Association, we have also embarked on the journey to be part of the solutions to global problems within the 'Government-Private Sector-Civil Society' triangle. In 2014, as a group of volunteers, we set out with the aim of addressing the humanitarian problems arising from the ongoing civil war in our neighboring country, Syria. With the sincerity of the Turkish people, we became a non-governmental actor with the awareness of being a solution partner, extending from humanitarian aid to search and rescue. We achieved the status of a public-benefit association in November 2022 as the fruit of the steps taken in this adventure.

In this context, our humanitarian aid activities, which started as voluntary but irregular assistance without a specific concept in 2014, gained official status in 2016 when we acquired the identity of an association. Especially guided by the emphasis on education and access to education among global goals, in the same year, we opened the 'Yayladağ Orphan Center' and constructed the first of our sustainable repair centers to address the deep wounds opened during humanitarian crises. We conducted activities to nurture the hopes of people living in the Euphrates Shield and Peace Spring regions, accelerate their return to normal life, and create living spaces and capacity-building activities, especially for women and children. By the time we reached 2022, as a civil society organization of our country, we made significant contributions both domestically and internationally, delivering humanitarian aid to people in need.

In this context, we reached 713,000 people in Syria, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and various African countries through activities carried out at the orphan center in Afghanistan, the Turkish-Afghan Friendship Center, and the work of teams sent directly to the region after the start of the Ukraine-Russia War.



Photograph: AA, Gian Marco Benedetto

On the other hand, the increasing number of disasters both in our country and around the world triggered our focus on search and rescue. Starting with the establishment of search and rescue teams and the initiation of training in 2017, our ANDA search and rescue and disaster response team, as of 2022, has completed the ‘AFAD Intermediate Search and Rescue’ accreditation process. We have provided training to 987 individuals in 32 provinces, and our semi-professional volunteer search and rescue team has participated in more than 1,000 disaster missions. With 250 disaster awareness trainers and a theater team, we have reached over 500,000 people nationwide, contributing to the development of disaster awareness on a societal scale by organizing disaster awareness training programs in our country as part of the ‘Disaster Drill Year.’

Our top priority in our efforts is to act with the motivation to find solutions to issues that concern all of humanity. We have observed that in the case of large-scale humanitarian crises, especially those based on disasters, placing the entire burden on the shoulders of

relevant institutions alone does not provide a solution. Acting with this awareness, we have focused on building lasting relationships with stakeholders in the field in both humanitarian aid and disaster management efforts, aiming to provide permanent solutions.

In the geographical areas we reached for humanitarian aid efforts, we have designed permanent working areas through local partnerships. This way, we have brought humanitarian aid to crisis regions as a process of improvement and development. Beyond meeting the daily needs of local stakeholders, we have focused on supporting their learning and engaging them in every stage of the work, from management to production, in long-term processes aimed at cumulative value creation. As an anti-thesis to colonialism, we have prioritized efforts to help those in need heal during times of crisis with the vision of Turkish civilization, aiming to empower them with the skills, capacity, and experience necessary to sustain themselves when assistance is no longer available during the normalization process.

Within this context, we have provided capacity-building training and production workshops that support individuals affected by the crisis in all processes, from construction sites to educational fields, guiding them toward becoming active participants in their return to normal life according to their abilities.

As a result, we have transformed humanitarian aid into a tool of humanitarian diplomacy by approaching people in ‘victim geographies’ with an equal relationship, emphasizing peace and harmony in the future world through the efforts of Turkish civil society organizations and public institutions. In addition, we value partnerships that strengthen a solution-focused, collaborative, and sustainable approach in both search and rescue and humanitarian aid efforts through various multinational collaborations like the ‘EU Modex Exercise’ or partnerships with countries like Qatar, Syria, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine. We suggest that these processes be conducted with a partnership framework, both domestically and internationally, with local and foreign partners, in order to preserve human dignity and advance shared peace worldwide. We attach great importance to always being a part of such environments. In this context, we are developing collaborations with state institutions such as AFAD and embassies, as well as universities, both in Türkiye and abroad.

Therefore, the central focus of our work has always been sustainability. When we see the students of the first ‘ANDA Orphan Center’ established on the slopes of Yayladağı actively participating in various roles during crises such as earthquakes, floods, and fires in Türkiye, we experience the unique joy of reaping the rewards of these efforts. Seeing tangible outcomes of contributions from the civilian sector during crisis periods gives us a more hopeful outlook on the world of the future.

In our journey to become a civil society organization that embraces the principle of ‘Strong Türkiye in the Field and at the Table,’ we contributed a resourceful work to the literature in 2022 titled ‘Humanitarian Diplomacy Practices (Global Politics-Turkish Foreign Policy-ANDA).’ Within this framework, we planned to make positive contributions to enrich the literature from the civilian sector by supporting master’s and doctoral students with scholarship programs that will contribute to the construction of a permanent policy, in addition to humanitarian aid activities. Furthermore, we started publishing annual publications with a solution-oriented perspective on global and national issues, created by our youth organization, ‘Young ANDA,’ which we see as the future actors of our association. We initiated this effort by publishing the first of these publications this year, presenting a semi-academic study offering additional permanent solution proposals to our fieldwork. We also continued our efforts to support areas where theory is put into practice, reinforcing the characteristic of civil society as an open university. This was especially evident in the post-pandemic period when our young team established libraries and organized youth camps in different cities across our country. In the future, we will strive to strengthen and expand these efforts.

Despite increasing humanitarian crises, conflicts, migrations, and disasters worldwide, we keep our hopes alive in the light of the gratitude of the Turkish people, who set a unique example for humanity. On the path of fraternity and solidarity, which we embarked upon with Ankara at the center, we aim to embrace the Turkish civilization’s understanding in a way that encompasses all of humanity.

Spreading Goodness to the World

Mehmet Cengiz

Chairman of the Board of Deniz Feneri Association

For 26 years, one of the most important activities of the Deniz Feneri Association, which continues the goodwill movement, is the 'Goodness School' project. The 'Goodness School' project, which has been conducted in partnership with the Ministry of National Education since 2014, was interrupted in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the early days of the 2022-2023 academic year, 'Goodness School' teams have visited schools and continued face-to-face meetings with students.

This project aims to instill kindness in young people and make them partners in this project. Through the project, hundreds of water wells have been opened in villages in Africa that had no access to water, and cataract surgeries have been performed for thousands of people, allowing them to regain their sight. Tens of thousands of students have supported similar projects, accumulating unforgettable stories of kindness throughout their lives. Through the project, hundreds of thousands of students have felt the satisfaction of doing good and bringing joy to others.

