

Mavi Kalem Hatay Earthquake Zone Operations and Observations*

It has been 1 month since the February 6th Kahramanmaraş earthquake. We have reached the end of the period that required urgent and rapid work. There are now more institutions and organizations on the field providing support. Although everything is uncertain for the disaster victims, small routines are starting to emerge.

As of February 26, we started to carry out our work in Hatay through a container office we placed in Derince neighborhood (Antakya-Serinyol). As of February 26, based on preliminary conversations we had in Hatay, we distributed underwear, diapers, patient pads, baby food and drinking water to women and children.



Distribution List

Spoon food, Powdered food 1236 pieces
Baby diapers 1310 packs
Children's briefs + undershirt 720 sets
Children's socks 3000 pcs
Women's socks 2,400 pieces
Sanitary napkin 600 packs

Women's Panties 1100 pcs
Pants with trousers 400 pieces
Women's singlet 700 pieces
Women's bra 700pcs
Patient pads 100 packs
24 tons of water

* This information note is prepared to provide information about Mavi Kalem's work in the region affected by the Kahramanmaraş-Hatay earthquake and it will be updated at regular intervals.

On March 8th, International Women's Day, we come together with women and made a painting on canvas, and had conversations with women in one of the tent camps in Serinyol.

We particularly worked on the tent areas set up outside the camps, on the streets and in gardens. These tents were set up by earthquake survivors who did not want to move away from their half-demolished houses for various reasons.

We could not find clear data on the number of disaster survivors who set up tents in the streets and gardens outside the camps. However, there are a considerable number of tent clusters.

Locations where materials were distributed and where meetings with women were held:

Districts: Antakya, Defne, Harbiye, Samandağ, Altınözü, Yayladağı.



Neighborhoods: Serinyol, Kara Ali, Alazi, Derince, Zülüflühan, Büyük Dalyan, Küçük Dalyan, Merkez, Çekmece, Döver, Saray Caddesi, Koyunoğlu, Cumhuriyet, Uğur Mumcu Bulvarı, Çatbaşı, Görentaş, Güveççi, Demirköprü, Av suyu, Maden boyu, Saçaklı, Hanyolu, Narlıca, Ekinci, Narlıca, Ekinci, Akhisar, Tepehan, Portakal, Maşuklu.

Our observations and impressions of the places where we work:

The tents near the old stadium in Antakya district were set up in an area almost surrounded by debris.

In Küçük Dalyan neighborhood of Antakya district, there are tent clusters of 5-6 tents on each street. These tents are usually made up of neighbors or relatives living on that street. They stated that they did not want to move away from their homes. There is a similar settlement of 10 tents at

entrance of Küçük Dalyan neighborhood.

On the border of Büyük Dalyan neighborhood (Ayazlı) there is a camping area consisting of containers. This camp consists of approximately 300 containers. Camp residents stated that they settled here with an application. In Büyük Dalyan neighborhood, there are many tent clusters both in the streets and in open areas.

In Serinyol neighborhood, there are clusters of 5-6 tents on the streets. The tents are set up side by side along the street or in gardens of houses. The people living in tents meet their toilet and shower needs with toilet and shower cabins they provide themselves. Tent dwellers have obtained these cabins from different aid organizations and neighboring municipalities. They also stated that they made their own sewage and water connections. Some women keep the tap water in plastic drums and open-top buckets. Sediment





accumulates at the bottom, and they use the clear water at the top for toilets, laundry, dishes, etc. They use drinking water only for cooking and tea and coffee.

In Narlıca neighborhood, there are clusters of tents in open areas and on roadsides where Syrian refugees predominantly live. The general negative tendencies towards Syrians that are sometimes observed in the society can also be seen here. Some of survivors do not want to be in tents close

to Syrian refugees. There is also a partial belief that they benefit more from aid. However, there are also local and refugee families living in common tent areas.

In Demirköprü neighborhood, there is a tent cluster consisting entirely of Syrians. They set up 12 tents in the yard of a school with their own means. With the help of the mukhtar, 2 toilets and showers were provided.



