



## ABOUT US

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At IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, we have been working since our establishment in 1992 to provide the humanitarian aid that is needed by people in dire straits, who are faced with a disaster, victimized in a war, or a natural disaster, or who have experienced violence, and to prevent the violation of fundamental rights and freedoms of these people anywhere in the world. These activities, which started with volunteer activities and were institutionalized in 1995, spread to 123 countries in a short period of time and became a bridge of charity stretching out from Türkiye to the whole world.

While carrying out its work in the fields of humanitarian relief, human rights and humanitarian diplomacy, IHH acts as a role model in the development of non-governmental organizations that operate in regions that suffer from unjust treatment, prioritizing the development of a sense of helping, solidarity and brotherhood both at home and abroad and has implemented several social and cultural projects for this purpose. In addition to its emergency relief efforts, IHH also builds permanent buildings such as schools, hospitals, cultural centers, mosques, water wells, orphanages and healthcare centers that will help the local people improve, and provides humanitarian diplomacy in all matters where interstate diplomacy is not able to produce a solution, acting as a mediator to solve such problems.

Honored with the Outstanding Service Award by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in 2007, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation has been granted tax exemption, and classified as a foundation working for public benefit as per Cabinet Decree 2011/1799 of 04.04.2011. IHH received the "State Outstanding Sacrifice Medal and Badge" for its disaster management efforts in the earthquakes that happened in Kahramanmaraş in 2023.

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation is an advisory status member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); a council member of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation Humanitarian Fund (OICHF), and a member of the Humanitarian Forum (THF); International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA); Turkish Volunteer Organizations Foundation (TGTV), and the Union of NGOs of the Islamic World (IDSB) and the International Search and Rescue Consultancy Group within the United Nations (INSARAG).

## 2024 Activity Report

### IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation

### Disaster Management Department

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This report published in April 2025 highlights the disaster management efforts of IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation at home and abroad in 2024.

For more information about our activities, visit our website [www.ihh.org.tr](http://www.ihh.org.tr),  
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**A STRONG  
TEAM SAVES  
LIVES**





## SECRETARY GENERAL

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Continuing its mission of keeping kindness alive for more than a quarter of a century, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation increases its capacity in the field of disaster management, one of its main fields of work, with each passing day. The Foundation started its disaster management efforts after the Marmara Earthquake in 1999 and participated in many disaster intervention activities at home and abroad in addition to helping thousands of lives being rescued.

The Disaster Management supports to meet the urgent food, shelter and healthcare needs of those in need not only after natural disasters but also in regions suffering from wars, migrations and crises. It also provides training to NGOs at home and abroad, helping raise competent teams and getting communities prepared for disasters. That's why we know that a developed and strengthened civil society will take not only our nation but also the entire world forward, making it possible to meet the needs of humanity at any time with beneficial services.

The earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş on the 6th of February once again showed us how important all such efforts are. NGOs have collaborated with official agencies to carry out important activities in the fields of search & rescue and humanitarian relief right after the earthquake. Non-stop efforts have been made in order to meet the needs of our earthquake-hit citizens. At IHH, we have mobilized with all our resources to help with search & rescue in particular. Together with our domestic and international stakeholders, we have tried to heal their wounds. We will continue our efforts until life returns to normal.

We appreciate our donors and volunteers as they are the ones who provide us with the opportunity to quickly and effectively respond to many disasters and emergencies such as earthquakes, fires, floods and migrations at home and abroad. I would like to thank our donors who never leave us alone and our volunteers who work day and night to lessen the burden of those in need.

I wish Allah's mercy on our citizens who lost their lives in disasters. May God protect us from such disasters and not let us experience the same suffering again.