Another aspect of this project is the 'Applied Kindness Project Competition' announced under the slogan 'Schools Compete in Goodness.' In this context, students have been competing with interesting and impactful kindness projects they have prepared for over five years. Some of the students have been awarded for their outstanding contributions.

School Opening in Idlib on World Kindness Day

Education is undoubtedly the most fundamental issue everywhere in the world. After all, through education, people develop, and societies thrive. Efforts are being made to heal the wounds inflicted on education by the ongoing civil war in Syria. Undoubtedly, the ones most affected by the war have always been children. According to information provided by UNICEF, the number of children affected by the civil war in Syria is expressed in tens of thousands. To address this devastating and heart-wrenching situation, the Deniz Feneri Association rolled up its sleeves and constructed a 'Goodness School' within the area where brick houses are located in the Kemma region of Syria. The opening of the 'Goodness School' took place on November 13, 2022, World Kindness Day.

The land for this school was allocated by AFAD, while the construction costs were undertaken by Jigsaw. The school's internal materials such as desks, chairs, and more were provided by the Özgür Ümmet Association (Free Ummah Association). The operation of the school is carried out by the Guiding Education and Solidarity Association.

The school built by the Deniz Feneri Association addressed one of the region's most crucial needs. After the opening, school uniforms, backpacks, notebooks, pens,



Photograph: AA, Abed Rahim Khatib

erasers, and water bottles were given as a stationery set to the students. The school, consisting of 18 classrooms, provides continued education for 1,280 students whose education had been disrupted. Additionally, during the remaining hours, adults in the region also have the opportunity to receive education at this school.

Goodness School Students Opened a Primary School in Thailand Pattani

Thanks to the Goodness School initiatives that began in the early weeks of the 2016-2017 academic year in Antalya, the July 15 Martyrs Primary School was constructed in Thailand Pattani. The foundations of the school were laid in 2018 and the construction was completed in 2020. Due to the pandemic, the opening of the school, which had been postponed, took place on November 20, 2022, on World Children's Right Day.

The July 15 Martyrs Primary School in Thailand Pattani has a capacity for 450 students and consists of 10 classrooms and two laboratories.

Deniz Feneri Association Receives Accreditation Certificates from AFAD

On the 23rd anniversary of the earthquake that marked a milestone in disaster management in Türkiye, the 17 August 1999 earthquake, the 'AFAD Accreditation

System and AFAD Volunteering System Certificate Ceremony' was held. Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu presented certificates to 643 members from 24 accredited institutions and organizations and 500 AFAD support volunteers who will be working in the field.

The Deniz Feneri Association, known for its meticulousness in both nutrition and logistics and aid aspects in disaster-stricken areas, received accreditation organization registration certificates from AFAD in two fields. Our association has been accredited in both the field of in-kind donations, warehouse management, and distribution, as well as in the field of nutrition.

Furthermore, Süleyman Soylu spoke at the Disaster Communication Workshop jointly organized by the Directorate of Communications and AFAD on 1 November 2022. Soylu highlighted Deniz Feneri's logistical experience and stated: *'I witnessed in Elazığ how goods arriving at a warehouse should be stacked and distributed. In Türkiye, Deniz Feneri Association is the most organization in this regard, a professional and highly proficient organization that has taught us a lot in this field. Magnificent... They have the ability to teach these courses at universities.'*

Derived from its Historical Civilization, Türkiye Reaching a Peak in Humanitarian Aid

İhsan Aık

Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Türkiye Diyanet Foundation

The world is grappling with major crises, including world wars, health, migration, climate, disasters, and the economy. Deepening humanitarian crises not only adversely affect millions of people but also give rise to other problems. At this point, Türkiye, in collaboration with public institutions and non-governmental organizations, is taking on the task of alleviating the suffering and hardships in the world, coming to the aid of those in distress, comforting weary hearts, and combating evil with goodness on Earth.

Türkiye, with a strong tradition rooted in its history and ancient culture, sees aiding victims as a humanitarian duty, responsibility, and an essential element in the stability of the world, both domestically and internationally. Actively participating in humanitarian aid activities, Türkiye strives to deliver assistance swiftly to wherever it is needed, regardless of race, religion, language, or gender. Global humanitarian aid reports demonstrate that Türkiye, based on its GNP, is one of the world's largest humanitarian aid donors, proving that it is sowing seeds of goodness worldwide.

The Türkiye Diyanet Foundation has been fulfilling its mission in the journey of goodwill for nearly half a century, serving as one of the strongest links in the ancient chain of kindness. With the support of our benevolent nation, the Foundation operates in 149 countries, believing that every seed planted, be it large or small, will change people, societies, and the world. While rapidly continuing its work in various fields, from education to societal activities, from housing to food, from disaster relief to urgent humanitarian aid, and supporting religious life, the Foundation also actively carries out its activities in crisis areas and in geographies where there is need.

In order to respond quickly and accurately to disasters, Türkiye Diyanet Foundation has established search and rescue teams under the umbrella of AFAD in six provinces. It is aimed to establish these search and rescue teams in all 81 provinces in coordination with public institutions.

Türkiye Diyanet Foundation has 1 mobile kitchen truck, 3 mobile catering units, 1 emergency response vehicle, 1 coordination vehicle, and 1 search and rescue vehicle in its



inventory for use in case of disasters. The Türkiye Diyanet Foundation also holds the distinction of being the first NGO to receive the 'Nutrition Accreditation' certificate from AFAD.

Operating effectively in crisis areas and other regions in need, the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation has connected over 2 million people in 2022, primarily in Türkiye, with over 265 million Turkish lira in zakat funds. Zakat funds are used for educational activities, humanitarian crises,

hunger, poverty, and famine, both domestically and abroad. Conditional zakat donations are made for Yemen and Arakan, where the world's largest humanitarian crisis is unfolding, and are utilized for the benefit of those in need in the region.

Contributing to the alleviation of the deepening humanitarian crisis caused by flooding in Pakistan, the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation has provided the country with 240 tons of food and various humanitarian

assistance. The Foundation's aid activities continued in countries such as Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Syria, Palestine, Africa, Arakan, Yemen, and Indonesia, where humanitarian crises are prevalent.

Within the scope of the 'One Drop of Life Project,' the Foundation aims to bring hope to millions of people who do not have access to clean drinking water by opening water wells and foundation fountains that can operate with solar energy, provide agricultural irrigation, and be used by animals, at depths ranging from 50 to 500 meters in drought-prone regions. In 2022, by offering 350 water wells and foundation fountains in 25 countries to the people in region, we enabled 2 million people to access clean drinking water. The Foundation, striving to bring life to arid regions, has provided hope to 8 million people since the project's inception.

