INFO PACK

Three Years On:
Türkiye After the Earthquake

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TRT WORLD
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1. Executive Snapshot

Three Years Later: Recovery in Türkiye After the February 6 Earthquakes (2023–2026)

Two major earthquakes (7.7 and 7.6 magnitude) centred in Kahramanmaraş on February 6, 2023, turned into one of the most severe disasters in Türkiye's recent history. According to official records, 53,537 people lost their lives and 107,213 were injured in Türkiye. The disaster created a multi-layered crisis that left long-term effects on housing, infrastructure, education, health, the economy, and social resilience, not just physical destruction. **Three years later, the picture tells two truths simultaneously: Recovery has progressed considerably; but recovery is not at the same pace everywhere and is still ongoing.**

The aim of this info-pack is not to give a one-word answer to the question "is it over?"; **but to reveal, based on data, what has changed after three years, in which areas lasting progress has been made, and in which areas vulnerability persists.**

A brief summary of three years: "Major reconstruction" and "long recovery"

The post-earthquake process transformed into a large-scale public mobilization, evolving from emergency response to permanent reconstruction. The most visible outcome of this mobilization is in the area of housing. It was announced that by the end of 2025, 455,357 independent units (houses + village houses + workplaces) in the earthquake zone would be completed and delivered to their owners. During the same period, grants and loans were introduced to enable citizens to rebuild on their own plots through mechanisms such as "On-Site Transformation" (example: families who settled in their new homes within the scope of on-site transformation in Diyarbakır; grant and loan components per housing unit).

Despite the impressive scale of permanent housing delivery, the transition from temporary accommodation to full normalization is still underway. According to AFAD data, as of early 2026 approximately 360,455 people continue to reside in container settlements—highlighting that recovery is a phased process rather than a single milestone. While housing construction represents a critical achievement, the restoration of everyday life depends on a broader ecosystem of support: reliable infrastructure, access to employment and education, completion of property and entitlement procedures, relocation assistance, robust social services, and sustained psychosocial recovery. Addressing these interconnected dimensions will mark the final—and most meaningful—steps toward durable resettlement and long-term resilience.

Resources and Scale: The Financial and Institutional Dimension of Recovery

According to the reconstruction and development report published by the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye's Strategy and Budget Office, it was reported that 3.6 trillion TL of public expenditure will be made by the end of 2025 to compensate for the loss and damage caused by the earthquake and to reduce risks. This shows that recovery is not only a "construction activity"; it is also a long-term reconstruction process that includes infrastructure, public services, economic support mechanisms, and risk reduction.

Examples of "re-establishment" in public services: Education and health

The quality of recovery is measured not only by the number of houses but also by the extent to which public services are restored. In this respect, concrete indicators in the fields of education and health are noteworthy.

Education (Kahramanmaraş): While there were 10,367 classrooms in the city before the earthquake, **1,802 classrooms** became unusable after the earthquake; it was determined that **8,565 classrooms** were usable after the earthquake. With the completion of schools included in the Ministry of National Education's investment program, the number of classrooms is expected to rise to **11,541** by the end of 2025, representing an **11.3%** increase compared to the pre-earthquake period. This data reflects not only the goal of "repair" but also of increasing capacity.

Health (Osmaniye): It was reported that 10 new health facilities were put into service in Osmaniye after the earthquake; and that the health infrastructure was strengthened with the 900-bed Osmaniye Training and Research Hospital, as well as district hospitals and family health centres. Such examples show that re-establishing

public services in disaster-stricken areas is a "critical threshold".

Economic Recovery: Return to Production and Trade, Support Mechanisms

Another pillar of recovery is the economy: the revival of regional production, the survival of tradespeople, and the restoration of export capacity. Data from the Ministry of Trade shows that under the Earthquake Support Credit program for tradespeople and artisans in the provinces affected by the earthquake, **6.7 billion TL** was transferred to the region in 2023, **18 billion TL** in 2024, and **29.6 billion TL** in 2025. Assessments indicating that production capacity in Organized Industrial Zones is approaching pre-earthquake levels and electricity consumption data also point to the direction of recovery. Nevertheless, variables such as "temporary markets," access to finance, and workforce losses continue to be decisive in the recovery of small businesses.

