

## EARLY EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RESPONSE MANAGEMENT: THE BSMI HUMANITARIAN AID EXPERIENCE IN TURKEY

**Basuki Supartono<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Rudi<sup>2</sup>, Hafidz Muftisany<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Orthopaedic Department of Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta

<sup>2,3</sup> Bulan Sabit Merah Indonesia

corresponding author: [basuki@upnvj.ac.id](mailto:basuki@upnvj.ac.id)

**Abstract.** On February 6, 2023, the regions of Turkey and Syria were struck by a devastating earthquake during the winter season, resulting in numerous casualties, injuries, displacement, and infrastructure damage. In response, the Turkish president appealed for international assistance, prompting the Indonesian Red Crescent to deploy a humanitarian aid team. The methods employed encompassed three stages: preparation, implementation, and evaluation. The implementation phase involved coordination, collaboration, and the distribution of humanitarian aid. The distribution of essential items such as ready-to-eat food, winter clothing, and medicine took place in Hatay Province and Kahramanmaraş, Turkey. Effective coordination was established with the governments of Indonesia and Turkey, alongside collaboration with humanitarian agencies and Turkish medical organizations. Additionally, plans for the subsequent deployment of the medical team were reviewed. All activities were successfully executed and received positive feedback. The Indonesian Red Crescent successfully provided crucial assistance in response to the earthquake disaster in Turkey. The efforts encompassed various aspects, including aid distribution, coordination with relevant authorities, collaboration with partner organizations, and future planning. The outcomes achieved were noteworthy and yielded a positive impact.

**Keywords:** Disaster, Earthquake, Turkey, BSMI (Indonesian Red Crescent)

### Introduction

On February 6, 2023, a massive earthquake struck Turkey and Syria at 04:17 local time, resulting in significant infrastructure damage and a humanitarian crisis. The earthquake destroyed 173,000 homes across 11 provinces, causing a profound impact on the affected communities. Consequently, more than 42,310 residents lost their homes, and 108,368 individuals sustained injuries (Reliefweb, 2023). More than fifty thousand people died in the aftermath of the earthquake, with 45,089 casualties reported in Turkey and 6,000 in Syria. (Cinar et al., 2023).

Turkey has an area of 783,562 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of around 83.2 million (Nationonline, 2023). The geographical territory of Turkey extends from the Anatolian Peninsula in Asia to the Balkans in Europe. It shares borders with Syria and Iraq to the east and northeast, Greece to the west, Bulgaria to the southwest, the Aegean Sea to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the Black Sea to the north. Diverse geographical features, including plateaus and mountains, characterize the region. Two main mountain ranges, namely the North Anatolian Mountains in the north and the Taurus Mountains in the south, traverse the country from east to west (Ararat, 2023).

Turkey is an earthquake-prone area due to its location at the convergence of three tectonic plates: the Anatolian, Arabian, and African plates (Figure 1). Over a century, from 1900 to 2012, there were 93 major earthquakes greater than 5, resulting in approximately 80,574 fatalities (Gökkaya, 2016).

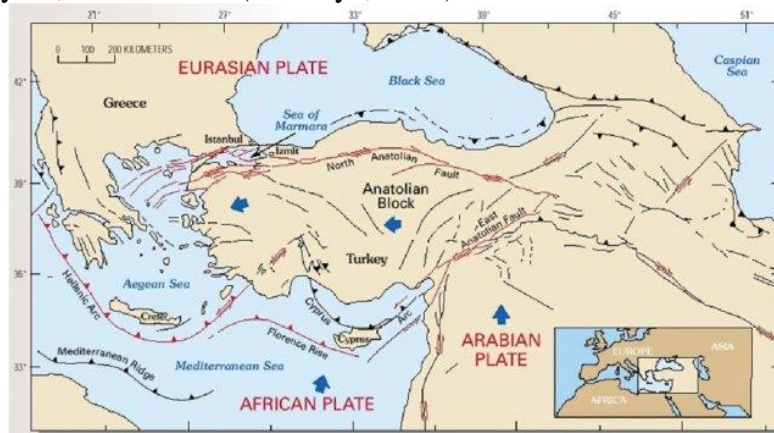


Figure 1: Tectonic map of Türkiye (Gökkaya, 2016)

Two earthquakes of magnitude 7.7 occurred on February 6, 2023, at 04:17 in Pazarcık district of Kahramanmaraş, and 7.6 occurred at 13:24 in Elbistan district of Kahramanmaraş. This earthquake had a burdensome impact on several provinces, namely Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Osmaniye, Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Malatya, Kilis, and Adana. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan declared a national day of mourning, declared a period of emergency, and invited international humanitarian assistance for three months (AFAD, 2023).