Prioritizing education in its efforts, the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation has provided scholarship support to 36,000 students in the new academic year, including 10,000 domestic and 26,000 international students. The Foundation has been supporting financially disadvantaged students by providing scholarship assistance to over 300,000 students since its establishment.

The Türkiye Diyanet Foundation, since its establishment, has provided clothing and stationery support to more than 2,587,753 individuals. In the 2022-2023 academic year alone, it offered clothing and stationary support to over 10,000 students in 39 provinces. The Foundation, through projects such as 'Goodness Workshops,' 'Winter Feast,' 'Starting Life,' 'If You Forget, They Become Orphans,' 'Bridges to Life Through Art,' 'Ramadan's Remedy: Orphan's Table,' 'Field Work,' 'Respect Your Elders, Bless

Your Life,' 'Warming Our Hearts with Goodness,' 'We Are by the Side of Our Animal Friends,' and 'Let my Gift be a Book,' has reached nearly 2 million people.

Under the theme 'Don't Forget Your Brother, You are the Expected One,' the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation, as part of its domestic Ramadan program, reached a total of 1,246,000 people in 922 districts across 81 provinces, and internationally, it delivered humanitarian aid to 895,000 people in 273 regions across 83 countries, thus touching the lives of 2,150,000 people in total.

Under the theme 'Share Your Sacrifice, Get Closer to Your Brother,' in its Sacrifice program, the Foundation distributed meat to approximately 22 million people in need in 81 provinces and 922 districts within Türkiye, as well as in 82 countries abroad. Through the 'My Gift is the Quran' project, a total of 250,000 copies of the Quran were distributed to those in need, with 89,000 copies distributed domestically and 161,000 internationally.

The Türkiye Diyanet Foundation, which came to the aid of over 40 million people in 2022, continues to bring hope to the oppressed through its ongoing assistance efforts. Drawing strength from its goal of 'Let Goodness Reign on Earth,' the Foundation places importance on every activity aimed at the religious, social, and cultural development of society in our country and around the world, striving to be the key to doors of joy with the assistance provided on this path of goodness, towards achieving societal peace and harmony both domestically and globally.

2022 Worldwide

Furkan Terzi

Doctors Worldwide Turkey, Head of Programs and Operations

The COVID-19 pandemic that broke out in Wuhan in December 2019 spread rapidly around the world and had negative impacts on our lives. The World Health Organization declared the spread of the virus as a 'pandemic' on 11 March 2020. This date overlapped with the first cases recorded in Türkiye. This was the beginning of what felt like an everlasting disaster.

However, all sectors reverted to their old ways in 2022. The state of chaos caused by political crises, the global resource problem due to climate change, lack of food and water, issues surrounding access to health care and shelter became the center of discussion once again. The mandate to wear facial masks was lifted in Türkiye in March 2022 and the country entered a normalization process. We strived to work harder by recognizing our increased responsibilities brought about by the pandemic. NGOs and other actors took great responsibility to help those in need affected in different parts of the world.

As Doctors Worldwide Turkey, we continued to move forward within our areas of expertise in the wake of this unusual process in which we took more responsibility and meticulously carried out our activities in a way that pushed our limits. The most pressing natural disasters that occurred in 2022 were the Pakistan floods and

earthquake in Afghanistan. NGOs worked in the field to support those affected by these disasters, which reminded us that while we all wish for outbreaks, natural disasters



Photograph: AA, Özkan Bilgin

and crises caused by other conflicts to end, we should accept this reality and cooperate as much as possible. These situations make it clear that we need to take more responsibility as institutions and individuals.

As Doctors Worldwide Turkey, we provided health-related services to locals at our healthcare centers in Somalia, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Chad, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan and helped those in Niger, Ethiopia, Benin, Cameroon, India, Mali, Central African Republic, Pakistan, and Nigeria within the scope of our short-term activities.

With this, we started preparing for 2023. We continue to work on this endless path to reach more people from different parts of the world. We will work harder with an ideal of a better world in mind, where everyone has access to health services.



Increasing Humanitarian Crises and Approaches in 2022: How Just and Sustainable is the Humanitarian System?

Alper Küçük

Turkish Red Crescent, Director General of the International Affairs and Migration Services

We entered 2022 with the hope of leaving COVID-19 behind. Partially, we managed to overcome the acute phase. However, the global humanitarian crises and the number of people in need of humanitarian aid continued to increase.

The conflicts between Russia and Ukraine resulted in 14 million people seeking asylum in relatively safe areas within the country and many other countries, including Türkiye. The conflicts placed high on the global agenda as the biggest humanitarian crisis in Europe since WWII. This crisis not only affected the country and the region but also led to a global food and energy crisis. In addition to the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) and Türkiye's public and civil aid actors carrying out an effective and rapid humanitarian response in the field, Türkiye took a neutral position during the ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and created the Black Sea Grain Corridor, which

resulted in a historic success in humanitarian diplomacy that helped minimize the impacts of the global food crisis and allowed millions of people to access food.

The climate crisis, one of the most prominent issues in the world, caused a record level of natural disasters in 2022. These recurring and increasing natural disasters continued to cause loss of life and property, displace people, and interrupt their access to livelihoods. We have been reminded that the climate crisis does not have just one impact, but more generally, it is the biggest threat to the resources to sustain life. Regardless, we also continued to witness that the countries that were the least responsible for the climate crisis were the ones that suffered the most from its consequences. Severe floods in countries such as Pakistan and Nigeria, and drought, especially in the Horn of Africa, continued to trigger severe hunger crises and forced migrations.

The Ukraine crisis has revealed an injustice in the approaches toward migrants seeking someplace safe due to humanitarian crises. The fact and dilemma have come to hand that the world's extraordinary solidarity and support for the Ukraine crisis has not been the case for other crises. Global support for the Ukraine crisis is necessary and appreciated by all means. However, all of this has revealed that humanitarians have chosen a crisis over others. In fact, armed conflicts, climate-related disasters, and chronic crises in various regions, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Haiti, Congo, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Ethiopia, Niger, and many more, are at risk of being entirely or partially forgotten.

Humanitarian organizations have become the main actors in critical processes as a result of the chaotic environment of the world. The Turkish Red Crescent, whose primary purpose is to protect the most vulnerable people without discriminating, continues to bring hope to those in need in different regions.

Extending Türkiye's helping hand to 11 million people in 46 countries with the support of its donors, TRC ranked first globally among the national organizations within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in delivering aid to countries and people in need in 2022 thanks to the preparedness of its national and international capacity and its effective and rapid response to crises.