Derince neighborhood is where our office container is located. Those who received the information that we were there from our neighbors came to our office and took the materials we distributed regularly according to their needs.

Karaali neighborhood does not have a structured camping area, tent clusters are frequently encountered.

The women we interviewed mentioned that they sometimes experience difficulties in accessing food and water. They also stated that they do not want to leave the area where their houses are located. Citing theft incidents as the reason for this, women say they want to protect their belongings. In the meantime, they enter and exit some half-demolished or damaged houses “quickly” to do their laundry. According to the accounts, women quick-

ly enter the house, put the laundry in the machine, press the button and run out of the house. When the machine stops, they rush back in, take the laundry, and run out again. Here, too, we saw that women take extra risks due to their responsibility of care.

It was reported that there were 1400 people in the tent city in the old animal market near Küçük Dalyan in Antakya district. The women we spoke to in this crowded tent city listed the issues they need solutions for:

“There are 10 toilets and 10 shower cabins in the campsite. There are separate sections for men and women, but the water is often cut off and they are very dirty”, “They cannot close the doors of some of the shower cabins and they can bathe by making someone wait in front of the door”, “The electricity is of-



ten cut off in the evenings, they do not go to the toilet alone and they use the flashlights of their cell phones to illuminate and go". "There are 20 washing machines but some of them have broken down and they wash their clothes by hand in a basin". On the other hand, they emphasize that they are "glad to have found a place to stay in an organized campsite".

In the villages we visited, families affected by the disaster and unable to stay in their homes had moved from the city to the villages. For example, in Çatbaşı village, the number of families has increased exponentially. It was stated that this increase in population in the villages primarily caused food shortages. They also need cleaning supplies.

Many people/families outside the campsites mentioned that they sleep on guard at night, sometimes men take turns sleeping, and that they get up and walk around to check the sounds heard at night (Serinyol, Küçük Çekmece)

On February 25th, we saw the opening of grocery stores in the university/campus area of Antakya. Grocery stores opened first. In some neighborhoods, such as Zülüflühan and Serinyol, we saw a few grocery stores, a few bakeries and pastry shops, one or two shops selling nuts, a few restaurants and pharmacies starting to operate on February 27-28. These shops are mainly food shops. In addition, meat, chicken doner, skewer and meatball shops

are operating in unorganized places along the roadsides in the city.

Between March 10-15, debris removal work continued. Debris removal works continue in Sümerler and Harbiye neighborhoods in Defne district and Haraparası, Ekinci, Maraşboğazı, Serinyol, Anayazı, Alahan, Büyükdalyan, Derince, Zülüflühan, Şükrü Kanatlı, Güzelburç, Emek, Küçükdalyan, Narlıca and Odabaşı neighborhoods in Antakya district. Debris rubble is being loaded onto trucks by construction equipment. On Antakya-Altınözü Road, we saw construction equipment dumping rubble on the mountain slopes.

Administrators and coordinators in the campsites are mainly men. This makes it difficult for women disaster survivors to communicate. They cannot express problems and needs that are culturally considered private.

We witnessed 2 incidents of gossip and discrimination against single women/women without husbands.

Needs Expressed By Women

When we asked women about their needs, they mentioned their own needs and the needs of their families and relatives, for whom they bear the burden of care, together.

For their own personal needs;

Tweezers, clothes, underwear (including bras), shampoo, soap, nail clippers, waxing, spring and summer clothes, slippers, tracksuits. For women, underwear refers

to bras and panties, not undershirts and panties. Many women stated that underwear packages did not include bras.

For other family members and relatives: Cleaning supplies, food/supplies, clothes for children and spouses, underwear, socks, bedding and blankets, clean water, toilet/bathroom.