**Dr. Durmuş AYDIN**  
Secretary General

## BOARD MEMBER

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The year 2024 witnessed a surge in climate change-induced disasters and a deepening of humanitarian crises. Across the globe, temperature records were shattered, and extreme weather events became more frequent and intense. This period once again underscored the critical importance of disaster preparedness and the need for swift and effective response capabilities. Under the umbrella of our foundation, IHH Disaster Management Department continued its relentless efforts throughout 2024, guided by a people-centered and integrated approach to disaster management.

IHH Disaster Management Department stands ready to respond swiftly and effectively to national and international disasters with a well-equipped force of 3,641 volunteer search and rescue technicians across 74 cities in our country. Supported by 67 search and rescue vehicles and five specially trained search and rescue dogs accredited by AFAD, the department remains in a constant state of preparedness to tackle emergencies with precision and efficiency.

In order to test our capacity and enhance our field experience in this domain, we conducted our fourth national drill in Istanbul in 2024, following previous exercises held in Bolu (2017, 2020) and Bursa (2019). The drill encompassed urban, wilderness, water search and rescue, as well as medical rescue operations, bringing together 46 teams and 801 volunteer search and rescue technicians from various cities across the country. These exercises are of critical importance, enabling us to assess our effectiveness in disaster and crisis response while continuously improving our capabilities.

We continuously enhance the competence and capacity of IHH Disaster Management Department. By the end of 2024, we increased the number of medium-class accredited teams from two to five and the number of light-class accredited teams from 16 to 29. As a result, the total number of teams accredited by AFAD in urban search and rescue across heavy, medium, and light classifications has reached 35. Additionally, numerous teams across the country continue their accreditation efforts.

Recognizing the importance of communities being prepared for disasters, reducing risks, and fostering disaster management awareness, we have been providing disaster awareness, first aid, and search and rescue training to international civil society organizations in collaboration with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) since 2019. To date, we have conducted 18 training programs across five countries.

Our donors and volunteers are always here to help us save lives by responding to disasters as they are the most important stakeholders of our strong organization. Acting in a dedicated way to save a person's life, participating in training, drills and disaster intervention activities without expecting anything in return and trying to lessen the burden of others can only be made possible through volunteering.

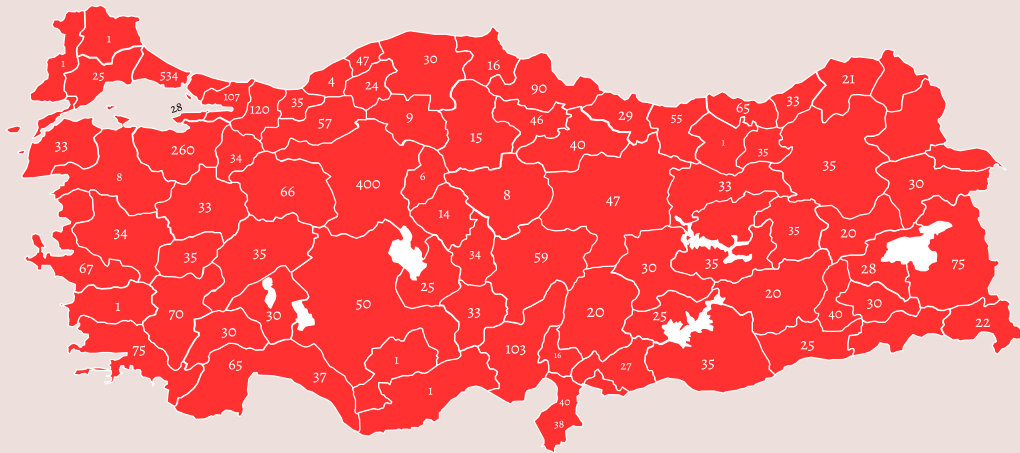
In this report, which provides a summary of the activities carried out by our Disaster Management Department throughout 2024, you will find detailed insights into the efforts of our professional and volunteer teams. I extend my deepest gratitude to all our benefactors and volunteers who have made these efforts possible.