At least 339 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023, which means a 23% increase compared to 2022. The needs are increasing, but funding is not keeping up. On the contrary, the widening gap between the required and the available resources leaves humanitarian actors no choice but to manage with fewer resources in the face of crisis upon crisis each year.

"The international community should allocate more resources to humanitarian aid" is not a new statement. We can all agree that the resources are inadequate to prepare societies for crises and increase resilience; humanitarian financing is mostly allocated to post-crisis response, and if more resources were dedicated to preparedness, there would not be a need for such a resource for response. Crisis-based financing ties many humanitarian actors into knots in terms of sustainability.

To solve this issue, humanitarian actors focus on sustainable financing. They pattern themselves after TRC regarding funding it secures thanks to its innovative and powerful income-generating tools and the business models it develops. TRC Investment offers solution partnerships to the international humanitarian aid system with national and international business models in areas such as shelter, food, logistics, and health. TRC Investment contributes greatly to the sustainability of TRC's humanitarian action by financing it through all its profits.

While preserving its leading role in providing aid in global humanitarian crises, TRC prepares itself and humanitarian actors for increasingly challenging humanitarian conditions by implementing exemplary programs, creating business models, and developing international collaborations that create added value.

Fundamental Blocks of Change

Şemsi Kâmile Canbay

Turkish Red Crescent, Head of Governance Office

The Turkish Red Crescent carries out blood services and is present in the field in case of natural or human-related disasters. In addition, within the scope of preventive efforts against the devastating impacts of disasters, TRC supports the protection of people and nature, the fight against poverty, direct in-kind and in-cash aid to families and individuals in need, and accordingly, makes a significant contribution to the sustainability of life. We can include many sub-categories in terms of practice.

In this framework, TRC will make its practices more effective based on its new charter that has been in place since April 2022. We can categorize the most fundamental changes in the charter under three headings: (i) effective structuring, (ii) widespread structuring, and (iii) more comprehensive service. Basic duties (some of which were not stated in the previous charter but are now essential due to the function of TRC) are included in this charter. Highlights of the charter can be listed as follows: humanitarian diplomacy, using mass media, organizing campaigns, fundraising from natural persons, financial sustainability, microfinance and social enterprise support as an element of social empowerment, striving for a more livable environment, and preventing needs.

Working areas, currently implemented in compliance with the national and international legislation and within the framework of the TRC vision but not included in the previous charter, have also become official thanks to the new charter. The update highlights include the empowerment of vulnerable and disadvantaged people and social integration, contributing to national policy-making processes in social service and aid, organizing, coordinating, and implementing aid activities, conducting projects with stakeholders, supporting socioeconomic development, developing social aid models and programs, carrying out activities regarding asylum-seekers and refugees, contributing to sustainable development, preventing wastage, duties and data sharing regarding chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

The Headquarters Board of Directors has been assigned to prepare and put the vision and the strategic plan into effect.

The charter now includes the main points supporting organizational capacity. For example, members' participation in the decision-making process has been legitimized. Members "participate in the meetings and activities of the Turkish Red Crescent and the activities of the department for which they were elected, and express their thoughts and requests." The number of delegates at

the Headquarters General Board increased by increasing the rate of members elected as delegates. In addition, the way has been paved for TRC to become a widely esteemed civil movement by making it easier for regular volunteers and donors to become members upon their request. It has become obligatory to include women and young people in the membership of boards of directors.

Voluntary activities are another crucial matter. As a member of an international voluntary movement, TRC implements voluntary activities and services, which have been updated as its main duty in the new charter. The voluntary structure model established between 2019-2021 is significant because of its different structure that enables the social integration of disadvantaged groups by empowering them. For instance, the “TRC Barrier-Free,” consisting of disabled citizens, works for the benefit of society, not just for disabled people. Therefore, the model ensures that persons with disabilities are involved in a civil society movement of Türkiye and integrate into society.

As an important member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the most widespread humanitarian network in the world, the Turkish Red Crescent has initiated a radical change in terms of the branch structure following the adoption of the new charter. Provincial and district branches were previously structured independently. However, thanks to the establishment of a provincial center structure, these branches have been integrated, making it systematic and obligatory for them to work in coordination. Although there is more than one branch structure in the same province, all branches work for the benefit of that province and its people. The provincial center is not a hierarchical structure, and the provincial branches have

been transformed into provincial centers and have gained the leadership quality that will show a team spirit. District branches, neighborhood and village representatives, and volunteers are the members of this team in the province. Some of the leadership methods include meeting management, performance monitoring and supporting its capacity, conducting feasibility studies, ensuring effective communication, training, and development of the structures in the province. The provincial center also has other responsibilities, such as working based on a plan, ensuring the effective use of resources, implementing projects, ensuring the suitability and appropriateness of services, and being the main point of contact.

This critical transformation in branches will enable the creation of a local structure that is dynamic, effective, efficient, solid, problem-solver, supportive, fair, principled, and a pioneer in change. The building blocks provided by the new charter will lay the foundation for change in TRC.

Red Vest International Volunteer Awards

Nurdal Durmuş

Turkish Red Crescent, Director of Volunteer Management

Volunteering has been a significant factor in the development of social relations between people, the formation of standards of judgment, the increase of social awareness and entrepreneurship, and the resolution of problems. The concept of volunteering has managed to exist and develop within cultures throughout history. It interacts with many disciplines, such as civil society, public and private sector, media, universities, and sports, and continues to be one of the critical components in many fields. Especially in recent years, the need and expectation for the services of NGOs have increased due to humanitarian crises, wars, issues caused by migration and refugee mobility, pandemics, earthquakes, floods, fires, and action against global hunger. NGOs have limited financial capacity and need solid human resources to fight against increasing problems. Volunteer management and contribution are considered strategically critical to achieving their goals related to business and service production. At this point, all organizations aiming to increase social resilience rely on voluntary service. It is so challenging for us to carry out many basic services without the support and motivation of volunteers.

One of the seven fundamental principles of humanitarian action, “voluntary service,” signifies offering assistance without expecting anything in return and transforming talent into value without expecting any benefit, which indicates that volunteering is prompted by internal motivation. Volunteers help transform the world in many ways, including joining a national association, donating blood, distributing aid in the disaster field, or any other form of help. Voluntary services add value to life and improve common sense, conscience, and awareness of society.

In terms of civil society, when we look at the activities carried out by volunteers, we see that one of the most significant needs today is the motivation of volunteers and their promotion in organizations. Therefore, ensuring service continuity and motivating volunteers of all ages to enable them to make efficient and sustainable contributions to human resources are crucial elements of volunteer management. The main concerns of sustainable management are appreciating the volunteer, allowing them to see the effects and changes resulting from their activity, and developing motivational methods to keep their enthusiasm alive.



