

Dear beloved Solicity community,

As your colleague and friend, I need your help and solidarity.

Early Monday morning, the southeast of Turkey was rocked by two massive earthquakes of 7.8 and 7.6 magnitude, followed by several severe aftershocks. Thousands of buildings were destroyed in the shaking, trapping an estimated number of tens of thousands of people under the rubble. Thousands of victims have been confirmed dead overall in 10 cities with these numbers being expected to rise as search and rescue efforts continue.

Immediately after the earthquakes, the Turkish government declared an alert state of level-4, which is the highest level and includes an international call for help. The emergency has been acknowledged by international organizations including the World Health Organization.

As the roads, highways, and airports were also damaged by the earthquakes, transfer of Search and Rescue teams as well as survival goods has been extremely difficult. Hospitals and emergency buildings were also destroyed. People in the region are desperately in need of help. Furthermore, snowy weather and freezing cold create terrible conditions for survival, search and rescue teams, and people under the rubble. In addition to Turkish people, some of these cities have the highest rates of various ethnic and religious groups including Kurds, Arabs, Alawis, Jews, as well as Syrian refugees who had already been displaced at least once due to conflicts.

Local and national bottom-up initiatives as well as transnational solidarity have been the primary source of aid. The easiest and fastest way of help is to donate money. Thus, as your colleagues from Turkey, we ask for your donations to help those who are severely affected by the earthquakes. Considering the high currency rate in Turkey (1 euro=20.23 Turkish Lira), any amount of donation matters.

Ahbap is a bottom-up nationwide trusted organisation with more than 30.000 volunteers. You may donate via this link: <https://ahbap.org/disasters-turkey>

The aftershocks keep hitting Turkey and neighbouring countries since Monday. In addition to Turkey, particularly Syria was severely damaged by the disaster, with the death toll reaching over thousands. Unfortunately, we do not have the names of trustworthy local civil society organizations in Syria.

I hope that all our colleagues, their families and beloved ones living in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and other countries affected by the disaster are safe and sound.

Please feel free to circulate this email within your network.

With hope and solidarity...