

BTF TÜRKİYE EARTHQUAKES RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND

DONOR IMPACT REPORT



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Dear Bridge to Türkiye Community,

A year ago, 11 provinces in the southeastern region of Türkiye and an adjoining area of Syria were devastated by earthquakes that took an estimated 60,000 lives. Some 1.5 million people were made homeless in what has been described as one of the deadliest natural disasters in modern-day history.

In response, individuals and organizations around the world rallied in sympathy and support for those affected, providing immediate assistance in the form of food, water, and shelter through monetary and in-kind donations that proved invaluable in saving lives and sustaining the many in need. You, our generous supporters, were among them. Over the last year, you entrusted our charity, Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF), to convey support to individuals and institutions in the affected areas. In collaboration with dedicated field partners and courageous local volunteers on the ground, BTF was able to get relief to thousands quickly, and also to begin the difficult work of rebuilding people's lives and livelihoods.

On this one-year anniversary of this great tragedy, we want to convey to you our sincere appreciation for your generosity, and let you know how your contribution has been put to use. This report details BTF's earthquake relief, recovery, and rebuilding activities in the area, mobilizing over \$13 million in global funds. We hope it will, in some measure, show you the impact your donation has had and how important your thoughtfulness was in the recovery thus far.

While it will be many, many years before the people of the region return to a semblance of normality, and there will be a need for ongoing support, know that BTF is committed to helping everyone who suffered so much but one year ago.

On behalf of all those people, we thank you for your trusted support most sincerely.



Ela Eskinazi
Chair



Emin Pamucak
President

WHO WE ARE

At Bridge to Türkiye Fund, we connect grassroots communities around the world for a brighter Türkiye—transforming goodwill into impactful programs that improve lives.

A culture of giving and civic involvement is a part of our heritage. Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF) was founded in 2003 by a few like-minded Turkish-Americans and friends of Türkiye with the simple desire to *give back*.

BTF is founded on citizen-based, democratic and secular principles and encourages all to contribute to the educational welfare of less fortunate children in Türkiye.

Based in the Triangle area of North Carolina, BTF grew all across the US over two decades through more than 20 regional giving circles, and today has individual donors and supporting communities in all parts of the globe.

Our focus areas are:

- Enabling equality and equity in education
- Improving physical and mental health with an emphasis on future generations
- Disaster relief, recovery and resilience

Our simple and shared vision is to unite people and give back as a community. It is an organized attempt to leverage individual diaspora resources who believe in the power of investing together for education and building better futures for disadvantaged youth in Türkiye.

BTF maintains a portfolio of carefully vetted Turkish NGOs and localized projects to accomplish its mission. This makes it possible for BTF's donors to support great causes simply and safely from abroad.



IMPACT SUMMARY

TOTAL IMPACT

5.04M PEOPLE

across 11 earthquake-affected provinces in Türkiye

TOTAL COMMITTED

\$11.8 MILLION

in global funds from the US and 91 other countries

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Total commitment: **\$2,610,174**
Total impact: **884,622** people

Together with Ahabap, American Turkish Association of North Carolina, Bütün Çocuklar Bizim, Lokman Hekim Healthcare Association, METU Alumni Association, Needs Map, TOKTUT, Topraktan Tabaga and WTECH:

- Provided immediate warmth and shelter options through tents, container homes, clothing, blankets and sleeping bags
- Distributed food packages and daily hot meals through field kitchens set up by our partners
- Enabled access to safe drinking water and sanitation through water filters and dispensers, mobile toilets and hygiene packages
- Set up container classrooms for K-12 students



CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

Total commitment: **\$641,400**
Total impact: **42,320** people

Together with Bütün Çocuklar Bizim Association, TOKTUT, Nesin Foundation, KAÇUV, Pusulam Kitap, Turkish Down Syndrome Association, TÜKD, ALIKEV, Paratlı Association, Kanserle Dans, ODD, UCİM, SAHA, DADer, BİRİZ:

- Provided laptops, tablets and learning gadgets to 320 children and students.
- Set up container classrooms and more than 20 libraries in Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye, Hatay, Adıyaman, Şanlıurfa and Malatya.
- Delivered 113 BTF4Kids educational kits and more than 2,000 schoolbags to thousands of students across the earthquake region.
- Built 2 robotic coding labs for children.
- Provided safe drinking water through filters and dispensers for over 20,000 children in schools.



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Total commitment: **\$667,387**
Total impact: **29,310** people

Together with Nesin Foundation, Tohum Autism Foundation, Turkish Spastic Children's Foundation, Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG), UCİM, WTECH, TARDE, Habitat Association, and Turkish Down Syndrome Association:

- Funded educational and psychosocial support activities in container rehabilitation centers to over 16,000 individuals.
- Provided career development coaching and training to 3,000 youths in Malatya.
- Helped organize a long term comprehensive mobile workshop benefiting 10,000 children and youth.



HEALTHCARE

Total commitment: **\$2,472,698**
Total impact: **3,762,690** people

Together with **Çukurova University Child Wellness Center, Diabetic Children's Foundation, ATA - Charlotte Community, Turkish Kidney Association, and Hatay Arsuz State Hospital:**

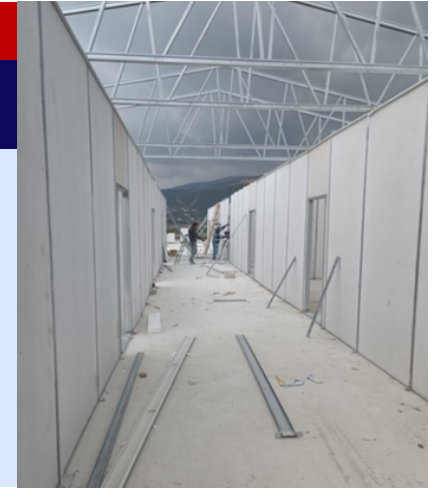
- Provided blood glucose strips for six months to 320 children with diabetes who were affected by the earthquake.
- Purchased 4 dialysis machines for the local dialysis center in Kahramanmaraş, serving more than 175,000 people over a period of 7 years.
- Contributed to the purchasing of medical equipment including surgical machinery and electrocardiogram (ECG) machines, which will serve over 3.5 million people over a period of 7 years.
- Supported medical and educational requirements of 150 amputee children who have faced limb loss after the earthquakes.

**SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION**

Total commitment: **\$2,591,785**
Total impact: **300,000** students

Together with **Çocuklar Gülsün Diye Association, Ahbap Association and Eymir Cultural Foundation (ECF):**

- Built 6 kindergartens in Kahramanmaraş, Adiyaman, Osmaniye, Hatay, Elazığ and Malatya which will serve 800 children yearly.
- Built 4 primary and secondary school buildings in Hatay, Gaziantep and Adiyaman which will serve over 4,900 students yearly.
- Currently helping re-build Iskenderun Technical University's destroyed higher education campus, which will serve 2,000 students yearly.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Total commitment: **\$1,174,889**
Total impact: **2,428** students

Together with **Turkish Education Association (TED), Nesin Foundation, Ahbap, KAÇUV, TÜKD, İYTEV, ODTÜMİST, Bütün Çocuklar Bizim, Payda, KAHEV, ALİKEV, Buradayız Hatay Association, Turkish Education Foundation (TEV) and Eşit Gelecek Association:**

- Providing annual scholarships to 1,214 earthquake-impacted students over a period of 2 years.

**PERMANENT HOUSING**

Total commitment: **\$1,605,040**
Total impact: **175** people

Together with **Ahbap** and also through **BTF Direct:**

- Built 27 units of earthquake-resistant, steel frame housing with **Ahbap** in Nurdağı, Gaziantep, for 30 families that were left homeless after the earthquakes.
- Built a further 3 houses in Nurdağı, Gaziantep with the leadership of our Giving Circles, through **BTF Direct**.



BACKGROUND

In the early hours of February 6, 2023, Türkiye was struck by a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake at 4:17 AM, with its epicenter in the south eastern province of Kahramanmaraş. Roughly nine hours later, a second quake with a magnitude of 7.6 struck about 59 miles (95 kilometers) southwest of the first tremor's epicenter. **The initial earthquake was the most severe Türkiye had faced in decades**, matching the intensity of the nation's strongest recorded earthquake in 1939. The twin earthquakes caused widespread devastation across 11 Turkish provinces — Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Kilis, Hatay, Malatya, Diyarbakır, Adana, Osmaniye, Kahramanmaraş, Şanlıurfa, and Elazığ. The impact extended also to bordering Syria and Iraq, and neighboring Lebanon.



1ST EARTHQUAKE
4:17 AM



7.7

2ND EARTHQUAKE
1:24 PM



7.6



AFFECTED POPULATION

14
MILLION

The earthquakes wrought large-scale destruction, affecting around 14 million people – **approximately 16% of Turkey's population**– while injuring more than 100,000, and claiming over 50,000 lives, according to official figures. The extent of fatalities and devastation marks it as the deadliest earthquake in modern Turkish history. The World Bank's Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation (GRADE) report has estimated the physical damage at \$34.2 billion, ranking it as the fourth costliest earthquake globally. The costs for recovery and reconstruction are expected to double the initial damages.

HOW WE TOOK ACTION

Thanks to the swift and coordinated response of Bridge to Türkiye Fund's extensive community of volunteers throughout the United States and Türkiye, we were immediately able to establish contact with our volunteers on the ground. The prompt flow of information enabled us to kickstart our relief efforts within mere minutes after the earthquake struck. Close communication with our network of volunteers who were locally present allowed for a healthy preliminary assessment of the situation, ensuring a rapid and relevant response to the urgent needs of those affected by the disaster.



OUR STRATEGY



Connecting and mobilizing **grassroots communities** to raise emergency funds, and locate potential partners and stakeholders.



Teaming up with leading local NGOs present on the ground.



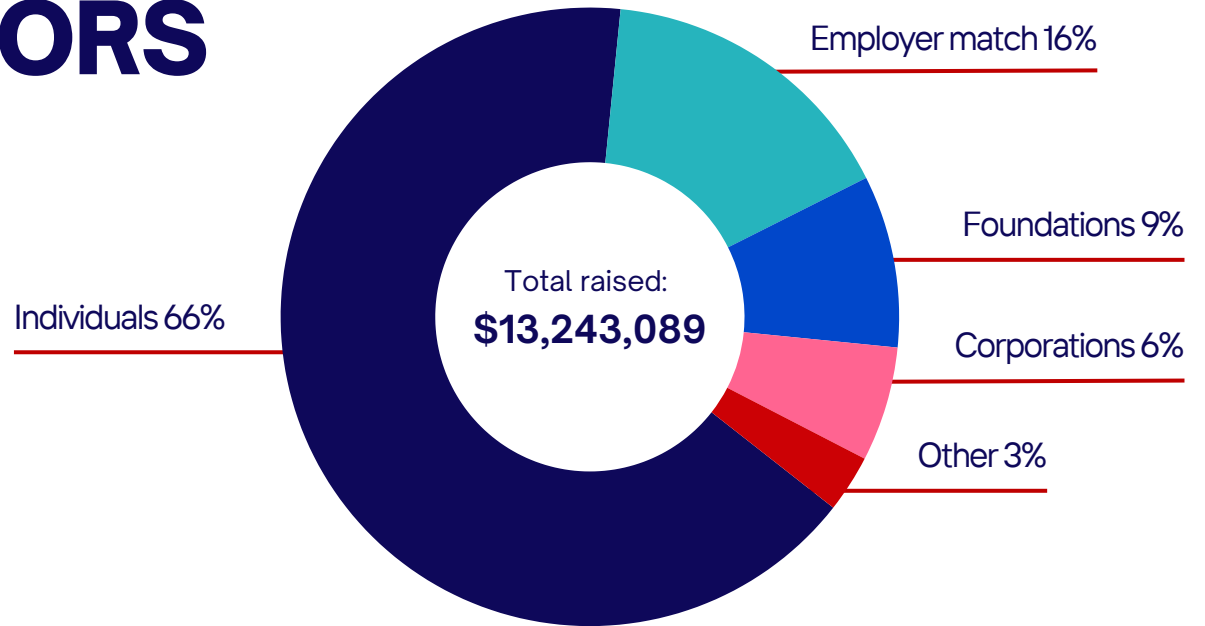
Maintaining an **equal opportunities** focus, specifically concentrating on the welfare of children and vulnerable groups.



Carefully vetting every partner organization to which we transfer funds, and pursuing a strong commitment to **transparency** to ensure 100% of our community's donations reach disaster survivors with no overhead costs.

OUR DONORS

Our Türkiye Earthquakes Fund, combined with donations from diverse sources, successfully raised over **\$13 million** – a remarkable achievement made possible by the overwhelming support of our deeply connected community. This substantial sum is a testament to the generosity and solidarity of our donors, including individuals, foundations and corporations. A significant portion of these funds was amplified through **corporate donation matching** programs.



BTF AROUND THE WORLD

Our donor community lives in Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, and Vietnam. **That adds up to nearly half of all countries around the globe!**



BTF DONORS AROUND THE WORLD

92 countries
6 continents

GRASSROOTS ACTION



Pianist and **Apricot Music & Art** Founder **Ayşe Taşpınar Gatenyo**, together with **Dr. Noreen Green** and her choir, performed on 28 March 2023 at a benefit concert dedicated to supporting the Child Amputees of Türkiye Earthquakes (CATE) project.



