

Dear UMass community,

We as a group of UMass students from Turkey write to you with a heavy heart to bring to your attention the devastating earthquakes that recently struck Turkey and Syria on February 6, 2023. The magnitude of the destruction caused by these earthquakes has been catastrophic, leaving behind destruction, loss of life and homes, and a population in desperate need of aid. Tragically, over 17,000 people in Turkey have already lost their lives, and the death toll might rise even 5-10 times if enough resources are not provided. Some estimates suggest that around 150,000 people are still trapped under the rubble, waiting to be rescued. Furthermore, the incapacity of the Turkish state and their poor organizational skills have further aggravated the severity of the problem. There is an urgent need for international aid and support in order to ensure that those affected people receive the necessary resources and assistance.

We are reaching out to you today, asking for your help in raising funds to support the relief efforts in Turkey. The funds raised will go towards providing essential supplies such as food, water, shelter, and medical aid to those affected. It will also contribute to the rebuilding of homes and infrastructure, helping to bring some sense of normalcy back to the lives of those impacted.

Even the smallest donations can have a significant difference in the lives of those affected. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated, and we are hopeful that in this time of crisis we can come together and make a difference for those in need.

Below are the links to some NGOs in Turkey that are known to be trustworthy.

Thank you for your consideration.

With deep gratitude,

A group of UMass students from Turkey

- Turkish Philanthropy Fund: <https://www.tpfund.org/>
- AHBAP: <https://ahbap.org/disasters-turkey>
- AKUT Foundation: <https://www.akutvakfi.org.tr/bagis-yap/>
- Bridge to Turkey: <https://bridgetoturkiye.org/>
- Doctors Without Borders:
<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/msf-responds-overwhelming-medical-needs-following-earthquakes-turkey-and-syria>

To donate cryptocurrencies to Ahbap, possibly the most transparent and accountable civic initiative on the ground:

- BEP20 Network: 0xB67705398fEd380a1CE02e77095fed64f8aCe463
- ERC20 Network: 0xe1935271D1993434A1a59fE08f24891Dc5F398Cd
- Avalanche Network: 0x868D27c361682462536DfE361f2e20B3A6f4dDD8



A picture of a dad holding hand of her daughter under the rubble



A picture of a city, Hatay, after the earthquakes