Three short excerpts from the field: the "human face" of recovery

This info-pack, alongside data, also makes visible the human dimension of recovery with short excerpts from the field:

- **Healthcare workers:** A doctor-nurse couple who lost relatives in the earthquake returning to work in Kayseri to serve patients shows that trauma persists even while professional life continues, and the idea of "returning home" still carries uncertainty.
- **Children and education:** An earthquake victim who volunteers to paint schools to boost the morale of earthquake-affected children reminds us that recovery is not only about buildings, but also about "normalization" and a sense of psychological security.
- **Search and rescue and solidarity:** A family rescued from the rubble 138 hours later reuniting with the teams that saved their lives three years later shows that intervention during a disaster can transform into "long-term bonds."

(Betül Abalı - Anadolu Agency)

2. Reconstruction and Housing

Housing after three years: permanent housing mobilization and institutionalization of settlement

The most concrete and visible aspect of the recovery process following the February 6th earthquakes was the large-scale reconstruction program implemented in the housing sector. Temporary housing solutions, initially implemented to respond to urgent needs, gradually transformed into a comprehensive housing and urban development initiative prioritizing permanent settlement. The picture that emerged at the end of three years presents a significant progress line reflecting both production capacity and inter-institutional coordination.

It was announced that a total of 455,357 independent units were completed and delivered to their owners in the earthquake zone by the end of 2025. Of this total, **367,995 were reported as houses**, **65,672 as village houses**, and **21,690 as workplaces**. The distribution by province indicates a higher delivery volume in areas where the devastating effects of the disaster were felt more intensely. With the delivery of tens of thousands of housing units and workplaces in the provinces of the region, especially **Hatay (153,755), Malatya (79,660)** and **Kahramanmaraş (73,956)**, the foundation for transitioning to permanent settlement has been strengthened.

	Total	Houses	Village Houses	Commercial Units
Osmaniye:	12,557	10,377	1,807	373
Kahramanmaraş:	73,956	52,575	15,615	5,766
Malatya:	79,660	62,540	13,032	4,088
Tunceli:	298	0	298	0
Bingöl:	89	62	27	0
Kayseri:	288	9	279	0
Sivas:	164	164	0	0
Adıyaman:	43,366	31,423	9,088	2,855
Adana:	12,073	11,334	739	0
Hatay:	153,755	133,685	12,868	7,202
Kilis:	2,569	1,713	852	4
Gaziantep:	31,053	25,237	4,463	1,353
Elazığ:	14,894	11,912	2,959	23
Şanlıurfa:	13,429	10,914	2,495	20
Diyarbakır:	17,206	16,050	1,150	6
Grand total (all provinces shown):	**455,357**	**367,995**	**65,672**	**21,690**

(Anadolu Agency)

In this process, not only housing production but also complementary issues such as infrastructure connections, transportation access, and social facility planning of settlement areas were addressed simultaneously. Thus, the goal was to transform permanent housing into settlement areas integrated with the needs of daily life. In addition to housing deliveries, the institutionalization of the settlement structure and the re-establishment of access to education, health, and public services emerged as elements that needed to be considered together.

The reconstruction approach proceeded through multiple channels. Alongside centrally implemented projects, the **"On-Site Transformation"** model, which supported rights holders in rebuilding on their own plots, was also a complementary component of the process. This approach facilitated citizens' access to permanent housing in their own neighbourhoods while contributing to the preservation of local community ties. Province-based examples show that this mechanism produced concrete results in the field and offered a flexible framework that could respond to different settlement needs.

The rural housing dimension formed a separate line of reconstruction. The work carried out through village houses in rural settlements affected by the earthquake supported both the production of safe housing and the sustainability of rural life. In this context, the high share of village houses in the total deliveries reveals that reconstruction is not limited to city centres; rural settlements are also being systematically addressed. New settlement models implemented in some provinces are considered exemplary practices in post-disaster housing planning.

Another key issue that progressed concurrently with housing policies was the **revitalization of commercial life**. In cities affected by the earthquake, interim solutions such as temporary commercial areas and prefabricated markets were implemented to enable tradespeople and small businesses to continue their operations. These areas ensured the continuity of trade while also contributing to the re-establishment of the daily flow of city life. With the completion of permanent workplaces, the goal was for commercial life to continue in safer and more sustainable spaces.