In March 2023, 17 **Chinese associations in North and South Carolina** raised over **\$24,000** to help earthquake victims through **BTF**. The delegations were hosted at the Sancar Turkish Cultural and Community Center jointly by Feyza Barutçu Altuğ, Consul General of Türkiye to Miami.



BTF San Diego Circle organized the Sounds of Türkiye and the Global Garden concert on 6 January 2024, featuring Burcu Güleç, Chase Morrin, Naseem Alatrash and George Lennis. The \$15,000 raised by this concert directly benefited the Child Amputees of Türkiye Earthquakes (CATE) project.



American Turkish Association of Washington D.C. (ATA-DC) organized a concert for the Child Amputees of Türkiye Earthquakes (CATE) project on 24 November 2023, featuring popular Turkish rock band maNga. The event successfully raised \$20,000 for CATE.



BTF New York Circle organized two ping-pong events to raise funds for the Child Amputees of Türkiye Earthquakes (CATE) project in April and October 2023. Both events were very popular among locals, and were able to successfully raise over \$23,000 to support amputee children with prosthetic limbs and educational scholarships.

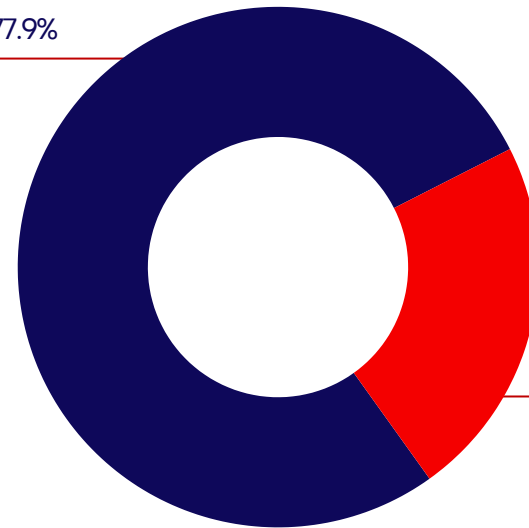


EMERGENCY PHASE

On February 6, 2023, BTF mobilized an immediate grassroots emergency response to help alleviate the devastation in the aftermath of the twin earthquakes. Joining on-ground efforts from afar, we worked hand in hand with our supporters, leaders and carefully vetted partners to formulate a plan integrating two main transformative phases. The initial Emergency phase focused on nutrition and warmth, supplying much needed hot meals, tents, container homes, portable sanitation facilities, water tanks, generators, and stoves, while the Recovery phase maintained a longer term focus to support rebuilding efforts in the earthquake-affected cities.

Recovery 77.9%

\$9,224,257



Emergency 22.1%

\$2,610,174

TOTAL COMMITTED

\$2.61
million

TOTAL IMPACT

884,622
people



RECOVERY PHASE

Two months after the earthquakes, BTF shifted its focus to the Recovery phase, channeling resources and efforts towards more enduring and sustainable solutions for rebuilding the earthquake-stricken communities. Our work during this phase spans several critical areas:

EDUCATION



We are committed to educational recovery, providing scholarships and rebuilding destroyed school facilities to ensure uninterrupted learning for children and youth.

HOUSING



Acknowledging the urgent need for secure living conditions, our projects include constructing permanent homes, essential for the long-term stability and rebuilding of communities.

CHILDREN'S WELLBEING



Focused on the physical and emotional health of children, we're implementing programs with our local partners aimed at promoting children's overall wellbeing and creating a nurturing environment for their development.

HEALTHCARE



A key component of our healthcare investments is providing prostheses and educational support to child amputee survivors of the earthquakes through Project CATE. This crucial support not only aids in children's physical rehabilitation but also plays a significant role in their psychological recovery and reintegration into daily life.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



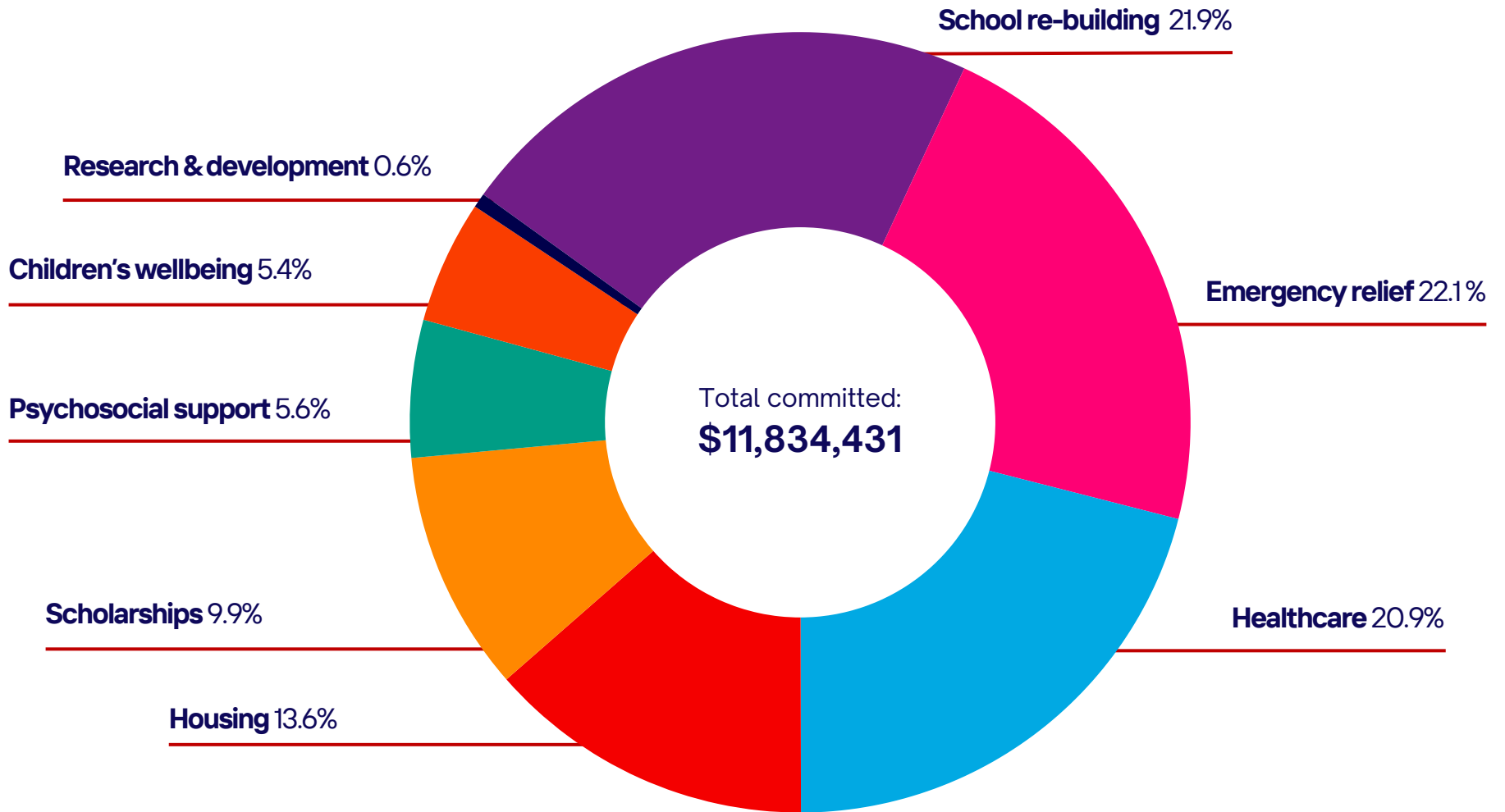
Recognizing the deep emotional scars left by the earthquakes, the psychosocial support projects we execute with our partners are tailored to help individuals, especially children, cope with trauma and regain a sense of normalcy and security, and develop essential skills to become self-sufficient individuals in the future.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