Situations We Have Identified That Require A Solution

- Ensure regular and continuous access to clean water / 10-15 liters per person per day.
- Increase the number of toilets in all settlements according to international standards / 1 for 20 people.
- Connecting all sewage drains to the sewerage system,
- Provide lighting to ensure safety, both in campsites and for clusters of tents in alleyways,
- In particular, the distance of toilets and bathrooms from residential areas and their lighting should be controlled and regulated to ensure safety,
- Improving the ground insulation of shelters and removing mud from tents,
- Ensuring that disaster victims and patients with health problems have regular access to the medicines they need to use on an ongoing basis,
- Meeting heating and fuel needs,
- Equal involvement of women employees

in coordination and distribution so that women can communicate easily,

- Regular maintenance and repair of installations such as toilets, bathrooms and washing machines,
- Distribution of supplies by hand by going to the settlements of the disaster survivors.

Community's Capacity To Deal With Problems

After every disaster, there is a tendency to reorganize and rebuild life in communities subjected to destruction and fragmentation. One month after the February 6th earthquake, we can see hints of the potential of the disaster survivor community to restructure their lives and cope with the problem. They are creating new daily routines and returning to some of the old routines that are appropriate to the situation. They are moving towards creating a sustainable living space with the resources they have access to and what they produce again.

The responses, behaviors, and signs that the disaster survivor community shows in coping with the problems also give us clues about how and what our support to the recovery process can be.

Observations:

- In one of the tent clusters outside the campsite, a washing machine is installed between two tents and more than one family benefits from it.



- There is spring water in some villages far from the center and well water in some villages and gardened areas on the periphery of the city, and these have started to be used together.
- In tent clusters outside the campsites, we saw that electricity is drawn from nearby houses or street poles and used together for lighting or electrical appliances at night.
- We saw a small number of generators in the tent clusters, usually accessed by their own means and they are trying to ob-

tain diesel fuel to run them. Electricity is shared in several tents.

- Self-employed and small shopkeepers have quickly reorganized their workspaces to provide services and revitalize their income-generating businesses. We witnessed: Women's or men's hairdressers, dentists, electricians, butchers, doner shops, telephone repairmen; they have started to set up their businesses in the areas next to their tents or as mobile businesses (Narlıca, Çekmece, Serinyol, Zülflühan, Harbiye).





- Disaster survivors with intact houses or greenhouses shared these spaces with many neighbors/relatives from the first days of the disaster until the arrival of tents.
- Disaster survivors cooperated with the organizations that came to help and supported them to provide office spaces.
- The information that aid is being distributed is immediately shared with the neighbors' circles and if it is far away, they provide a vehicle and go collectively to receive the aid.
- When we asked the women to take one more while distributing, they said, "No thanks, let's not take the right of someone else who needs it. Give it to the one in need".
- In some tent clusters in the alleyways,

the residents provide their own toilets and bathroom cabins by applying to aid organizations and connect sewage and water.

- They refer the distributed aid to their neighbors who they know are in need.
- We witnessed some disaster victims with expertise and commercial relations organizing the sale of agricultural products of producers without spoiling them.

Coordination Initiatives:

AFAD Coordination Center, Hatay

AFAD managers and staff coordinate the operation of tent and container cities. They coordinate distributions in camp areas. At the same time, they maintain communication with national and international organizations going to the earthquake zone. They respond to requests for tents, supplies, etc.



Ministry of Family and Social Policies Solution Center, Hatay

The Ministry of Family and Social Policies provides accreditation for non-governmental organizations to participate in social service-based activities in disaster areas. In camp areas, the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, together with its own expert teams, and the experts of the accredited organizations conduct psychosocial support activities with children, provide psychological counseling and coordinate case interviews with families and children, including outside the camp area. Those in need of health services are referred to UMKE (National Medical Rescue Team).

UNDAC – OCHA Coordination

UNDAC is the name of the communication

network formed by UN groups together with public institutions to coordinate the work in the earthquake zone. National and international NGOs attend meetings and share what they are doing in the field. This way they become aware of each other. Participation of disaster survivors and local NGOs is difficult due to the language factor.

Turkish Medical Association Coordination Center, Hatay

The TTB has established a coordination network consisting of professional groups working in the field and providing health services and NGOs distributing supplies. They provide support especially for situations that directly affect health. They carry out effective planning and coordination based on practice. ■