Figure 2: Post-Earthquake Infrastructure Damage in Türkiye (Aljazeera, 2023)

The management and volunteers of the Indonesian Red Crescent Association (BSMI) are moved to answer this humanitarian call. BSMI is a social organization registered with the Indonesian Government (Association/Ormas Registration Certificate: No.1/F.1/31.75.05.1001.01.049.R.9/4/-1.848/e/2022) in the form of an association (Decree of the Minister of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Number:

AHU-0000512. AH.01.08, 2019) and operates in the social and humanitarian fields (Indonesian Red Crescent, 2022). BSMI is an independent and self-sufficient organization with a **vision** to become a professional and internationally reputable national humanitarian agency. It is guided by a **mission** that encompasses the following objectives:

1. **Humanity and Peace:** Promoting compassion and harmony among individuals and communities.
2. **Protecting lives:** Assisting victims of conflicts and other situations to ensure their safety and well-being.
3. **Preventing suffering:** Strengthening humanitarian laws and universal humanitarian principles to mitigate distress and hardship.
4. **Providing excellent service:** Striving to deliver the highest quality assistance for the betterment of humanity and peace.
5. **Establishing collaborations:** Building partnerships with national, regional, and international humanitarian agencies and institutions to achieve common goals.

BSMI upholds nine fundamental **principles** as its core values:

1. **Sincerity:** Demonstrating genuine intent and dedication in carrying out humanitarian work.
2. **Trust:** Building confidence and reliability in relationships with stakeholders.
3. **Professionalism:** Adhering to high standards and ethical practices in all endeavors.
4. **Humanity:** Emphasizing compassion, empathy, and respect for human dignity.
5. **Equality:** Promoting fairness and equal treatment for all individuals without discrimination.
6. **Neutrality:** Maintaining impartiality and refraining from taking sides in conflicts or disputes.
7. **Independence:** Ensuring autonomy and freedom from external influences.
8. **Unity:** Fostering solidarity and collaboration within the organization and with partner entities.
9. **Universality:** Recognizing the relevance and applicability of humanitarian principles worldwide.

BSMI engages in eight key activities to fulfill its mission:

1. **Disaster response:** Providing immediate assistance and relief efforts during times of crisis.
2. **Health education:** Promoting awareness and knowledge regarding health-related issues.
3. **Youth Red Crescent (BSMR):** Engaging young individuals in humanitarian activities and fostering leadership skills.
4. **Emergency services:** Offering specialized assistance in emergency situations.
5. **Refugee support:** Addressing the needs and challenges faced by refugees.
6. **Ambulance services:** Providing ambulance transportation for medical emergencies.
7. **Health services:** Offering healthcare facilities and medical services.
8. **Maternal and child health:** Ensuring the well-being and care of mothers and children.

Through these activities and principles, BSMI strives to make a meaningful impact on society and contribute to the well-being of individuals and communities. (Indonesian Red Crescent, 2022). BSMI has undertaken numerous humanitarian initiatives, particularly in disaster response, within Indonesia and various regions (Indonesian Red Crescent, 2023a, 2023b).

In order to alleviate the suffering of the survivors of the Turkish earthquake, BSMI deployed a Turkish Disaster Response Team (TBT team). This initiative aims to offer immediate emergency response aid and prepare for the subsequent team deployment.

## Methods

The method comprises three stages: preparation, implementation, and evaluation. The preparation stage involves expressing sympathy and offering condolences, identifying the problem, conducting preparatory meetings, fundraising, recruiting volunteers, preparing the team, and communicating with local partners. Team preparation involves issuing assignment letters, arranging passports, purchasing tickets, creating schedules (itineraries), providing financial support, organizing team logistics, and procuring necessary tools. The implementation phase encompasses the team's departure, holding press conferences, distributing humanitarian aid, conducting coordination meetings with local partners, and procuring logistics from local markets. The evaluation phase entails monitoring and evaluation meetings and preparing narrative and illustrated reports.

## Result and Discussion

The outcomes of the activities encompassed the deployment of the TBT team, the distribution of humanitarian assistance in Hatay Province and Kahramanmaraş Province, Turkey, coordination meetings between humanitarian organizations and the Indonesian Government, and preparations for the subsequent team's departure. (Hafidz Muftisany, 2023a, 2023b).