**Ömer KARS**

Board Member Responsible for  
Disaster Management



## DISTRIBUTION OF OUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS



74

Cities across Türkiye

3,641

Volunteer Search and Rescue Technicians

67

Search and Rescue Vehicles

5

K9 Dogs

The foundation of the IHH Disaster Management Department was laid in 2009 with the establishment of the Emergency Aid and Search & Rescue Unit, aimed at conducting our foundation's search and rescue as well as emergency relief operations in a more professional manner. By 2020, the Disaster Management Department was officially formed to enable a more effective response to disasters and emergencies through an integrated disaster management approach, while also engaging in risk reduction efforts. As of 2024, the IHH Disaster Management Department has reached over 4,000 trained volunteers across various fields, including search and rescue, psychosocial support, and medical rescue.

Additionally, within our foundation, a Disaster Management Commission has been established, formulated with reference to the Türkiye Disaster Response Plan (TAMP).



Search & Rescue Working Group



Nutrition and In-Kind Assistance Working Group



Educational Activities Working Group



Communication Working Group



NGO and Volunteer Management Working Group



Psycho-social Support Working Group



Operations Management Working Group



Correspondence Working Group



International Cooperation Working Group



Logistics and Warehouse Management Working Group



Information Management Working Group



Shelter Working Group



Healthcare Working Group



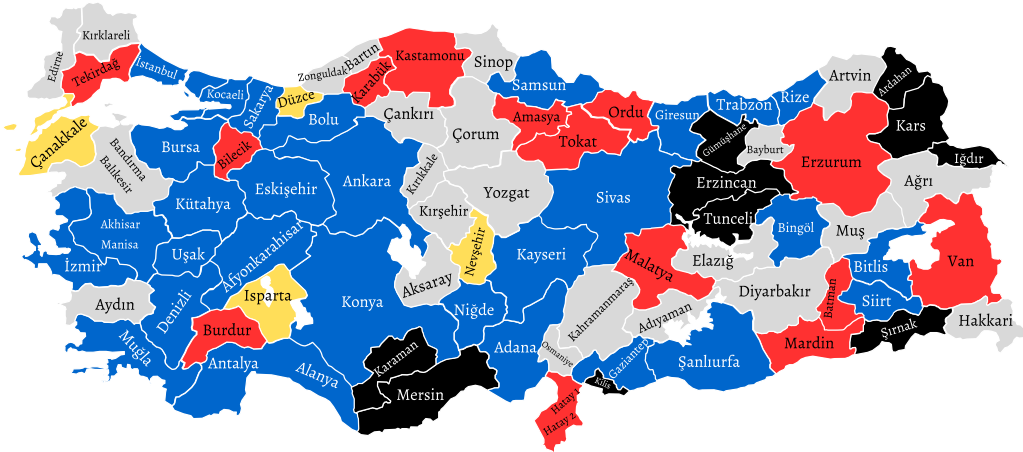
Damage and Loss Assessment Working Group



Procurement and Financial Affairs Working Group

# ACCREDITATION STATUS MAP FOR IHH SEARCH & RESCUE TEAMS

(December 31, 2024)



Accredited Teams	Applicant Teams	Preparing Teams	Inactive Teams	Provinces without a team
35	8	19	23	10

Our teams that have been accredited by AFAD’s Urban Search and Rescue Accreditation System and those whose accreditation process is ongoing;

- ✓ 1 heavy-class accredited team (110 search and rescue technicians)
- ✓ 5 medium-class accredited teams (332 search and rescue technicians)
- ✓ 29 light-class accredited teams (858 search and rescue technicians)
- ✓ We have 4 accredited teams in Istanbul, including 1 medium-class and 3 light-class teams.
- ✓ Our teams in Giresun, Trabzon, Sakarya, Konya, and Denizli are preparing for medium-class accreditation.
- ✓ In Istanbul, one team has applied for light-class accreditation, while our teams in Bursa, Samsun, and Eskişehir have applied for medium-class accreditation.
- ✓ Two teams in Hatay are preparing for light-class accreditation.