Red Vest International Volunteer Awards set off as a volunteer motivation project that demonstrated the leadership of the Turkish Red Crescent in volunteering, which has the largest volunteer human resource in Türkiye, has been carrying out all its activities with the support of volunteers for 154 years, and has inspired many generations.

In the ceremony of the first and most significant volunteer motivation project in Türkiye, individuals, institutions, NGOs, and the media, which inspire society with their activities and contribute to spreading and developing the culture of volunteering as a social value, were awarded. Accordingly, the International Red Vest Volunteer Awards are organized annually on a meaningful day, the International Volunteer Day, on December 5.

Based on the evaluations of the jury members, 35 individuals or organizations, that led to social change with their work, were entitled to receive awards out of the 270 candidates from 42 countries in 16 categories.

The jury consists of the President of the Turkish Red Crescent, Dr. Kerem Kınık; NTV Coordinator for International Relations and Foreign News, Ahmet Yeşiltepe; CNN Türk Ankara Representative, Dicle Canova; Director General of Youth Services of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Dr. Emre Topaloğlu; Psychiatrist Author, Prof. Dr. Kemal Sayar; TRT Director of Central News, Lamia Ayhan; Istanbul University Department of Sociology Faculty Member, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Murat Şentürk; Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers Türkiye, Nil Memişoğlu, and IFRC Türkiye

Head of Delegation Ruben Cano. The jury decided that the 2022 Volunteer Awards would be awarded to the following individuals, institutions and organizations:

- Halil Demir – Inspiring Volunteer
- Cemal Güdül – Inspiring Volunteer
- Namık Tuncel – Barrier-Free Volunteer
- Yunus Emre Güzel – Hero Volunteer in Disaster
- NTV – Media Volunteer (Digital Media)
- Hürriyet – Media Volunteer (Journal)
- Serpil Güzel Ün – Media Volunteer (Radio)
- Ceyda Düvenci – Art Volunteer
- Giovanni Guidetti – Sports Volunteer
- University of Health Sciences– University Volunteer
- Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) – Public Volunteer
- General Directorate of Forestry– Public Volunteer
- Turkish Airlines – Private Sector Volunteer
- Zorlu Holding – Private Sector Volunteer
- Borusan Holding – Private Sector Volunteer
- Çorbada Tuzun Olsun Foundation– Civil Society Volunteer
- Ahbap Volunteers– Civil Society Volunteer
- The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA)– Civil Society Volunteer
- The Educational Volunteers Foundation of Türkiye (TEGV) – Civil Society Volunteer
- Yusuf İslam – Inspiring Volunteer (International)
- Rogelio Mata Batista – International Kırmızı Aile (Red Family) Award
- Asghar Khan – International Kırmızı Aile (Red Family) Award
- Emre Bark – Jury’s Special Award
- Institute of Search, Rescue and Humanitarian Assistance of the Scouting and Guiding Federation of Türkiye– Turkish Red Crescent Special Award (Collaboration)
- Şenlendirme (Empowerment) Platform – Turkish Red Crescent Special Award (Project)
- Mehmet Levent Sürek – Stem Cell Donor
- IHH – Gönüllüye Vefa (Loyalty to the Volunteer) Award

The Red Vest International Volunteer Awards, organized on behalf of all the volunteers of the world by TRC, which shares the stories of volunteering with society, manages the motivation methods, and ensures the sustainability of volunteering in this context, will continue as long as there are vests worn by millions of volunteers around the world and their stories that transform for the benefit of society.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteer heroes of the world and wish them many years of work that will inspire future generations and hope that goodness has a place in all hearts and surrounds the world.

The New Locomotive of the Turkish Red Crescent: Kızılay 360³

Zeynep Meltem Özeker

Turkish Red Crescent, Director General of Community Relations

We worked hard to alleviate human suffering by providing essential humanitarian aid such as food, shelter, health, and nutrition in 2022. We moved forward according to the fundamentals of humanitarian action, not only in Türkiye but also across the world. We operated in volunteering, donations, and communication within the framework of community relations by following global advances.

Volunteers, by nature, are a community that is ready to act at all times. They must always be present in ordinary and extraordinary times. Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) has built a volunteer management system that has proven itself on an international scale, especially in Türkiye, with more than 245 thousand volunteers and 31.2 million hours of volunteer duty as of 2022. This system has become an exceptional volunteering model that has drawn the attention of public and civil society structures interested in volunteering. On our volunteer management system, *gonulluol.org*, we posted 26,100 volunteer duties, which shows an increase of 69.4% compared to the previous year. That is remarkable growth for just a two-year-old platform.

We keep strengthening the volunteer structures all over Türkiye. The Youth, Women, and Barrier-Free structures

have over 700 units in all provinces. In addition, TRC established 33 volunteer centers to increase young people's awareness and help them socialize. Moreover, more than 3,500 participants made use of TRC camps. In the coming year, we plan to spread TRC advocacy culture throughout the country with the cooperation we will develop with public institutions such as the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, or the private sector.

Our donation management activities improve each year in terms of ensuring the sustainability of organizational activities and strengthening finances. In 2022, philanthropists showed their trust in TRC. 90% increase in cash donations, 40% in in-kind, and 13% in real estate donations compared to 2021 points out to this trust. With the "Solidarity and Acknowledgment Program," we broke our record by receiving over 100 million pledges. We delivered these donations to those in need through our widespread branch organization.

Also, we continue to increase our donation revenue by carrying out corporate social responsibility activities in cooperation with the leading brands in Türkiye. We met the needs of the disaster victims, provided support to the



farmers, and signed funding agreements that improved blood and disaster capacity thanks to cooperation with global brands and organizations. Therefore, we contributed to the vision for an agile and sustainable TRC.

We considered the lessons learned in 2022, donor expectations, and our strategic goals. To enter 2023 stronger, we have initiated a holistic marketing approach and culture, experience-oriented relationship management, marketing automation, donor portfolio management, regular SMS systems, and “Zakat” projects. We will keep going with the help of solid structures and qualified human resources in the coming year.

We integrate all the activities we have mentioned with our strategic communication vision. Based on the collective multiplier effect of communication, donation, and volunteering, which is called “Kızılay 360³,” we build the communication aspect of our activities in each field by adopting a holistic vision. We make other service areas of TRC a member of this integrated communication structure.

Founded 154 years ago and working to relieve human suffering and protect human dignity, TRC is an organization for communities and society. Our priority will be to build a communication structure that will add to the collective spirit of modern times by including micro-communities in solidarity. Thus, we aim to adopt an image supported by the power of communities. Within the framework of this goal, we will employ innovative technological methods.