Through our DRIP project with NVIDIA, we support scientific research programs in universities based in Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir, aiming to develop artificial intelligence-based technologies for disaster preparedness. We have also teamed up with METU Faculty of Architecture for the 3D documentation of Hatay's collapsed historical buildings.

COMMITMENTS BY CATEGORY



SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that over 4 million students had their education disrupted due to widespread devastation after Türkiye's February 6 earthquakes. Around 254,000 students affected by the earthquakes have been forced to resume their studies outside the disaster zone, with summer programs scheduled to compensate for learning loss. Addressing this fundamental problem, we have committed a significant portion of our Recovery phase funds to re-building destroyed school buildings together with our trusted local partners across the earthquake region.



TOTAL COMMITTED	TOTAL IMPACT*
\$2.59 million	300,000 students



Partner	School location	School name	Status
Ahbap Derneği	Gaziantep	Nurdağı Yenimahalle İlk ve Orta Okulu	Completed
Ahbap Derneği	Gaziantep	İslahiye Teknik ve Meslekî Lisesi	Completed
Ahbap Derneği	Adıyaman	Gölbaşı Fen Lisesi	Completed
Ahbap Derneği	Hatay	Arsuz Uluçınar İlk ve Ortaokulu	Completed
Ahbap Derneği	Hatay	Arsuz Gülcihan Anadolu Lisesi	Ongoing
Çocuklar Gülsün Diye Derneği	Kahramanmaraş	Çocuklar Gülsün Diye BTF Anaokulu	Completed
Çocuklar Gülsün Diye Derneği	Adıyaman	Çocuklar Gülsün Diye BTF Anaokulu	Completed
Çocuklar Gülsün Diye Derneği	Osmaniye	Çocuklar Gülsün Diye BTF Anaokulu	Completed
Çocuklar Gülsün Diye Derneği	Hatay	Çocuklar Gülsün Diye BTF Anaokulu	Completed
Çocuklar Gülsün Diye Derneği	Elazığ	Çocuklar Gülsün Diye BTF Anaokulu	Ongoing
Çocuklar Gülsün Diye Derneği	Malatya	Çocuklar Gülsün Diye BTF Anaokulu	Completed
Eymir Kültür Vakfı	Hatay	İskenderun Teknik Üniversitesi	Ongoing

* Estimate is based on a 50-year projection for 11 school buildings and 1 higher education campus.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

To support students whose studies have been impacted by the earthquakes, we have launched multiple programs with various partners to provide annual scholarships designed for highschool and university students. Through the combined efforts and guidance of our circle leaders, collaborating partners, and local allies in Türkiye, we are providing financial support to an annual total of **1,124 students** impacted by this disaster.



TOTAL COMMITTED

\$1.17
million

TOTAL IMPACT*

2,428
students

Partner	Number of annual scholarships
İstanbul ODTÜ Mezunları Derneği (ODTÜMİST)	220
Kadın Hekimler Eğitime Destek Vakfı (KAHEV)	165
Türkiye Eğitim Derneği (TED)	150
Nesin Vakfı	150
Ahbap	150
Bütün Çocuklar Bizim Derneği (BÇBD) for CATE Project	95
Ali İsmail Korkmaz Vakfı (ALİKEV)	55
Eşit Gelecek Derneği / Koza Platformu	50
Türkiye Üniversiteli Kadınlar Derneği (TÜKD)	48
Buradayız Hatay Derneği	40
İzmir Yüksek Teknoloji Enstitüsü Vakfı (İYTEV)	35
Payda Derneği	30
Kanserli Çocuklara Umut Vakfı (KAÇUV)	15
Bütün Çocuklar Bizim Derneği (BÇBD)	8

* Number of students benefitting from annual scholarships over a 2-year period (excluding CATE scholarships, which are committed for the entire duration of studies).

PERMANENT HOUSING

According to [OCHA](#), approximately 2.3 million people live in formal and informal settlements across the earthquake-affected region of Türkiye, with 1.6 million residing in the latter. In many of these settlements, the absence of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene amenities poses a major challenge. This shortfall can result in adverse health effects, promote the transmission of diseases, and worsen existing vulnerabilities. To address this pressing need, we have partnered with **Ahbap Association** to build **27 houses** in Gaziantep's Nurdağı district. We have built an additional **3 houses** in the same district through our **BTF Direct** program, led by our regional Giving Circles.

TOTAL IMPACT

175
people

TOTAL COMMITTED

\$1.6
million



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: CHILD AMPUTEES OF TÜRKİYE EARTHQUAKES (CATE)

The Child Amputees of Türkiye Earthquakes (CATE) project emerged as an example of how community-driven philanthropy can work marvels in bringing about enduring and sustainable solutions for disaster recovery.



Turkish nobel laureate Prof. Aziz Sançar expresses support for the Child Amputees of Türkiye Earthquakes (CATE) project. (Sançar Turkish Center – Chapel Hill, North Carolina)

Conceived by a group of Turkish and American medical professionals in the US and Türkiye, project CATE set out to devise a **long-term and versatile support system combining essential healthcare and educational assistance to child amputees** who were impacted by the February 6 earthquakes.

CATE addresses a need that may often be overlooked in post-disaster scenarios, focusing on child amputees who have endured limb loss. Its core mission is to offer these children day-to-day psychosocial support, improved future prospects, and a renewed opportunity for life post-disaster.