## Other Accreditations

- ✓ Among the 140 dogs that participated in the training and task competency exams organized by AFAD for K9 dogs, our dog Bozo ranked 1st in Türkiye, and our dog Angel ranked 7th in Türkiye.
- ✓ Heavy-Class Nutrition Accreditation (IHH became the first institution to receive this accreditation.)
- ✓ In-kind Donation Warehouse Management and Distribution Accreditation
- ✓ Psychosocial Support Accreditation (The process is ongoing.)



## 2024 BUDGET EXPENDITURE GRAPH

The expenditure distribution of the \$928,640 budget used by our Disaster Management Department in 2024 is as follows:

Equipment Purchase	\$281,314
Textile Expenses	\$245,646
Vehicle Purchase	\$227,974
Operations and Activities	\$101,924
Transportation Expenses	\$60,358
Other	\$11,424
TOTAL	\$928,640

## 2024 ACTIVITY SUMMARY

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES	PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
3,583	37,628	59,218

KIND	ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANT
Education	917	12,457
Meeting	875	9,271
Visit	523	2,116
Administrative	365	2,600
Sports	309	3,568
Operation	275	2,095
Publicity	139	1,168
Drill	126	3,407
Awareness	36	280
Accreditation	18	666
Total	3,583	37,628

## TRAINING ACTIVITIES

In 2024, as the Disaster Management Department, we conducted 917 training sessions across 20 different domains. A total of 12,457 individuals participated in these sessions. Additionally, 54,311 individuals, who are not volunteers in our search and rescue organization, benefited from these trainings.

Subject	Activity	Participant	Beneficiary
Disaster Awareness	246	1,222	49,609
Search and Rescue in Nature	181	2,510	554
Search & Rescue in Urban Areas	137	2,814	436
Accreditation	108	2,584	75
First Aid Provider	69	879	12
Fire Safety Training	46	785	2,922
Radio	32	576	55
Mountaineering	30	168	0
Search & Rescue in Water	28	209	369
First Aid	10	109	225
Sheltering Training	6	182	36
Orientation	5	155	0
Hazmat/CBRN	4	49	0
Personal Development	3	18	0
Disaster Psychology	3	52	18
Basic Search and Rescue	2	31	0
CBRN Awareness	2	57	0
Urban Search and Rescue Instructor Training	2	20	0
Disaster Awareness Instructor Training	2	31	0
Fire Safety Knowledge	1	6	0
Total	917	12,457	54,311

## Domestic Training Programs

- On February 23, we provided “Disaster Volunteer” training to the staff of the T3 Foundation.
- On February 28, we conducted “Disaster Volunteer” training for the employees of Türkiye Coal Enterprises.
- From March 4 to 8, the IHH Medical Rescue Team participated in the basic UMKE training organized in Bursa.
- On July 29 and September 22, we participated in two different medical rescue training and drills held in Ankara.
- From September 3 to 5, we attended the training organized by the IOM (International Organization for Migration) Türkiye Office in Ankara, within the framework of the Migration, Environment, and Climate Change program, which focused on integrating emergency preparedness, response, and recovery processes for migrants in host countries.
- On September 29, we participated in the “Accreditation and Coordination Camp” organized by AFAD for accredited teams in the Central Anatolia Region, held in Topuk Plateau.
- On September 30, we took part in the “Accreditation and Coordination Camp” organized by AFAD for accredited teams in the Marmara Region, held in Bursa.
- On October 5, we attended the “Accreditation and Coordination Camp” organized by AFAD for accredited teams in the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia regions, held in Diyarbakır.