At the end of three years, the work in housing and settlement areas progressed within a framework that strengthened the link established between "permanent housing production" and "the reconstruction of city life." When delivery volume, inter-institutional coordination, and multi-channel implementation (central projects, on-site transformation, rural housing, commercial areas) are considered together, the post-earthquake housing and settlement aspect stands out as a cornerstone of the recovery process. The next section will examine how this physical reconstruction is integrated with economic recovery; through production, employment, exports, and sector-based support.

(Koray Kılıç - Anadolu Agency)

3. Economic Recovery

Production, Trade, and Rural Development: Capacity Recovery and Institutionalization of Support Lines

The February 6th earthquakes, in addition to housing and infrastructure losses, also placed significant pressure on local economies that drive production, trade, and employment. Since the earthquake zone is a production belt integrated with Türkiye's industrial, agricultural, and logistics networks, the recovery process proceeded with two parallel goals from day one: to ensure that economic life is not interrupted and to activate support and investment channels that will permanently strengthen production capacity in the medium term. As of the third year, both macroeconomic indicators and on-the-ground practices indicate that economic activity has regained its rhythm.

On the industrial front, recovery has gained a visible level, particularly **through capacity utilization data**. According to information compiled from the Strategy and Budget Presidency's "Kahramanmaraş and Hatay Earthquakes Reconstruction and Development Report," the manufacturing industry capacity utilization rate in the 11 provinces affected by the earthquake reached its lowest levels in March 2023, immediately following the disaster; Subsequently, it showed a gradual improvement, **exceeding the Turkish average from July 2024 onwards**, and this trend became continuous. Energy consumption indicators included in the same report also support the revival in the pace of production: It is emphasized that industrial electricity and natural gas consumption in the region have risen with seasonal increases; this increase serves as a practical "pulse" indicating that businesses have re-entered the production cycle. In this context, the recovery in industrial production does not only mean the reopening of factories; it also generates a critical multiplier effect in terms of re-establishing the supply chain, ensuring the continuity of logistical connections, and protecting employment.

To ensure a more balanced and inclusive recovery, **support packages for SMEs** came to the forefront. According to information compiled from the same report, KOSGEB implemented programs such as the "Disaster Period Living Space Support" to support the continuity of operations in Organized Industrial Zones and small industrial sites; business continuity was targeted with support items covering maintenance and repair services, personnel expenses, and raw material/equipment needs for businesses whose workplaces were damaged. Within the scope of TÜBİTAK support programs, calls were opened for private sector firms in the earthquake zone, and project-based support mechanisms were implemented; furthermore, large-scale support payments were made with the approach of "Revitalization of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises After the Earthquake". The common goal of these tools was not only the "return" of production capacity but also its re-establishment with a more resilient operation.

Financing channels for **tradesmen and artisans** played a decisive role in the revitalization of commercial life. According to information shared by the Ministry of Trade, under the Earthquake Support Loan program with reduced interest rates, implemented for tradesmen and artisans in the provinces affected by the earthquake, **6.7 billion TL** was transferred to the region in **2023, 18 billion TL in 2024, and 29.6 billion TL in 2025.** During this period, the aim was to protect cash flow through facilities such as debt restructuring via credit and guarantee cooperatives, cancellation of late payment interest, and instalment plans. The Ministry's e-commerce campaigns and training/implementation programs supporting the transition to digital commerce also formed a complementary approach, particularly contributing to the diversification of sales channels for small businesses.

The visibility of economic life on the ground was often re-established through **temporary but functional solutions**. In Hatay, 51 temporary prefabricated markets and 6,180 prefabricated workshops, established to enable shopkeepers who lost their businesses to continue operating, became a significant milestone in the resumption of trade. These areas stood out not only as points of sale but also as centres where the rhythm of daily life, social contact, and the local production-consumption cycle were re-established. Similarly, the resumption of production by entrepreneurs who lost their businesses in the earthquake in container industrial sites provided another example of how micro-scale employment and service production could be sustained.