In bringing CATE to life, medical teams from the US and Türkiye have collaborated to establish a sustainable medical support system for these young survivors, ensuring they receive the ongoing care they need. A key aspect of CATE is addressing the continuing prosthetic requirements of these children, who will need their prostheses changed as they grow. Moreover, CATE is committed to providing sustained educational scholarships for at least 200 amputee students throughout their primary and secondary education. Currently, 95 scholarships have been awarded as of February 2024.

Thanks to the incredible response from our community, we were able to bring the CATE project to life, successfully raising over \$2,331,000.

In Türkiye, the initiative operates under the auspices of Çocuk İyilik Merkezi (Child Wellness Center) in collaboration with Adana-based Çukurova University, actively delivering the medical services these children require locally.





PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: DISASTER RESPONSE INNOVATION PROGRAM (DRIP)

We believe that Türkiye can enhance its preparedness to respond effectively to similar natural disasters in the future through innovative research and education programs. With that in mind, we have launched the *Disaster Response Innovation Program (DRIP)* through our partnership with NVIDIA to fund a total of 8 research and education projects in Türkiye.

NVIDIA-BRIDGE TO TÜRKIYE FUND

DISASTER RESPONSE INNOVATION PROGRAM (DRIP)

Empower resilience, save lives.



Özgür Erkenç, *Hacettepe University* - **Teaching SLAM with Autonomous Robots for Rescue Tasks:** Robots are poised to become crucial in rescue operations for disasters like earthquakes and floods, despite facing challenges like limited perception and decision-making capacities, and difficulties in remote communication under debris, necessitating autonomous operation. Key to their effectiveness is the ability to self-locate using SLAM (simultaneous localization and mapping), which requires a processor, sensor, and real-time algorithm, with practical training for future engineers proposed through platforms like DuckieTown.

Mehmet Cem Çatalbaş, *Ankara University* - **Enhanced Modular UGV for Post-Disaster Research:** This project will develop a modular unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) for conducting post-disaster reconnaissance missions, capable of autonomous navigation using an RGB-D visual SLAM approach and identifying vital signs with a thermal camera. The UGV's thermal camera is designed to be detachable for handheld use, and its imagery, along with 3D environmental modeling, will be enhanced in real-time using CNNs on the NVIDIA Jetson Nano system for clearer imaging. Additionally, the vehicle will feature an articulated track for navigating rough terrains and a targeted lighting system to assist search teams.

Haluk Bayram, *Istanbul Medeniyet University* - **Mobile Phone-Based Victim Localization in Debris Using Multiple Aerial Robots:** The ubiquity of mobile phones offers a unique opportunity to locate individuals trapped under debris after an earthquake, without reliance on operational GSM base stations. Aerial robots will serve as flying base stations, enabling the localization of individuals who simply have their phones turned on. This system uses multiple drones equipped with software-defined radios and Jetson Nanos to process GSM data, autonomously localizing all phones within a search area by calculating the bearing angle and running a localization algorithm.

Mehmet Yüksekçaya, *Ankara University* - **Portable AI-Based Analysis Device for Rapid Healthcare Services:** This project focuses on creating a portable, AI-powered device for rapid healthcare diagnostics in disaster situations, using body fluid analysis. Leveraging a moderate-sized, specific dataset and advanced hardware like the Nvidia Jetson Nano 2GB, the project aims to boost deep learning algorithms for quicker and more accurate healthcare services during emergencies.

Mehmet Cengiz Onbaşlı, *Koç University* - **DroneRelief: AI-based multimodal and efficient disaster relief:** The project aims to enhance digital design, sensors, and senior design through the integration of NVIDIA Jetson Nano boards, sensors, and custom libraries for object classification on drones, employing both wireless and tethered drones equipped with advanced imaging and navigation technologies for disaster response. By leveraging UWB transceivers and deep networks for precise location tracking, along with proven research on the efficiency of deep networks, the initiative seeks to accelerate disaster response efforts and improve survival outcomes by quickly identifying and locating individuals trapped under rubble.

İşıl Öz, *Izmir Institute of Technology* - **Heterogeneous Parallel Programming Course with Hands-on Experience:** This project introduces practical, real-life application into an existing course on accelerated computing and deep learning, utilizing Jetson Nano Developer kits for a hands-on project where students develop an object detection application to locate individuals in disaster wreckage, potentially with UAVs. Aiming to enrich educational content and provide tangible programming experience, the initiative plans to produce a conference paper based on the enhanced curriculum, complemented by a request for financial support for associated registration and travel expenses.

Ali Can Karaca, *Yıldız Technical University* - **Sound Source Localization and Speech Translation for Earthquake Victims:** The project aims to facilitate the detection and communication of individuals trapped under earthquake rubble by utilizing high dynamic range microphones for location determination through sound speed and microphone positioning. It involves designing a deep learning network to run on Jetson Nano that processes sounds for three-dimensional coordinate estimation, complemented by a system for recording, enhancing, and translating voices to aid foreign language-speaking rescue teams, enhancing both location accuracy and communication effectiveness.

Can Alkan, *Bilkent University* - **Fast pathogen screening using DNA sequencing in disaster-stricken areas:** In the wake of natural disasters, the urgent need to prevent disease outbreaks highlights the importance of rapidly testing water and food sources for pathogen contamination and identifying the pathogens to control the spread and guide treatment. This proposal outlines the development of non-specific, sequencing-based, portable analysis tools using mobile DNA sequencing platforms like nanopore, optimized for the Jetson Nano system to enable edge computing in disaster-stricken areas without access to advanced computing resources.



COMMUNITY INSIGHTS



Yonca Bulut, M.D.
Los Angeles, CA 🇺🇸

“Our first meeting meeting with BTF for Project CATE became a turning point, as BTF not only extended a helping hand but actively collaborated with us. Thank you for being our green light.”

I first met BTF on February 20, 2023, through a Zoom meeting. As a group of Turkish doctors living in the US, and pediatric intensive care doctors from Türkiye, we gathered to introduce our project on child amputees to BTF. That meeting became a turning point, as BTF not only extended a helping hand but actively collaborated with us. From naming the project to images for the poster, at every step, BTF provided guidance, took ownership, and, most importantly, stamped the project with trust by supporting it. As a pediatrician, saving a single child's life after thousands of hours in the ICU brings immense joy to me. But witnessing the suffering of children after the earthquake disaster was truly heartbreaking and left us all feeling helpless. Through CATE, being able to help some of these children throughout their education, provides some solace. To me, being a part of the BTF community means pride and gratitude. We are grateful that BTF exists, that BTF listened to us attentively, heard our voices, and acted swiftly even before we could. Lighting the first green light for us, BTF performed hundreds of acts of seen and unseen kindness. I see BTF's role in this project as the first domino, initiating a chain reaction. We are infinitely thankful to BTF for stepping up and running faster than us. Thank you for being our voice and for all the visible and invisible good you've done.



