

FAO: All D1160 Rotary Clubs

15 February 2023

Dear Rotarian,

Thank you so much if your club has already donated or fundraised for our emergency appeal for the terrible earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

We know that so many of you will have been out, collecting donations in your communities, rain or shine. Your service and generosity is the reason we can respond quickly and get aid distributed in Türkiye and Syria.

This is a hugely complex humanitarian response spanning two countries, and there is huge need: more than 40,000 people have died, and over 20,000 buildings have collapsed or been damaged across the two countries.

Updates

Whilst so much fundraising is being driven by Rotary clubs across the UK, our teams are busy getting aid to those who need it most.

We will be providing emergency tents, helping people to shelter from the winter weather. Hundreds of tents have now arrived in country on a free flight by Turkish Airlines from Panama – where we had stock pre-positioned.

We're also providing **thousands of blankets** and expect items like **solar lights** and **mattresses** to be needed. We are also distributing **warm children's clothing** in northern Syria.

Your club's contributions will be used to support our emergency response to these earthquakes and other disasters around the world. We believe that the best way for us to be impactful is by staying flexible, and it is essential that we have funds available to support those affected by disasters.

Here are some examples of how your club's donations could be put into action:

- **An emergency shelter - £350** could supply a bespoke all-purpose tent large enough for a whole family.
- **Warm winter clothing - £104** could buy a warm coat, a jumper, jeans, and thermal underwear for four children.
- **Blankets and mats** to insulate from the bitter cold - **£45** could provide blankets and sleeping mats for a family of five.
- **Solar lights** to enable people to do things together as a family after dark, and charge mobile phones for vital communications - **£22** could provide two solar lights to a family.

These are examples of typical aid items that your donation could provide. All of our aid distributions are tailored to the needs of each community we work with.

Rotary involvement

Rotary are playing a crucial role in working with our response in Türkiye. Our team has been meeting with the District Governors and District Rotary Disaster Committee members of the three Rotary Districts in Türkiye who are actively working to provide support to people and providing invaluable situational awareness:

- D2430 where the earthquakes occurred
- D2420 centred around Istanbul
- D2440 centred around Izmir

On 13th Feb the ShelterBox response team travelled with a member of the Rotary Club of Istanbul, **Arslan Volkan (D2420)**, to Gaziantep – the epicentre of the earthquake. The team has now connected directly with **Emre Ozturk, District Governor (D2430)**, in Gaziantep to look at how they can help where the need is greatest.

Your club's support, whether direct or through the mobilisation of your community, will enable us to provide communities affected by the earthquakes with practical and lifesaving aid.

With best wishes,



John Cleverley - **Rotary Engagement Team**

PS – We have received a large volume of emails from Rotarians wishing for an update on our response. To ensure that you are up-to-date, we would encourage you to sign up for our Rotary emails at: **shelterbox.org/do-something/emails**

or scan me