As a consequence of this new vision, TRC aims to continue operating in an improved way to ensure well-being and a safe life for everyone in 2023. We wish to create motion and turn into a locomotive of TRC by persistently and devotedly practicing our Kızılay 360³ vision in line with the TRC 2030 strategic vision. We present our great efforts to the 100th year of the republic.

The Power of Solidarity in Disaster Management

İbrahim Özer

Turkish Red Crescent, Director General of Disaster Management and Climate Change

As a result of the increase in economic, sociological, environmental, and physical vulnerabilities in today's world, disasters have started to occur more frequently, especially in developing countries. Due to many various types of disasters, it can be seen that both the death toll and the number of people affected are high in Türkiye.

Given the nature of disasters and their long-term effects on people, one thing is certain: the cooperation of all segments of society can help minimize damages. Individuals and the private sector also have crucial roles in disaster preparedness, as well as institutions and organizations.

The Turkish Red Crescent has set the course for disasters as “concentrating on risk reduction studies and building a disaster-resilient society.” It is not achievable to eliminate all the impacts of a disaster. However, we can reduce them with the help of disaster management strategies, joint implementations, knowledge and experience, preparedness plans, and efforts to increase social resilience.

With the new organizational structure for disaster management, which has been in place since 2022, activities

are carried out in the context of risk reduction and preparedness, effective and timely response, and recovery. The goal is to make society resilient and prepared for disasters by conducting all processes of disasters in close coordination with internal and external stakeholders. Based on this approach, TRC has moved into the Community-Based Integrated Disaster Management System within the scope of the *2021-2030 Strategic Plan*.

With the adoption of the *Sendai Framework for Risk Reduction* in 2015 in Japan, which is valid between 2015 and 2030, the goal is to achieve the following: “substantially reduce the disaster risk and the loss of safety, livelihood, health and economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of individuals, businesses, communities, and countries due to disasters.” To increase social disaster resilience and raise awareness about the correct behavior in disasters, we provide Disasters and Disaster Prevention Awareness Training Programs and develop projects on “investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience,” which is one of the priorities for action within the scope of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster*

Risk Reduction. In this context, we try to extend awareness of disaster resilience by signing cooperation protocols with various institutions, organizations, the private sector, and NGOs.

TRC makes necessary contributions to the Türkiye Post-Disaster Recovery Plan (TASIP) prepared by the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and to one of the priorities for action within the scope of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is “enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to ‘Building Back Better’ in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.”

TRC Disaster Response Plan (KAMP), which coordinates and mobilizes all TRC departments with the same reflex, has been established to carry out disaster response as per international standards. Thanks to this plan, all structures of TRC were transformed so that they would take part in their fields in case of a disaster.

“Disaster Coordination Teams (AKT),” defined as special pioneering units within the General Directorate of Disaster Management and Climate Change, were selected from well-equipped personnel that arrive in the field very quickly and control the field immediately in case of a disaster. To provide qualified support to search and rescue operations, we formed a light urban search and rescue team (KIZILAY-SAR) and brought the accreditation process to completion after the training provided by AFAD.



Based on the Nutrition Strategic Plan (BSP), activities were completed in 81 provinces to identify the existing potential and resources at the local level and to coordinate the response action with the local capacities. An accreditation document on nutrition was prepared and published within the scope of the Regulation on the Determination of Service Standards and Accreditation Principles for Disasters and Emergencies.

In the context of innovation activities, efforts continue to establish a decision support system that optimizes personnel, equipment, and workforce in disasters and records all processes in disaster response. TRC aims to have a systematic structure that contains the mobility of all its elements within the scope of disaster preparedness and response with the help of this AI-based decision support mechanism called “KAYS.”

Since AFAD declared 2022 as the “Disaster Exercise Year,” TRC conducted 15 internal disaster exercises and participated in 230 external and 12 “Civil-Military Cooperation” exercises.

Considering the disasters that occurred in Türkiye in 2022, we can observe the impacts of climate change, which has come into the picture due to global warming. We frequently experienced disasters such as heavy snowfall, floods/floodings, and fires in 2022. A total of 272 disaster and emergency response activities were carried out against these natural and human-related disasters. Within the framework of the response action, TRC has been operating in many areas, particularly nutrition, of which it is the main solution partner, out of the working groups in the *Türkiye's Disaster Response Plan*. As a result of these efforts, we reached 678,725 people. The number of people reached by disaster type is presented in detail in the table below:

Type	Disaster(s)	People Reached
Search and Rescue Operations	13	27,197
Heavy Snowfalls	157	355,206
Earthquake	4	29,320
Landslide	3	1,100
Urban/ Forest Fires	45	37,402
Chemical, Biological, Nuclear Accidents	1	550
Mining Accidents	1	4,000
Industrial Accidents	2	250
Wars/Mobilizations	1	19,500
Flood/Floodings	37	197,761
Terrorist Incidents	1	1,000
Transport Accidents	7	5,439
Total	272	678,725

Response, recovery, nutrition, humanitarian aid, reporting, observation, and research activities were carried out in 157 heavy snowfalls, especially in Istanbul

and Bolu, with the help of 2,477 personnel and volunteers. Thirty-seven floods/floodings occurred in 2022, especially in Kastamonu, Bartın, and Bolu, and nutrition, humanitarian aid, and psychosocial services were provided to people affected and personnel responding. As a result of the services, 197,761 people were reached. The number of personnel and volunteers assigned by disaster type is presented in detail in the table below:

Type	Personnel	Volunteer(s)
Search and Rescue Operations	56	32
Heavy Snowfalls	1,176	1,301
Earthquake	143	466
Landslide	10	2
Urban/ Forest Fires	200	378
Chemical, Biological, Nuclear Accidents	3	1
Mining Accidents	55	55
Industrial Accidents	4	7
Wars/Mobilizations	6	30
Flood/Floodings	261	309
Terrorist Incidents	37	49
Transport Accidents	31	30
Total	1,982	2,660

We aim to reach all segments of society to raise people's awareness of disasters through knowledge, innovation, and education. Reducing the possible effects of disasters will only be possible through successful disaster risk management and increasing social resilience against disasters.

Humanitarian Workers

Nurettin Hafızoğlu

Turkish Red Crescent, Director General for Support Services

According to the *United Nations Global Humanitarian Overview*, while the number of people who need humanitarian aid and protection was 235 million in 2021, this number will reach 274 million by the end of 2022. According to the *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report by the United Nations*, 690 million people do not have sufficient access to food during the day, and it is estimated that more than 840 million people will face hunger by 2030.

Due to the wars, disasters, poverty, refugee crises, crises and outbreaks caused by climate change, and international terrorism in recent years, the world needs humanitarian organizations and humanitarian workers more and more every day.