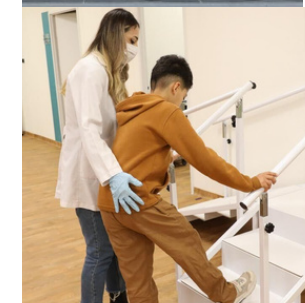
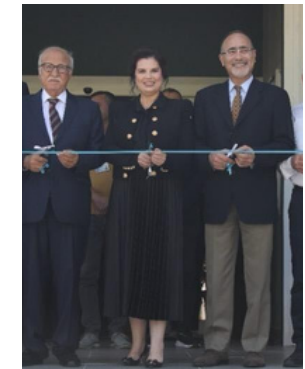
Prof. Gökhan Hotamışlıgil
Boston, MA 🇺🇸

“BTF stands out as an extraordinary organization, driven by a team that works with immense dedication, effort, and empathy, always actively engaged in their projects. I am profoundly grateful for the chance to collaborate with them and appreciate their pivotal role in launching and maintaining this project.”

I was introduced to BTF in a meeting right after the February 6 earthquake, and our partnership continues to this day. The meeting sprung from our collective wish, alongside a team of Turkish medical professionals in the US, to initiate an aid project for children who suffered limb loss in the earthquake. This initiative evolved into the “Child Amputees of Türkiye Earthquakes” (CATE) project, promptly activated with BTF's invaluable assistance. Thanks to BTF's impactful contributions, the project has grown, offering orthotic, prosthetic, rehabilitation, and psychological services at the Child Wellness Center in Çukurova University. It also provides educational support and scholarships, marking the opening of the center's dedicated building last September as a milestone.

Having visited the earthquake zone and the Child Wellness Center multiple times, I've been confronted with the harsh realities and personal hardships that followed this disaster. The center currently supports 143 children with limb loss, including those as young as two and some who have lost multiple limbs, with instances of multiple amputees within single families. Contributing to the recovery and development of these children into self-reliant and joyful individuals offers an unparalleled sense of fulfillment. This project is undoubtedly the most significant and rewarding endeavor I've been involved in.

BTF stands out as an extraordinary organization, driven by a team that works with immense dedication, effort, and empathy, always actively engaged in their projects. I am profoundly grateful for the chance to collaborate with them and appreciate their pivotal role in launching and maintaining this project.





Cem Sarvan

La Paz, Bolivia 🇧🇴

“Being part of such a well-organized, dedicated, and compassionate community, and realizing that “with BTF, a solution is always within reach,” is something truly appreciated through lived experience.”

Since 2015, I've been acquainted with BTF and their work. In the initiative we launched with the Istanbul METU Alumni Association (ODTÜMİST), BTF emerged as our most pivotal and influential supporter. We've successfully navigated this journey together and continue to do so. Witnessing the tangible impact of our collective aid is a complex emotion, blending joy with a distinct sense of melancholy. The ability to assist and witness the ensuing happiness of others elicits feelings that are beyond words. This experience fosters an instant connection of camaraderie and friendship among all those contributing to the cause. Being part of such a well-organized, dedicated, and compassionate community, and realizing that “with BTF, a solution is always within reach,” is something truly appreciated through lived experience.



Beyza Büyüker

Chicago, IL 🇺🇸

“I am grateful that BTF enables us, regardless of our global location, to reconnect with our roots and unite with others dedicated to making a positive impact on lives.”

I first came across BTF in 2014 during the Cinema4ACause event in Chicago. Since that moment, I've eagerly participated in their events and supported their initiatives. However, my involvement deepened significantly following the February 6 earthquake, prompting me to join the Chicago team as an active volunteer. As a native of Hatay, I found myself on the ground in the earthquake-stricken area within the first week of the disaster. Amidst the pressing needs for shelter, warmth, and food, I was struck by the profound loneliness experienced by children amidst the chaos. In response, and to ensure these children did not fall behind academically, we collaborated with the Ministry of National Education to establish container classrooms in the districts of Samandağ, Defne, and Antakya in Hatay. This past year, frequent visits to the region and ongoing communication with locals have been enlightening. Supporting individuals through their arduous journey of grief, while they cling to hope for the future despite immense loss, has instilled in me a greater sense of optimism. I am grateful that BTF enables us, regardless of our global location, to reconnect with our roots and unite with others dedicated to making a positive impact on lives.





Eren Gökgür

Dublin, Ireland 🇮🇪

“In challenging times, the value of unity and contributing to a cause greater than oneself is magnified. It's during these times we seek to better the world. I am grateful that, with BTF's platform, we have successfully united kind-hearted individuals aiming to make a positive difference, directing our collective efforts towards providing children with a more promising future.”

Two months after the earthquake, I connected with BTF while organizing a fundraising campaign with colleagues at the Google Dublin office. Searching for an organization that could effectively target aid to the earthquake zone, I discovered a campaign initiated by Beyza and reached out to BTF. In the aftermath of the February 6 earthquakes, those of us in Ireland sought methods to support the affected regions. A team of about 15 from the Google Dublin office came together, organizing a series of events to fundraise during the week of May 11-17. Being personally connected to Antakya, Hatay, through my spouse, the disaster's impact felt particularly acute. Together with my spouse and their family, we visited the school receiving our aid that summer, where we observed the setup area for the container classrooms with the school principal and a teacher. The sight deeply moved me, and the potential to shape a brighter future for these children through the container classrooms brought immense joy. In challenging times, the value of unity and contributing to a cause greater than oneself is magnified. It's during these times we seek to better the world. I am grateful that, with BTF's platform, we have successfully united kind-hearted individuals aiming to make a positive difference, directing our collective efforts towards providing children with a more promising future.



Kerim Tumay

San Diego, CA 🇺🇸

“Giving my time and support to serve the health and education needs of underserved youth in Türkiye adds purpose and meaning to my life.”

I was introduced to BTF in 2010 by my good friend Ozlem Erol who had just launched the BTF San Diego Circle. My first BTF fundraising project was a piano recital featuring Idil Ulgen. It was a great success with support from Emin Pamucak. I was involved in two BTF fundraisers to support Project CATE. The first one was the Bike4Kids campaign with members of the BTF cycling team. We rode 280 miles in Oregon and raised \$50,000. The second fundraiser was the "Sounds of Türkiye" concert in San Diego which featured the IZE trio and Burcu Gulec. The concert raised \$15,000 with support from more than 130 donors. It's extremely gratifying to know that our support is helping with ongoing healthcare and education needs of the child amputees of the earthquakes. I'm grateful to be a member of the BTF San Diego Circle and the global BTF community. Giving my time and support to serve the health and education needs of underserved youth in Türkiye adds purpose and meaning to my life.