Rural development and agricultural investments also progressed as one of the main arteries of recovery. In particular, the IPARD/TKDK mechanisms stood out in supporting investments that diversified the production portfolio and strengthened standardization in the post-earthquake period. Specifically, it was reported that 173 projects with a **total investment of 1.2 billion TL were**

supported in Kahramanmaraş during the 2023-2025 period, and 452 million TL in grants were provided to beneficiaries. This support package, spread across areas such as livestock farming, meat and dairy processing, fruit and vegetable processing, rural tourism, and renewable energy, reflects an approach that aims not only to sustain production but also to strengthen capacity through modernization and diversification.

Transportation and access investments also play a complementary role in ensuring the **sustainability of economic recovery.** According to the Strategy and Budget Presidency report, **an investment of 31.1 billion TL was foreseen** for repairing road and highway damage after the earthquake, and **approximately 19.8 billion TL was spent by the end of 2025.** A total **investment of 57.8 billion TL was planned** for the development and connecting roads intended for access to housing and social facilities in new settlement areas; **approximately 40 billion TL was spent in this context in 2024.** Some of the work on railway lines has been completed; A timeline **extending to 2027** has been projected for components such as electrification and signalling. At airports, planned repair processes have progressed within the investment program aimed at addressing damages; the phased return-to-operation process at Hatay Airport is detailed in the report. The combined effect of these investments has been to strengthen the logistical continuity of production and trade and to spatially support economic recovery.

The overall picture shows that, as of the third year, **economic recovery has progressed through the regaining of capacity and production rhythm in industry, scaling up financing lines for SMEs and tradespeople, expanding rural development and entrepreneurship support, and strengthening transportation links.** The next section will address the societal impact of this recovery under the headings of education, health, psychosocial improvement, and strengthening the social fabric.

(Ömer Faruk Salman - Anadolu Agency)

4. Social Recovery

Psychosocial Support, Education and Health Infrastructure Recovery

Three years after the February 6th earthquakes, the recovery process has become visible not only through housing and infrastructure investments, but also through the **rebuilding of social services, education and health capacity that strengthens societal resilience.** The work carried out from the very first moments of the disaster has been based on a multi-layered framework encompassing access to vulnerable groups, organization of basic needs, psychosocial support, continuity of education, and uninterrupted health services.

One of the key pillars of this framework has been **psychosocial support services.** To support the well-being of citizens negatively affected by the earthquake, psychological first aid, needs and resource assessment, psychoeducation, individual and group counselling, and social recovery activities were carried out in tent cities, temporary shelters, container settlements, and hospitals; mobile teams were deployed to areas with difficult access. In this context, 5.1 million psychosocial support services were provided. For children, risk and needs assessment, monitoring, and follow-up activities were also carried out in accordance with the "Post-Earthquake Psychosocial Support Action Plan."

The second visible line of social services was the management of **in-kind donations.** To meet urgent needs more quickly, **72 in-kind donation depots** were opened to coordinate the acceptance and distribution of institutional and individual donations in the field; **16 depots** were activated to direct in-kind donations from abroad. In addition, a total of **27 women's clothing and baby care tents** were established in Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Malatya, Adıyaman, Osmaniye, and Gaziantep to support the basic needs of earthquake victims; the acceptance and shipment processes of in-kind donations are ongoing in some provinces.

Support for vulnerable groups emerged as another key aspect that increased the inclusiveness of post-disaster recovery. A crisis desk was established to address the needs and problems of disabled and elderly citizens; **4,576 requests** received through the "Earthquake Support Line for Disabled and Elderly Citizens" were quickly resolved. **5,252 disabled and elderly citizens** received services at **66 Ministry-affiliated residential** care facilities in the earthquake zone; some were temporarily relocated to care facilities in different provinces as a precautionary measure. A team of **120 sign language interpreters** was formed to provide access to hearing-impaired earthquake victims, offering remote video or face-to-face translation support to over **2,100 people**; additionally, **330 hearing-impaired citizens** were evacuated and accommodated in hotels and dormitories in different cities. Furthermore, **six respite homes** were opened in the earthquake zone as part of the "Angel Faces Respite Homes" program, aimed at supporting families of children and young people with special needs.