## International Training Programs

- ▶ On April 28, in collaboration with TIKA, we provided "Search and Rescue Training in Nature" to 25 volunteers in the Karoonjhar Mountains, located in the Tharparkar region of Pakistan.
- ▶ On May 28, we conducted "Urban Search and Rescue Training" for the fire department teams of the Nikšić municipality in Montenegro.
- ▶ On July 5, under the coordination of TIKA, we participated in advanced cave search and rescue training in Croatia.
- ▶ On October 17-18, we attended the "Disaster Risk Management Workshop" organized by Twente University in the Netherlands.
- ▶ On November 21, in collaboration with TIKA, we provided "Urban Search and Rescue Training" to a 30-person team from the Alkhidmat Foundation and the Sindh Scouts Association in Pakistan.
- ▶ On December 4, we delivered "Search and Rescue Training in Nature" to an 11-person team from the Salaam Foundation in South Africa.





## OPERATIONS

In 2024, teams affiliated with our Disaster Management Department participated in 275 operations, involving 2,095 individuals across 12 different areas.

Subject	Activity	Person
Missing Person Case	149	1,061
Fire	56	519
Flood	18	128
Animal Rescue	18	73
Stranded Situation	12	70
Building Collapse	9	156
Transportation Accident	8	37
Landslide	1	4
Storm	1	3
Earthquake	1	30
Avalanche	1	10
Tent	1	4
Total	275	2,095





Some of the operations organized or participated in by our search and rescue teams in 2024 within our country:

- ▶ February 13 – Antalya Flood Intervention
- ▶ February 28 – Genç District Avalanche Intervention
- ▶ April 13 – Antalya Cable Car Accident
- ▶ May 18 – Tokat Earthquake
- ▶ June 2 – Küçükçekmece Building Collapse
- ▶ July 4 – Bornova Forest Fire
- ▶ July 16 – Yenişehir Sawmill Fire
- ▶ July 19 – İnegöl Chair Factory Fire
- ▶ July 31 – Çivril Forest Fire
- ▶ August 16 – Eceabat Forest Fire
- ▶ August 17 – İzmir Menderes Forest Fire
- ▶ August 25 – Bünyan Flood Intervention
- ▶ September 13 – Fatih Building Collapse
- ▶ September 15 – Hendek Organized Industrial Zone Explosion
- ▶ September 21 – Sürmene Flood Intervention
- ▶ October 17 – Dalaman Forest Fire
- ▶ October 27 – Denizli Forest Fire
- ▶ October 28 – Kozan Earthquake
- ▶ November 20 – Aladağlar Missing Tourists Case
- ▶ November 26 – Ordu Missing Person Case
- ▶ November 29 – Güngören Building Collapse
- ▶ December 21 – Manavgat Flood Intervention

In addition to these significant operations conducted within our country, on December 8, the IHH Disaster Management Department intervened in an emergency situation at Sednaya Prison in Damascus, Syria. We responded with a 17-person search and rescue team, including two rescue dogs. We conducted a three-day operation, using listening and imaging devices for scanning.

## SPORTING ACTIVITIES

In 2024, our Disaster Management Department organized 309 activities across eight fields, engaging a total of 3,568 participants.

Subject	Activity	Participant
Nature Hiking	111	1,202
Diving	61	703
Summit Climbing	53	487
Camping	48	833
Athletics	16	143
Sport Climbing	14	105
Extreme Sports	4	60
Orienteering	2	35
Total	309	3,568

In commemoration of our martyrs of July 15, we undertook 15 distinct summit ascents on July 15, 2024, with 15 teams and a total of 141 mountaineers. The Peaks Conquered:

- ▶ Mount Ararat – 5,137 meters
- ▶ Kaçkar Mountain – 3,937 meters
- ▶ Aladağlar – 3,524 meters
- ▶ Mount Erek – 3,200 meters
- ▶ Kızlar Sivrisi – 3,069 meters
- ▶ Kırklar Hill – 3,060 meters
- ▶ Mount Berit – 3,050 meters
- ▶ Dedegöl Mountain – 2,998 meters
- ▶ Sultandağı – 2,675 meters
- ▶ Mount Honaz – 2,571 meters
- ▶ Uludağ – 2,543 meters
- ▶ Nemrut Crater Lake – 2,247 meters
- ▶ Ali Mountain – 2,000 meters
- ▶ Mount Spil – 1,513 meters
- ▶ Aydos Hill – 537 meters

## DRILLS & EMERGENCY

In 2024, our Disaster Management Department conducted a total of 126 drills, engaging 3,407 participants across three key areas.