### Turkish Disaster Response Team Departure (TBT)

The TBT team embarked on their journey from Jakarta to Istanbul, Turkey, on February 15, 2023. The team comprised three volunteers who dedicated 19 days to the mission (Table 1). On February 16, 2023, the BSMI team arrived in Istanbul, Turkey, and was warmly received by local volunteers from the Indonesian Student Association (PPI) Turkey. Subsequently, the team spent the night in Istanbul, Türkiye.

Table 1. List of Türkiye Disaster Response Team Members  
February 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023

No	Volunteer Name	Position	Task
1	Muhammad Rudi	BSMI General Secretary	Team Leader
2	Hafidz Muftisany	BSMI Public Relations and Media Team	Team Member 1
3	Andry Haryanto	Managing editor of Liputan 6.com.	Team Member 2
4	Achmad Toriq	Member of PPI Türkiye	Team Member 3
5	Habib	Member of PPI Türkiye	Team Member 4
6	Muhammad Dilvan	Member of PPI Türkiye	Team Member 5



Table 2. BSMI Team Activity Schedule for the Türkiye Earthquake, February - March 2023

No	Date	Activity	Location/ Notes
1	February 15 <sup>th</sup> 2023	The team departed from Jakarta	
2	February 16 <sup>th</sup> 2023	The team arrives in Istanbul, Türkiye	
3	February 17 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Coordination with local partners in Türkiye İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri ve İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH) - Humanitarian Relief Fondation)	The BSMI team, In collaboration with <i>IHH humanitarian relief foundation</i>
4	February 18 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towards Hatay Province</li> <li>• Help preparation</li> <li>• Donation of 6000 portions of food for survivors of the Syrian conflict and the Turkish earthquake</li> </ul>	Rayhanly, Hatai
5	February 19 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donation of 700 portions of food for the survivors of the Türkiye Earthquake</li> <li>• Donation of 100 winter clothes To Kahramanmaras Province</li> </ul>	Antakiya, Hatay Kisecik, Hatay
6	February 20 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donation of 100 food packages and children's toys</li> </ul>	Karahmanras In collaboration with AFAD
7	February 21 <sup>st</sup> 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donation of 100 packages of hygiene kits, children's equipment</li> <li>• Medicine donation</li> </ul>	Karahmanras In collaboration with AFAD In collaboration with AID
8	February 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2023	Visit to Indonesian emergency hospital	Hassay, Hatai
9	February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2023	Making activity reports, narrative reports, and pictorial reports	Istanbul
10	February 24 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Making activity reports, narrative reports, and pictorial reports	Istanbul
11	February 25 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Making activity reports, narrative reports, and pictorial reports	Istanbul
12	February 26 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Making activity reports, narrative reports, and pictorial reports	Istanbul
13	February 27 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Meeting with AID: Aid for Syrian survivors	Istanbul
14	February 28 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Making activity reports, narrative reports, and pictorial reports	Istanbul
15	March 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023	The team departed from Istanbul to Ankara	Ankara
16	March 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2023	Meeting with Ambassador R.I. in Türkiye	KBRI in Ankara
17	March 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2023	Making activity reports, narrative reports, and pictorial reports	
18	March 4 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Making activity reports, narrative reports, and pictorial reports	
19	March 5 <sup>th</sup> 2023	The team returns from Istanbul	Jakarta, Indonesia



During the Türkiye Earthquake response mission, the BSMI team collaborated closely with local partners, including İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri ve İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH) - Humanitarian Relief Foundation. This collaboration aimed to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the humanitarian efforts. The BSMI team worked hand in hand with IHH to ensure proper coordination, exchange of information, and joint decision-making processes. The partnership with IHH provided valuable support in various aspects of the response, including the distribution of humanitarian aid, identification of priority areas, and ensuring the needs of the affected communities were addressed. Through regular coordination meetings and constant communication, both organizations synchronized their efforts and resources to provide the most effective assistance to those in need. The collaboration between BSMI and IHH exemplified the importance of local partnerships in disaster response operations. By pooling their expertise, resources, and networks, the two organizations maximized their impact and collectively worked towards alleviating the suffering of the affected population.