Education infrastructure, one of the most critical areas of post-disaster recovery, has progressed by strengthening it with the goal of both regaining physical capacity and ensuring sustainability. For instance, in Şanlıurfa, 145 new schools with a capacity of 2,151 classrooms were put into service in the last three years, resulting in a **9% increase** in the number of classrooms compared to the pre-earthquake level; maintenance, repair, and strengthening works were also completed on a large scale. In Hatay, Adana, and Osmaniye, a total of **292 new schools** were built to replace the destroyed or damaged educational structures; in Hatay, the goal is to further increase classroom capacity in the medium term with repair and strengthening activities. In Diyarbakır, **76 schools with 1,330 classrooms** were opened within the scope of the post-earthquake investment program; with ongoing projects, the number of classrooms is expected to increase by **18.5%** compared to the pre-earthquake level. It was reported that in Malatya, the number of classrooms has exceeded the pre-earthquake level, and the goal is to further increase capacity with new investments; and in Kahramanmaraş, an increase in the number of classrooms is expected with the completion of ongoing school investments. This table shows that continuity in education and a safe building stock are central to the post-disaster recovery process.

On the **health infrastructure** side, steps have been taken to strengthen capacity both in the earthquake-affected provinces and in the areas where earthquake victims have been settled. It was announced that 10 new health facilities have been put into service in Osmaniye in the post-earthquake period; and new investments are planned at the district level. To support services for earthquake victims, mobile health applications and primary care centres have been activated in different provinces; the aim is to bring services such as on-site screening, examination, medication supply, and vaccination to the field. In the field of rehabilitation, it was noteworthy that a centre established

within a university in Adana provides prosthetic and orthotic support, psychotherapy, and educational support to children and young people who have lost limbs; and that services have been provided to **161 children and young people** to date.

Completed Health Facilities in the Earthquake Zone

(as listed in the MoH statement / AA, 05.02.2025)

Adana

5 Ocak State Hospital — **200 beds**

Karşıyaka State Hospital — 100 beds

Adıyaman

Adıyaman Training & Research Hospital - Women's Health & Paediatrics Additional Service Building — 300 beds

Diyarbakır

Çermik State Hospital — 50 beds

Ergani Oral & Dental Health Center (ADSM) — 20 units

Gaziantep

Gaziantep City Hospital — 1,875 beds

Nurdağı State Hospital — 75 beds

Oğuzeli State Hospital — 75 beds

Hatay

Altınözü State Hospital — 120 beds

Arsuz State Hospital — 100 beds

Belen District State Hospital — 30 beds

Defne State Hospital — 300 beds

Erzin State Hospital — 72 beds

Hatay Training & Research Hospital — 550 beds

Hassa State Hospital — 50 beds

İskenderun State Hospital - Emergency Hospital Additional Service Building — 200 beds

Payas State Hospital — 75 beds

Samandağ State Hospital — 160 beds

Kahramanmaraş

Kahramanmaraş State Hospital — 400 beds

Nurhak State Hospital — 56 beds

Türkoğlu Dr. Kemal Beyazıt State Hospital — 120 beds

Elbistan Şehit Mehmet Şahin Oral & Dental Health Center (ADSM) — 25 units

Malatya

Doğanyol District State Hospital — 10 beds

Darende Hulusi Efendi State Hospital - Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Additional Service Building — 20 beds

Osmaniye

Bahçe State Hospital — 50 beds

Osmaniye State Hospital + Additional Service Building — 600 beds

Şanlıurfa

Haliliye Oral & Dental Health Hospital (ADSH) — 5 beds | 65 units

Harran State Hospital Additional Service Building — beds/units not specified in the excerpt

In this process, the "voice from the field" records not only the numbers but also the **practices of rebuilding life:** healthcare workers who lost loved ones in the earthquake and continued their duties in another city, volunteers who brightened schools and boosted children's morale, earthquake victims who reunited with search and rescue teams after many years, or young people who changed cities to continue their education... These examples show that post-disaster recovery is not only physical but also a field that deepens through **social ties, continuity of education, and access to services.**

In the overall picture, as of the third year, social support mechanisms, education and health investments, and inclusive practices for vulnerable groups in the earthquake zone are progressing in a complementary whole towards alleviating the burden created by the disaster and strengthening normalization.