Category	Drills	Participants
Field Drills	121	3,367
Tabletop Exercises	3	31
Evacuation Drills	2	9
Total	126	3,407

### Major Drills Conducted by the Disaster Management Department in 2024:

- ▶ Regional Search & Rescue Drill – Samsun
- ▶ IHH 4th National Search & Rescue Drill – Istanbul

### Nationwide Drills Attended by Our Teams in 2024:

- ▶ May 18 – Düzce Governorate, Wilderness Search & Rescue Drill
- ▶ August 29 – Bingöl, TAMP Earthquake Drill
- ▶ September 13 – Mersin, TAMP Earthquake Drill
- ▶ September 26 – Uşak, TAMP Earthquake Drill
- ▶ October 4 – Afyon, TAMP Earthquake Drill
- ▶ October 11 – Konya, TAMP Earthquake Drill
- ▶ October 23 – Siirt, UMKE Emergency Response Drill
- ▶ October 28 – Aydın, TAMP Earthquake Drill
- ▶ November 1 – Ankara, TAMP Earthquake Drill
- ▶ November 6 – Kütahya, TAMP Earthquake Drill
- ▶ November 28 – Bursa, TAMP Earthquake Drill



## IHH 4th National Search and Rescue Drill

On the 25th anniversary of the August 17, 1999 Gölcük Earthquake, we organized the 4th National Search and Rescue Drill to prepare for potential disasters. The three-day drill brought together 46 teams and 801 volunteer search and rescue technicians from various cities across Türkiye. During the exercise, urban, wilderness, water search and rescue operations, as well as medical rescue activities, were conducted.

The drill was based on a scenario of a 6.8-magnitude earthquake on the North Anatolian Fault Line, off the coast of the Marmara Sea. Teams carried out search and rescue operations in simulated areas with 125,000 severely damaged, 169,000 moderately damaged, and 206,000 slightly damaged buildings.

Simultaneous search and rescue efforts were conducted in Yeşilköy, Akfırat, Oruçoğlu, Süreyyapaşa, Hacılı, and Beykoz, coordinated from the IHH Emre Yerli Disaster Management and Logistics Center in Tuzla.

Our teams performed search and rescue operations in four different regions, working around the clock using their full capacity and resources.

Responding to our foundation's call, teams from across Türkiye traveled to Istanbul to participate in earthquake scenarios under challenging conditions, continuously enhancing their preparedness and capabilities for all types of disasters.

The drill was monitored from our disaster management center by Istanbul Governor Davut Gül, Düzce Governor Selçuk Aslan, Adalar District Governor Abdullah İnan, our President Bülent Yıldırım, Istanbul AFAD Director Haluk Özener, AFAD department heads, and other officials.





## Regional Search and Rescue Drill in Samsun

We regularly organize training sessions and drills to enhance the skills and experience of our search and rescue teams. Our search and rescue teams, operating under the Disaster Management Department, conducted a regional drill in Samsun with the participation of 120 search and rescue technicians from 15 provinces across the Black Sea region and surrounding areas.

The drill included urban search and rescue in debris, water surface search and rescue, search and rescue operations for missing persons in nature, and the evacuation of injured individuals using an aerial line across a stream bed.



## MEDICAL RESCUE

Following the February 6 Earthquakes and other disasters in Türkiye and around the world, we observed that, aside from UMKE, no official or non-governmental organization in Türkiye was actively engaged in medical rescue operations. Additionally, we identified a lack of capacity in this field during large-scale disasters and a critical need for volunteers capable of providing professional medical rescue services. In response to this gap, the IHH Disaster Management Department decided to establish a dedicated medical rescue unit in collaboration with experienced healthcare professionals who have long served in our search and rescue operations.