Melek Akgül

Phoenix, AZ 

“Learning that Project CATE, which I passionately support, has offered prosthetics, rehabilitation, and scholarships to nearly 100 children, fills me with immense joy.”

Right after the earthquake, I discovered BTF’s initiatives via social media and launched several fundraising efforts for both BTF and AHBAP within my Phoenix network during February, March, and April. Events included two yoga sessions, an art activity, and a picnic on April 23, organized by the Turkish community in Arizona. Through these efforts and donation matching, I managed to raise nearly \$10,000, the majority of which was contributed to BTF. I also participated in an interview with a local Arizona channel. Marking the first anniversary of the earthquake, I initiated a new campaign within my network, raising over \$800 so far. My ambition for 2024 as a member of the Arizona Circle is to arrange consistent activities for Turks in Arizona under TAAZ (Turkish Americans in Arizona) and provide scholarships to students affected by the earthquake. Learning that Project CATE, which I passionately support, has offered prosthetics, rehabilitation, and scholarships to nearly 100 children, fills me with immense joy. I made sure to share updates on social media with my campaign’s supporters to demonstrate the significant impact of their contributions.



Emrah Baysal

Dubai, UAE 

“Being part of such a movement reinforces our commitment to our long-missed homeland and makes us feel that, as individuals sharing a common understanding of the world, we are not alone.”

My name is Emrah Baysal, and I work as an Information Technology Manager at a bank in Dubai. In the aftermath of the earthquakes on February 6, we initiated the Turkish Volunteers movement as volunteers who wanted to extend our helping hands to our distant and beautiful homeland. During this process, while searching for a reliable and legal channel to transfer our cash donations to trustworthy projects in Turkey, we came across BTF. As Turkish Volunteers, we organized an awareness run in more than 20 different cities worldwide, with over 1,000 participants in total. In Dubai alone, 450 individuals from 49 different nationalities joined this run, where we supported BTF’s CATE project. Being part of such a movement reinforces our commitment to our long-missed homeland and makes us feel that, as individuals sharing a common understanding of the world, we are not alone.





Barış Baran Gündoğdu

San Francisco, CA 🇺🇸

“The first decision we made at Stanford was to fundraise on behalf of a trustworthy organization, and unanimously, we selected Ahbap. The next step involved determining the best way to transfer the funds to Ahbap. This led me to reach out to BTF officials, and within two days, we initiated our campaign.”



Sevtap Schreffler

Washington, D.C. 🇺🇸

“BTF is an organization I trust and find transparent. With BTF’s support and guidance, I am confident that our aid reaches the right destinations. This sense of certainty is invaluable.”



Nilüfer Esen

Ypsilanti, MI 🇺🇸

“First and foremost, I trust BTF. I believe that the funds deposited through them reach their destination, and I know that the projects will ultimately come to fruition.”



İvgen Nayman

Nantes, France 🇫🇷

“As part of our ‘Pusulam Kitap’ project, our collaboration with BTF continues to support schools in the earthquake-affected areas. I am immensely proud to work together to reach more schools and students. Thanks to BTF, I am grateful for the opportunity to have reached thousands of students and to have made a small contribution to healing their wounds.”

✦ LIST OF GRANTS: EMERGENCY PHASE

\$1,436,695 through our **BTF Direct** program to offer speedy emergency relief and enable our partners on the ground, including **ODTÜ Mezunlar Derneği**, **TOKTUT** and **İhtiyaç Haritası**, to deliver aid with higher ease and efficiency. Our direct procurement provided food packages, safe drinking water, shelter options, clothing items, mobile toilets, hygiene kits and container classrooms to thousands of students and people across the 11 provinces affected by the earthquake.

\$725,000 with **Ahbap** in the earliest days after the disaster to deliver food packages, safe drinking water, blankets, medical aid, 141 mobile toilets, 54 electric generators, 87 container homes and 299 tents across all 11 provinces affected by the earthquake.

\$147,074 with **TOKTUT** to establish 2 field kitchens serving hot meals for hundreds of survivors daily, set up a 150-unit tent city in Malatya, deliver hygiene packages and clothing items in Malatya, Adıyaman, Kahramanmaraş, Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Hatay and Adana during the first week after the earthquake.

\$76,250 with **Wtech** to address a diverse range of emergency needs, setting up 500 family-sized tents, 20 mobile toilets, 100 stoves and 3 generators as well as delivering hygiene kits, clothing items and toys to survivor families in Hatay.

\$75,000 with **Lokman Hekim Sağlık Vakfı** to deliver 2,000 hygiene kits to survivors living in tents across all 11 provinces affected by the earthquake.

\$50,060 with **Topraktan Tabağa** to run field kitchens in Hatay, providing daily hot meals for one month after the earthquake.

\$50,050 with **İhtiyaç Haritası** especially to address the needs of mothers and infants: delivering baby food, providing 11 industrial water tanks, and establishing 132 container toilets across all 11 provinces affected by the earthquake.

\$50,045 with **Bütün Çocuklar Bizim Derneği** to address the specific needs of mothers and infants by delivering baby food, hygiene kits and sleeping bags to the survivors.



LIST OF GRANTS: RECOVERY PHASE

Ahbap Association: \$3,751,869 for the reconstruction of 5 schools, annual scholarships for 150 students, and permanent housing projects for 27 families across Hatay, Adiyaman and Gaziantep.

Child Amputees of Türkiye Earthquakes Project (CATE): \$2,331,039 through our partners **Çukurova University Çocuk İyilik Merkezi / Child Wellness Center** and **Bütün Çocuklar Bizimdir Derneği**, for supporting child amputee survivors of Türkiye earthquakes by providing prosthetic limbs for 44 children, psychosocial support, and 95 annual scholarships, as well as establishing a central facility to perform and oversee medical services.

Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (TOG) / Community Volunteers Foundation: \$326,000 for providing psychosocial support to over 5,000 children and youth aged 2-23 through a rehabilitation center in Gaziantep.

Eymir Kültür Vakfı (EKV) / Eymir Cultural Foundation: \$250,000 for the reconstruction of İskenderun Technical University's vocational school of higher education.

Nesin Foundation: \$202,279 for providing 150 annual scholarships over 2 years, laptops for 15 students and psychosocial support to 10,000 children through Aziz Dede's Mobile Workshop.

Bütün Çocuklar Bizim Derneği (BÇBD) / All Children Are Ours Association: \$188,164 for 8 annual scholarships for 2 years, providing 150 students with laptops, and building 2 robotic coding labs for earthquake survivor students in Ankara and Mardin.

Hatay Arsuz State Hospital: \$150,000 for the procurement of medical equipment which will serve over 3.5 million patients over 7 years.

BTF Direct: \$246,739 for the direct procurement of more than 75 container homes in Hatay led by our BTF circle leaders and partners, construction of 3 units of permanent housing in Nurdağı, Gaziantep and the delivery of educational materials to 113 schools as part of our BTF4Kids program.