As of the third year, post-disaster recovery has taken on a more holistic foundation with the strengthening of social services, education, and health capacity alongside housing and infrastructure. **5.1 million** services were delivered to citizens affected by the disaster through psychosocial support teams; In-kind assistance management and mechanisms for vulnerable groups were actively implemented on the ground. In the field of education, classroom capacity was increased with new school investments in many provinces, while in the health sector, access to services was strengthened with new facilities, mobile applications, and rehabilitation-focused support. Field examples reveal that the process meant not only physical **reconstruction but also the rebuilding of societal resilience.**

(Ali Kemal Zerenli - Anadolu Agency)

5. International Dimension

The February 6, 2023, earthquakes were one of the rare crises in which Türkiye was both a major recipient of international solidarity and, in the subsequent period, a **"responder"** once again. This dimension can be read in two phases: **(i) emergency international support that saved lives in the first days, (ii) external financing and project partnerships supporting reconstruction and economic recovery.**

5.1 International aid flows: what helped?

Emergency response (first days–weeks): search and rescue + field health + shelter

Following the earthquake, 11,488 international search and rescue personnel from 90 countries arrived in the region. This significantly increased capacity on the ground, especially in the initial days, and provided substantial human resources support to search and rescue operations.

In terms of shelter, over **90 countries sent a total of 294,743 tents and 12,685 containers.** This contribution served as a critical buffer during the initial period when the need for temporary shelter rose very rapidly.

In healthcare, **28 countries established 30 field hospitals.** These field structures played a crucial role in ensuring emergency triage and the continuation of basic interventions.

Medium-to-long-term recovery: external financing and project-based support

The amount of external financing provided by Türkiye for post-earthquake **reconstruction and development approached approximately $8.7 billion**. These resources are used for items such as school and hospital reconstruction/strengthening, housing, industry, and urban infrastructure.

The financing items were not from a single source, but from multiple actors. For example:

World Bank: $990.8 million for health and urban development/infrastructure in 2023; $450 million to KOSGEB for SME recovery; $600 million for industrial projects and $241.4 million for agricultural projects in 2024.

European Investment Bank (EIB): $428.4 million to İLBANK in 2023.

JICA (Japan): $387.3 million for health and infrastructure projects.

World Bank €200 million + French Development Agency €200 million (total €400 million) co-financing for the renovation/reconstruction of rural housing in 2025.

$500 million from the World Bank under the **Registered Employment Creation Project** (to TKYB).

Islamic Development Bank: €200 million for reconstruction and urban transport.

Disaster Reconstruction Fund: Operational in 2025; €485 million in concessional financing (led by Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, supported by Doğan Investment Bank).

This table shows that international contributions are not only "first-day aid" but are also evolving into a **project-based, long-term reconstruction channel.**

5.2 What was less helpful? Coordination challenges

In a disaster of this scale, the "impact of aid" depends not only on the quantity but also on the **capacity for coordination.** Three years of experience highlight the following lessons:

Simultaneous entry of multiple actors into the field: When many countries/institutions enter the field at the same time, there may be a risk of duplication in some items and a lack of timing in others. (e.g., concentration of certain materials in one area, while shortages persist in others.)

Standard and suitability differences: Differences in standards between countries for items such as medical supplies, temporary shelters, or technical equipment may require adaptation in the field. This can sometimes slow down the distribution speed.

Data/reporting consistency: International funds and grants naturally require reporting for "accountability." However, different reporting formats from different institutions can increase the management burden for the implementing party.

Managing the transition from emergency support to development: While "speed" was decisive in the first phase, "procurement, engineering, sustainability, and auditing" come to the forefront in the second phase. When the transition between these two phases is not well planned, the timing of visible outcomes can be delayed, even if resources are effective.

The critical message here is: International support was

strong; **what maximizes impact** is managing multi-actor assistance with a **single needs framework + clear coordination + transparent monitoring.**

5.3 Türkiye: Both a Receiver and a Future Responder

While Türkiye received large-scale international aid on February 6th, it has visibly maintained its **operational capacity and disaster diplomacy** in various disasters since then:

It was reported that a team from Türkiye supported search and rescue efforts in Taiwan after the 2024 earthquake using **drones capable of thermal imaging.** This is a concrete example of Türkiye's technical capacity being brought to the international arena.

News regarding AFAD's (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) planning and capacity for a potential international aid call for Morocco reflects Türkiye's **rapid deployment and self-sufficient** team approach.

On the institutional framework side, the **International Emergency Relief Expenditures Regulation**, which more clearly defines processes such as fund transfer, expenditure, accounting, and audit by the Court of Accounts in overseas emergency relief activities, places Türkiye's role as a "responder country" on a more **systematic and accountable** foundation.