Today, the demand for calls for aid is increasing exponentially, and tens of thousands of international aid workers are assigned by many humanitarian organizations each year in these crises and disasters occurring in various parts of the world.

Humanitarian workers assigned within the scope of humanitarian aid activities generally work in harsh conditions and dangerous environments. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 460 humanitarian workers were attacked in 2021, 140 of them lost their lives, 230 were injured, and 117 were abducted.

The humanitarian aid environments and the harsh working conditions cause aid workers to face traumatic events and violence, affecting them both physically and psychologically due to the risky environment in which they work, making them vulnerable to negative consequences.

Therefore, it is essential to develop preventive measures and strategies to protect the well-being of the increasing workforce, especially the safety, health, and working conditions, and to increase their motivation.

As the Turkish Red Crescent, we carry out all our activities based on the innovative business model we have developed in line with the *2021-2030 Strategic Plan* by adopting a sustainability approach with consideration for our employees and social and environmental responsibilities.

In line with this vision for the future, we have been operating successfully in many countries that adopt different business models, and we have been expanding our sphere of influence day by day. Based on the idea of creating shared value while implementing our works and projects, we cooperate with our stakeholders all around the world to meet the needs of society and achieve global sustainable development goals.

As a humanitarian organization, we are one of the most important humanitarian and development actors on an international scale, providing emergency aid to people in need in cases of human-related crises, natural disasters, armed conflicts, and other emergencies, as well as social welfare activities at home and abroad.

As the Turkish Red Crescent, we develop human resources practices that support our employees to achieve a high quality of life in addition to making their high performance and continuous development sustainable by offering them a happy, safe, and motivating work environment at the office and in the field.

The relevant structures of the organization take necessary action before, during, and after the task to protect the safety, health, physical and psychological well-being of humanitarian workers, especially the ones in the field, and to increase their motivation to ensure that they do not face any preventable risk and can work in a healthy and safe environment.

Personnel to be assigned in the field are primarily selected among those who are suitable for the task in terms of competence and qualifications. Before the assignment, humanitarian workers, who will work under difficult and dangerous conditions, undergo medical screening, and their suitability for the task is assessed. Employees deemed fit for the job are vaccinated against epidemics and pandemics and followed up.

In terms of ensuring safety, the personnel are informed about the possible dangers and risks, as well as the things worth noting regarding the task and the field where they will be located. They are provided with security training by professional organizations as well.

The aid workers in the field develop certain skills and competencies as a result of working together in many countries with the employees of long-established and leading organizations such as the IFRC. These skills include gaining and transferring experience, gaining a visionary perspective, seeing and applying current practices on the spot, agility, multiple leadership, self-expression and self-actualization.

Moreover, aid workers in the field provide mentorship to spread their experiences throughout the organization, which is taken into consideration in terms of career development due to its contribution to the development of field workers and affects future actions within the scope of “Career and Talent Management.” Furthermore, the “Appreciation and Recognition Program” is carried out to increase motivation.

In conclusion, calls for aid have increased globally due to wars, conflicts, disasters, famine, and other disasters and will continue to increase exponentially. As a result, the need for humanitarian organizations and workers will rise. Therefore, organizations need to develop new business models regarding systematic, technological, and structural aspects. Since the first day, the Turkish Red Crescent has been attaching importance to continuous development and introducing new business models.

We wish to continue to work with a workforce that embraces the organizational culture and values that contribute to the future of the Turkish Red Crescent, is open to change and development, focused on progress, which exhibits a strong and effective leadership in every field, uses its resources and time effectively and efficiently, has a high social responsibility awareness and reflects the spirit of a Turkish Red Crescent advocate.

Reflections of the Pandemic in Blood Services

Saim Kerman

Dr., Turkish Red Crescent

Many disciplines work together in natural disasters occurring in the world. While some activities and duties are interrupted during and after the disaster, all structures related to human health continue to work without a break. The COVID-19 crisis has made the health sector the center of all the other industries. In this context, the Turkish Red Crescent General Directorate of Blood Services, which has been operating to meet the blood needs of the country for 66 years, acted in the way the pandemic entailed by working quickly and in coordination.

In addition to being a supporter of the breakthroughs made by a developing country, the Turkish Red Crescent was also present in all areas of humanitarian action that brought many stakeholders together. It was decided to establish a blood aid organization to support the health systems on the suggestion of the then Chairman, Nihat Reşat Belger at the Red Crescent Congress in 1953 out of consideration of TRC's solid institutional structure. In line with the studies initiated following this decision and the opinions of the experts sent to the UK and the US on blood transfusion, TRC started blood banking services at two blood centers that opened simultaneously in 1957. Today, it has transformed into a large organization that can meet the blood component

needs of 1,142 hospitals thanks to eighteen regional blood centers, 69 blood donation centers, four central laboratories, and 4,006 expert personnel. It has become a significant part of the treatment process thanks to its effective blood stocks management carried out not only for routine blood needs but also for unexpected situations such as natural disasters and acts of terrorism in various regions of the country.

The efforts were directed at returning life to normal by providing people of the regions affected by natural and human-related disasters within a certain period. However, as of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic broke the routines of preventive and curative medicine. Despite being up to date on the studies regarding the rapid spread of the outbreak and its treatment, the reflex of Türkiye's health system on this issue could be monitored after the first case in Turkey in March 2020.

Upon the first statement made by the Ministry of Health, the Red Crescent Crisis Board convened and discussed the measures and actions to be taken in all fields of activity of the organization. The preventive measures listed in the document titled "Measures to be Taken at Blood Centers," prepared in line with the recommendations of

the COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Board, were quickly implemented. The necessary arrangements were urgently initiated in the blood service units and blood donation areas to meet the ongoing need for blood during the pandemic. The number of beds in the donation halls has been reduced, and protective clothing for the personnel and masks for our donors have been made mandatory.

Convalescent plasma, to be obtained from the blood of individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 disease, has taken its place in practice in many countries, upon the recommendation of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). As for Turkey, The Ministry of Health has decided to include convalescent plasma therapy in COVID-19 treatment as of 1 April 2020 and authorized us in this regard. We opened 12 Convalescent Plasma Donation Centers in cities with a high case rate announced by the Ministry. We formed teams to work at these centers and communicate with recovered patients. We improved the information management systems we use for blood donor recruitment regarding obtaining convalescent plasma components and all process steps. We prepared informative documents containing workflows for all personnel who will take part in the process.