With the establishment of our Medical Rescue Team, we aim to provide timely and effective responses to disasters both in Türkiye and globally while seeking accreditation with national and international organizations operating in this field. Pursuing this objective, the IHH Medical Rescue Team conducted five training sessions and drills in 2024, forming an initial team of 74 members.

## PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

As the IHH Disaster Management Department, we established the Psychosocial Support Unit last year under the leadership of professional psychologists working within our foundation. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of our services in the areas of orphan care, search and rescue, education, youth, women, and humanitarian aid. With a team of 302 volunteer mental health professionals, including psychologists, sociologists, social workers, child development specialists, and psychological counselors, we have begun providing free psychotherapy and counseling services.

Founded with a multidisciplinary approach, the Psychosocial Support Unit aims to:

Establish a nationwide network across Türkiye.

Obtain accreditation from national and international organizations to provide support and treatment for individuals affected by disasters and crises worldwide.

Conduct academic research and prepare reports on humanitarian aid, war, crises, and disasters, contributing to the field with the expertise of qualified volunteers.

In line with these goals, our Psychosocial Support Unit deployed a specialized team to Syria after the war to conduct observations and interview former prisoners who were rescued from Sednaya and other prisons. Based on the findings from these interviews, the team has begun preparing a comprehensive report titled "Syria and Its Prisons."





## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

To enhance our effectiveness in search and rescue and disaster management, expand our capacity, raise disaster awareness, and foster national and international collaborations, we have participated in numerous events both within Türkiye and abroad.

- ▶ February 6 – Attended the “Kahramanmaraş Earthquake Commemoration Ceremony” organized by the Novi Grad Municipality search and rescue teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- ▶ February 20 – Participated in the “Humanity XChange” fair in London, where we hosted a booth showcasing our disaster-related activities.
- ▶ April 23-25 – Represented our disaster management efforts at the “DIHAD 2024” fair in Dubai with an informational booth.
- ▶ May 5-7 – Attended the “Assessment and Development” meetings organized by INSARAG (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group) in Geneva.
- ▶ May 7-11 – Participated in the “Arab Forum for Social Development” in Casablanca, Morocco, where we shared insights on our disaster relief operations.
- ▶ May 19-20 – Attended the opening conference of the “Terra Project.”
- ▶ August 7 – Joined the “February 6 Earthquakes and Humanitarian Aid” consultation meeting organized by the Ministry of Interior in Konya.
- ▶ August 22 – Participated as a speaker at the panel titled “A Quarter Century After August 17” organized by the Istanbul Planning Agency.
- ▶ October 2 – Took part in the “AEME Regional Meeting” organized by INSARAG in Romania.
- ▶ October 2-6 – Hosted a booth at “TEKNOFEST” in Adana, where we presented our disaster management work.
- ▶ October 2-4 – Participated in the “NADMEX Disaster Fair” in Istanbul, where we showcased our disaster-related activities.
- ▶ October 12 – Attended the “Humanitarian Aid Summit” held in Cape Town, South Africa.
- ▶ October 23-24 – Presented our disaster relief work at the “AidEx 2024” fair in Geneva with an informational booth.
- ▶ November 20-23 – Participated in the 4th International NGO Fair, where we provided information about our ongoing initiatives.
- ▶ December 5 – Attended the “AFAD Accreditation Ceremony” organized by the Ministry of Interior, where 28 teams from the IHH Disaster Management Department received their certificates.
- ▶ December 15-17 – Participated in the “Sustainable Strong Future” symposium.











## *Since 1992*

We have been conducting our work in 123 countries without discrimination of religion, language, race, nationality, or sect, and we extend our gratitude to our beloved friends of the heart who have supported us along this journey.



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