This dual experience contributes to both institutionalizing Türkiye's own disaster experience and increasing its visibility in international solidarity mechanisms: on the one hand, it projects external financing for reconstruction; on the other hand, it can offer technical/humanitarian capacity to international operations.

(Emre Ilıkan - Anadolu Agency)

6. Voices from the Field

In the third year, it is possible to read the picture not only with numbers but also through the daily lives that people have rebuilt. The short portraits below make visible the responses of the reconstruction, service and support mechanisms carried out by public institutions on the ground, through the experiences of different actors. The texts are "individual stories"; when read together, they complete the multi-layered nature of the recovery process (housing-work-education-health-psychosocial support).

Local administrators: Memory, risk reduction and city-scale reconstruction

After the earthquake, local administrations and the provincial administration took steps to strengthen the memory and resilience of the city while ensuring the continuity of daily services. The Gaziantep Earthquake Museum, planned at the entrance of Nurdağı in Gaziantep, stands out as one of the symbolic examples of this approach. The museum aims to keep disaster awareness alive while transferring the earthquake experience to future generations with simulations, materials and educational areas. The main motivation expressed locally is; The focus should be on learning from past mistakes and improving preparedness, rather than "forgetting."

In Hatay, a simultaneous revival is observed in areas that carry both the city's economic life and its cultural memory. Temporary prefabricated markets provide space for tradespeople to continue their activities, while the restoration of iconic structures such as the Habib-i Neccar Mosque is cited as an element that strengthens collective morale and a sense of belonging. These two lines (commercial vitality + cultural continuity) are complementary dynamics that raise the threshold of "normalization" for cities.

Educators and guides: Education, rehabilitation, and ways to "hold on to the future"

The "teacher/educator" profile in the field is not limited to the school classroom. In the post-earthquake period, people who "teach/guide" in different ways stand out in all lines of education-rehabilitation-psychosocial empowerment.

The conservatory journey of two sisters who moved from Hatay to Edirne is one of the striking examples of this line. The solution the family sought to ensure their children's education wouldn't be interrupted is transformed into a concrete path with the support of the university and professors; one continues his education in trumpet, the other in piano. This story shows that displacement after an earthquake is not only "loss," but can also open new windows of opportunity with the right support.

Similarly, the Child Wellness Centre (ÇOİM) established within Çukurova University in Adana offers a holistic recovery approach to children and young people who have lost limbs, including prosthetic and orthotic services, as well as psychotherapy and vocational training/ scholarships. Here, the "educational" role sometimes appears as a therapist, sometimes as part of a rehabilitation team, and sometimes as part of a system that facilitates the child's reintegration into life: the aim is not only treatment, but also the re-establishment of active participation in life.

Small business owners: Restarting production, protecting employment

One of the most visible faces of economic recovery after the earthquake is small businesses. In Hatay/İskenderun, a female entrepreneur whose workplace was destroyed has returned to production in a workshop allocated within a container industrial site; This represents the "small but critical" steps of this process. The effort to rebuild the business from scratch progresses through steps such as reacquiring equipment, re-establishing the customer network, and creating employment as much as possible. Such examples show that temporary solutions (such as workshop/space allocation) can provide transitional stability in the field.

Healthcare workers: Continuity of the profession, resilience, and the will to continue service

The earthquake directly affected healthcare workers both professionally and personally. The fact that a doctor and nurse couple who lost their loved ones continue to work together in Kayseri illustrates how they carry the weight of the loss while holding on to the "healing" aspect of the profession. Such stories remind us that the healthcare system is not just about buildings and equipment; it survives with the psychological burden of its human

resources. A supportive managerial approach and flexibility in work arrangements are among the facilitating elements frequently emphasized in the field.

Solidarity actors: From search and rescue to long-term bonds

The transformation of solidarity that began at the time of the earthquake into a bond that extends over the years is also a frequently encountered theme in the field. The reunion of a family rescued from the rubble 138 hours later with the rescue team and volunteers who saved them demonstrates the continuity of human connections in the post-disaster era. This connection extends beyond the immediate "first-day" response to disasters and can also include long-term support such as educational assistance.

(Ali Kemal Zerenli - Anadolu Agency)

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