### **Distribution of Humanitarian Aid in Hatay Province, Türkiye**

As part of the Türkiye Earthquake response efforts, the BSMI team actively participated in the distribution of humanitarian aid in Hatay Province. The earthquake severely affected this province and required immediate assistance to support the affected population.

The TBT team conducted a partnership visit to the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation office in Istanbul, which is recognized as the largest humanitarian organization in Turkey. During the visit, the IHH team provided valuable insights regarding the primary needs of the affected residents at the disaster site, including warm food, blankets, and winter clothes. Recognizing the urgency of meeting these needs, the TBT team agreed to collaborate with the IHH in addressing the requirements, specifically in the Hatay Province area. However, the IHH also highlighted another crucial need, namely temporary housing. The proposed solution was container housing, with one container assigned per family. This type of housing offers essential sanitation facilities and necessary security measures, particularly crucial during winter. Unfortunately, the cost of each container is relatively high, amounting to approximately 5000 US dollars. Regrettably, the BSMI team could not fulfill this particular need due to budget constraints.

Nonetheless, the TBT team remains committed to assisting in other areas where their resources and capabilities can significantly impact. The partnership visit to the IHH office facilitated important discussions and reinforced the spirit of collaboration between the two organizations. Although the BSMI team could not meet the container housing need, their joint efforts continue to focus on addressing the immediate and long-term needs of the affected communities in Türkiye.

TBT team flew from Sapiha international airport, Istanbul, to the province of Hatay, 1121 km from Istanbul. After the earthquake, the Turkish Government gave a 50 percent discount on plane tickets from the normal price. Hatay Airport is still functioning properly, but baggage retrieval is done manually because the electrical installation is still disrupted.

The IHH team kindly received and accompanied the TBT team to visit the IHH logistics warehouse in the Reyhanli area of Hatay Province. Originally designated for storing supplies for Syrian refugees in Turkey, the warehouse proved to be instrumental in accommodating the logistical requirements of both earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria. A local IHH operational office and a public canteen were established within the



warehouse vicinity to support the volunteers. In addition to the Indonesian team, international volunteers from various countries, including Belgium, Morocco, and Malaysia, participated in the relief efforts, further enhancing the collaborative spirit of the humanitarian response.

The team made preparations for essential assistance to the earthquake survivors, including warm food aid, blankets, and winter clothes. Additionally, the team assessed the situation of refugees who were victims of the Syrian conflict and sought refuge in Türkiye. These refugees were residing in a school building managed by the IHH agency, which also served as an earthquake shelter following the disaster. The school premises became a temporary residential complex, accommodating individuals nearby. The residential complex had public kitchen facilities that prepared approximately 6,000 daily meals. BSMI provided operational funding support for these public kitchen activities, ensuring the provision of sustenance to those in need.

On the following day, February 19, the TBT and IHH teams visited Antakya, the capital of Hatay province in Turkey. The city of Antakya bore the brunt of the earthquake's devastation, leaving no words adequate to convey its extent of destruction. Every corner of the city lay in ruins, with no remnants spared. The sight of collapsed buildings is a solemn testament to the scale of the devastation inflicted. In response, the Government deployed officers equipped with heavy machinery to conduct search and rescue operations tirelessly, day and night, illuminated by towering lights. A fleet of ambulances stood prepared to transport the discovered survivors. Meanwhile, those who tragically lost their lives were laid to rest in a makeshift public cemetery near the city gates, hastily established by the Turkish Government. This poignant scene evokes somber memories of the funerals held for the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia.

The TBT team was relocated to another site, specifically an evacuation center situated at a school in the Kisecik area of Antakya City. This center offers a range of essential supplies and public kitchen facilities, overseen by dedicated volunteers under the auspices of the local IHH agency. The recruitment of volunteers includes students from various countries, including Egypt, Iraq, and Syria, who are on vacation. These volunteers undergo comprehensive training to prepare them for their duties at the evacuation center, ensuring they are well-equipped. The training program is conducted with great diligence, covering all necessary aspects. At the evacuation center, a comprehensive array of logistics is prepared for the earthquake survivors. These provisions include tents, space heaters, winter clothing, blankets, common kitchen ingredients, ready-to-eat meals, hygiene kits, and supplies for mothers and children. Dedicated officers assess the specific logistical requirements of each refugee, ensuring accurate distribution to their respective tents. This approach effectively prevents long queues and potential conflicts among refugees regarding access to vital supplies.