The press and social media heavily covered the working conditions and the ongoing need for blood. At these difficult times, our blood donors did not withdraw their support for the patients since people who have compulsory blood appointments were exempted from lockdown restrictions. In this context, the Online Blood Appointment System software has been brought into service immediately to ensure safe transportation in case of lockdown and to reduce the waiting times of our donors who want to donate whole blood, plateletpheresis, and convalescent plasma. Our donor and donor candidates were able to make an appointment on the date, day, and time they wanted at the nearest blood

donation point via the official website or call center. One of the contributions of the pandemic to our institutional structure, the Online Blood Appointment System, has been integrated into the blood donation app, expanding the access preferences to be used by our donors. They were able to arrive at the blood donation areas by showing the text message, which they got after they made an appointment, to the security forces, even during the lockdown hours. When the need for the convalescent plasma components used in the course of the severe COVID-19 was increasing, we increased the number of people and regions to interact with by searching for recovered patients in coordination with the teams working at the Provincial Directorates of Health upon the assignment of the Ministry of Health. The application to record the interactions throughout the country was made available to the personnel assigned in the Provincial Directorates of Health, and these records could be monitored from a single point. The number of Convalescent Plasma Donation Centers was raised to 42 to provide more opportunities for donor candidates who were contacted and agreed to donate convalescent plasma. 661 hospitals used convalescent plasma components, and 120,174 units reached patients.

In conclusion, although the number of blood donations decreased by 14% in 2020, the rate of meeting the country's blood needs did not change due to the postponement of elective surgeries by the Ministry, the use of an online appointment system in case of lockdown, and the use of components in the existing TRC stocks. During this unexpected and unpredictable pandemic, we succeeded thanks to the agile governance of our blood services, the outstanding efforts of our teams, and the dedication of our biggest supporters, our blood donors.

The 2022 Logbook of the Turkish Red Crescent Academy

Alpaslan Durmuş

President of the Turkish Red Crescent Academy

As the education, research, and publication department of the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), TRC Academy operates in disaster, migration, social service, volunteering, international aid, humanitarian law, public health, and so on. Turkish Red Crescent Academy favors the unity of theory and practice in “humanitarian action,” which it sees as a framework concept that “covers all fields of activity aimed at alleviating suffering and protecting dignity.”

TRC Academy aims to produce information for all humanitarian stakeholders, especially TRC advocates, relevant NGOs, and public institutions, and to make this information available to those concerned. TRC Academy has introduced its principles for education and research studies by sharing its “Education Policy” and “Scientific Research and Publication Policy” with the public.

In 2022, as the TRC Academy, we were in close relation with the main actors in our field of operation, which are universities, think tanks, educational institutions, TRC branches, NGOs, United Nations agencies, members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international humanitarian organizations, volunteers, teachers, researchers, and students. In addition, we

diversified and improved our educational activities, increased the quality and quantity of our academic studies, institutionalized our publications, and carried our activities to an international level.

Within the scope of our face-to-face and online training activities establishing interaction between programs, materials, trainers, and learners, we continued our efforts for different segments of society thanks to 19 newly developed training programs and 18 updated training modules. In this context, we reached 578,947 people through our trainers and the distance learning system in 2022.

Aiming to provide education to all segments of society through its distance learning system, the TRC Academy has been offering educational content for different social groups. Thanks to our efforts for distance learning, we have promoted the knowledge of our volunteers and colleagues in humanitarian aid. In addition, we have ensured that the relevant people benefit from our training activities in cooperation with various institutions.

The academic studies carried out by the TRC Academy can be listed as follows: Independent research projects,

research collaborations with institutions, academic events, researcher support programs, academic publishing, and building a research network. In this context, we formed new project collaborations while contributing to the implementation process of 2 TÜBİTAK projects (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye) on disasters in 2022. In addition, we built project consortiums to submit to various international calls for projects, especially Horizon Europe and Erasmus. Thanks to the funding we received within the context of the Vocational Education Mobility Accreditation, our colleagues attended international training programs to increase their professional knowledge, skills, and competence.

In cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent Culture and Arts Publishing House, we conducted the publishing process of 15 works, consisting of copyrights and translations, in various genres, from research/analysis, biography, and oral history, to memoirs, documents, narratives, and art. These works are available in print and digital format. In addition to the *TRC Journal of Humanitarian Action* and the *TRC Journal of Medicine*, we made *Hilal-i Ahmer (TRC) Periodicals*, congress proceedings, research reports, and facsimiles available to readers and researchers.

As the TRC Academy, we maintain active and sustainable research collaborations by building research consortiums with universities and think tanks to share TRC's knowledge with the academia. Within the scope of researcher support programs, we provide content support to researchers who request data and field access support from TRC. We also carry out networking activities among researchers working in similar fields. As part of support

for academic activities, we provided data and field access support to 40 researchers, including postgraduate studies. We held search conferences and acquaintance workshops to strengthen the relationship and cooperation between humanitarian researchers. We also ensured that the TRC staff attended the courses of the postgraduate programs on humanitarian aid, disaster, migration, and social services as guest lecturers and guest speakers, and we organized field visits for students enrolled in these programs.

We joined the steering committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Research Consortium (RC3), so we took our international partnerships to a new level. This development, which institutionalizes our relationship with the research structures within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, aligns with our goal of laying out our education and research agenda per the international agenda.

TRC Academy organizes national and international congresses, symposiums, and workshops and attends events organized by different institutions to contribute to the academic literature on humanitarian studies, establish an agenda, and advocate. Aside from the International Disaster and Humanitarian Aid Logistics Congress, the 2nd International Mineral Water Congress, and the 4th International Disasters and Resilience Congresses, of which we are the main stakeholder, we also contributed to the International Public Health Congress. In addition, we contributed to the academic discussions at these events by encouraging our colleagues to participate in these congresses. We organized the “Provincial Centers Convention” and the “Branch Personnel Training Program and Training Skills Update Workshop” to discuss strategies and policies developed within the framework of the TRC Strategy 2030, and in turn, we improved our interaction

with our branches, which is our greatest strength in spreading our activities to the entire society. With the participation of international actors, we organized search conferences on zakat, which is a significant resource in humanitarian aid financing. We also coordinated the work of the TRC Zakat Advisory Board, which will provide consultancy to TRC and relevant humanitarian aid actors.

In 2023, we aim to increase our cooperation in education, research, and publication at local, national, and international levels. We will add new training content and training programs to our distance learning platform and implement these programs in cooperation with our branches and other NGOs. We will continue to contribute to academic activities in humanitarian action and national and international workshops and symposiums.

As the TRC Academy, we have made a good-intentioned team. Together with all our stakeholders, we continue to develop and diversify our education, research, and publication activities in line with the principle of resilient individuals and resilient society in the face of disasters.



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