Teknolojide Kadın Derneği (Wtech) / Women in Technology Association: \$101,562 for the Tech Talent Academy project addressing 1,000 children in Hatay.

Disaster Response Innovation Program (DRIP) with NVIDIA: \$56,100 for supporting disaster preparedness technology research by 8 Turkish academics based in universities in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir.

Parıltı Görmeyen Çocuklara Destek Derneği / Parıltı Support Association for Children with Visual Impairments: \$53,275 for providing 54 visually impaired children in the earthquake-affected areas with laptops and braille tablets.

Tohum Otizm Vakfı / Tohum Autism Foundation: \$50,789 for 2 container classrooms for children with special needs in Hatay, and providing technology and educational resources to support 250 children with autism.

Tok Tutmak Elimize Derneği (TOKTUT) / Meal Share Association: \$39,600 for providing safe drinking water dispensers to more than 3,000 students in 6 schools across Malatya, Adiyaman, Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep and Hatay.

Pusulam Kitap: \$38,640 for building 23 libraries and delivering 2,000 children's books in Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Osmaniye, Malatya, Adiyaman and Şanlıurfa.



Türkiye Down Sendromu Derneği (TDSD) / Türkiye Down's Syndrome Association : \$38,520 for 4 container centers for children with special needs in Hatay, Adiyaman and Gaziantep, providing rehabilitation to 2,272 children, and providing 8 children with laptops.

Türk Üniversiteli Kadınlar Derneği (TÜKD) / Graduate Women International Türkiye: \$34,550 for providing annual scholarships to 48 students and laptops to 20 children.

Buradayız Hatay Derneği / We Are Here, Hatay Association: \$34,500 for providing annual scholarships to 40 students.

Kanserli Çocuklara Umut Vakfı (KAÇUV) / Hope Foundaton for Children with Cancer: \$33,710 for providing 15 annual scholarships and laptops to 27 students.

Habitat Association: \$33,500 for providing psychosocial support and education to 1,760 children aged 12-16 through the Accessible Community Center in Malatya.

Türk Böbrek Vakfı / Turkish Kidney Foundation: \$33,045 for purchasing 4 dialysis machines to support the organization's dialysis center in Kahramanmaraş.

✦ LIST OF GRANTS: RECOVERY PHASE

Saadet Öğretmen Çocuk İstismarı İle Mücadele Derneği (UCİM) / Teacher Saadet's Fight Against Child Abuse Association: \$22,040 for providing psychosocial support to women and children through 3 container centers in Arsuz, Hatay.

Travma ve Afet Ruh Sağlığı Çalışmaları Derneği (TARDE) / Trauma and Disaster Mental Health Studies Association: \$20,511 for providing psychosocial support to children, adults and families across the earthquake-affected provinces.

Kanserle Dans Derneği / Dance with Cancer Association: \$20,045 for providing 6-monthly cash allowances to 20 families with children fighting cancer across the earthquake region.

Birey ve Toplum Ruh Sağlığında İz Derneği (BİRİZ) / Association for Individual and Community Mental Health: \$16,400 for the installation of water filters in 10 schools across Hatay.

Ali İsmail Korkmaz Foundation (ALİKEV): \$16,000 for providing annual scholarships to 55 students and laptops to 8 students.

Middle East Technical University (METU) Faculty of Architecture: \$14,958 for the three-dimensional modeling and documentation of destroyed historic buildings in Hatay.

Diyabetli Çocuklar Vakfı (DİYAÇEV) / Diabetic Children's Foundation: \$10,045 for providing glucose strips to children with diabetes across the earthquake-impacted region.

Değiştiren Adımlar Derneği (DADer) / Changing Steps Association: \$8,333 to provide educational and technical equipment to 300 children impacted by the earthquake.

Okul Destek Derneği (ODD) / School Support Association: \$8,000 to provide laptops to 40 students.

Sivil Alan Hareket Ağı (SAHA) / Civil Area Action Network: \$5,500 for providing psychosocial support to 1,000 children through their Cankucak program.

Türkiye Spastik Çocuklar Vakfı / Turkish Spastic Children's Foundation: \$39,100 for two containers converted into rehabilitation centers, fully equipped with essential supplies to support those recovering post- earthquake.

Türkiye Eğitim Derneği (TED) / Turkish Education Association: \$166,688 for annual scholarships to 150 students.

İzmir Yüksek Teknoloji Enstitüsü Vakfı (İYTEV) / Izmir High Technology Institute Foundation: \$30,000 for annual scholarships to 30 students.

İstanbul Ortadoğu Teknik Üniversitesi Mezunlar Derneği (ODTÜMİST) / Middle East Technical University (METU) Istanbul Alumni Association: \$184,500 for annual scholarships to 220 students.

Payda Association: \$21,600 for annual scholarships to 30 students.

Türk Eğitim Vakfı (TEV) / Turkish Education Foundation: \$11,340 for annual scholarships to 3 students.

Eşit Gelecek Derneği / Equitable Future Association: \$11,340 for annual scholarships to 50 students.

Çocuklar Gülsün Diye Association: \$450,000 for building 6 kindergartens in Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman, Osmaniye, Hatay, Elazığ and Malatya, which will serve 800 children yearly.

Kadın Hekimler Eğitime Destek Vakfı (KAHEV) / Turkish Female Physicians' Education Support Foundation: \$86,112 for annual scholarships to 165 students.





JOIN THE COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER



Volunteers play a crucial role in enhancing BTF's overall impact. BTF volunteers contribute to building a strong sense of community, fostering connections, and driving sustainable change. They also promote principles of good citizenship to help support the disadvantaged segments of Turkish society.

JOIN/START A FUNDRAISER



Browse our upcoming events and ongoing fundraisers to find a cause you support. Alternatively, you can start your own fundraiser and we will help you organize and promote it.

START A GIVING CIRCLE



Giving Circles or team fundraising are an exciting alternative to individual donations, offering BTF supporters and their friends the opportunity to raise funds together with BTF, while having fun and spreading the word to others. Giving Circle members pool their tax deductible charitable contributions with BTF, and decide as a group which projects and programs to support.

BECOME A HOPE PIONEER



Join BTF's Hope Pioneers group by donating monthly and championing our key initiatives. With the freedom to choose your area of interest, we ensure you stay updated on how your regular support makes a difference. Select the cause that resonates with you, and we'll provide regular updates on the impact your donations are making.



bridge2turkiye



Thank you.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and volunteers whose kindness has profoundly touched the lives of millions of earthquake survivors in Türkiye over the past year.

Your generosity forms the cornerstone of Bridge to Türkiye Fund's efforts, and we are deeply grateful for each contribution you have made.