IHH has also established additional evacuation centers in various locations, including remote areas within the city of Antakya that require urgent attention. The BSMI team provided crucial assistance by contributing 100 winter clothing packages, addressing a pressing need among the refugee population.

The refugee service center had a public kitchen that provides up to 15,000 meals daily. This facility operates round-the-clock, ensuring that survivors had access to food at any time they require. The management of the public kitchen offers a designated dining area for those who wish to eat on-site while also allowing survivors to bring food back to their tents if preferred. In their efforts to assist the survivors, the TBT team distributed 700 servings of hot, ready-to-eat meals at two locations. The first distribution

took place at the Kisecik post in Antakya, while the team also utilized public kitchen vehicles to reach and serve survivors across the broader Antakya area. This approach enabled wider accessibility and ensured that those in need received sustenance during a challenging time.

The team encountered a mobile kitchen vehicle while in the city of Antakya. This mobile kitchen operates twice daily, at 13:00 and 17:00 local time. The IHH team strategically deploys multiple mobile kitchens throughout the city of Antakya. These mobile kitchens not only cater to the survivors' needs but also nourish the dedicated volunteers who tirelessly work day and night in search and rescue operations.



Figure 3. Distribution of humanitarian aid at Hatay province, Turkey, February 17-20th 2023 (Hafidz Muftisany, 2023b)

- A. Preparation meeting with local partners: IHH Humanitarian Relief Partners February 17 2023
- B. Public kitchen fund donation for Earthquake survivor at Reyhanli, Hatay, February 18 2023
- C. Donation of winter clothing for Earthquake survivor at Kisecik, Hatay February 18 2023
- D. Donation of ready-to-eat food for Earthquake survivors at Antakiya, Hatay, February 20 2023

### Distribution of Humanitarian Aid in Kahramanmaraş Province

After completing their activities in Hatay on February 19, 2023, the TBT team proceeded to Kahramanmaraş province, one of the heavily impacted provinces. The team collaborated with the Aceh Province Indonesian Doctors Association (IDI) team in this city. The IDI team had obtained permission from AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority) to distribute aid at the Ataturk Park refugee camp in Kahramanmaraş. The camp provided shelter for 4,500 refugees, with 1,000 tents inside.

The refugees in this camp primarily required food (basic supplies), medication, hygiene kits, maternal and child necessities, and children's toys. However, these logistical needs were only available in Adana, located 196.1 km away or approximately a 2.5-hour



drive from Karahmanmaras. Therefore, the logistics procurement team traveled to the city and stay overnight since no accommodation is available in Karahmanmaras.

The following day, February 20, 2023, the BSMI team distributed assistance at the Karahmanmaras refugee camp, including food packages and children's toys. This collaborative effort involved volunteers from the Indonesian Doctors Association (IDI) Aceh Province and the Afet ve Acil Durum Yönetimi Başkanlığı (AFAD), a Turkish government agency responsible for disaster and emergency management. The team stayed overnight in Karahmanmaras, accommodated in tents provided by AFAD. During the night, the team experienced aftershocks measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale, causing distress among the children in the evacuation tents. This incident had a significant psychological impact on the survivors, highlighting the urgent need for psychosocial assistance.

The following morning, on February 21, 2023, the team traveled back to the city of Adana to purchased hygiene kits, supplies for mothers and infants, and medicines. They then returned to Karahmanmaras to distribute the aid, with a high demand for children's toys.

The medical assistance was handed over to the Alliance of International Doctors (AID), a medical division of IHH that had established a clinic at the Ataturk Park refugee camp in Karahmanmaras. After completing the activities, the team returned to Adana to coordinate with the Head of the Operations Control Center for the National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB), who served as the Head of the Indonesian Humanitarian Team for Turkey.



Figure 4. Distribution of humanitarian aid at Kahramanmaras Province, Turki. (Hafidz Muftisany, 2023b).

- A. Donation of groceries, hygiene kit, the needs of mothers and children Earthquake survivor at Kahramanmaras, February 21<sup>st</sup> 2023

- B. Donation of medication for medical AID post at Kahramanmaraş, February 21<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- C. Donation of children's toys Earthquake survivor at Kahramanmaraş, February 21<sup>th</sup> 2023
- D. Donation food package in collaboration with AFAD at Kahramanmaraş, February 20 2023

### **Humanitarian Organization Coordination Meeting with the Government of Indonesia**

Based on the Indonesian Government's request for all Indonesian volunteers stationed in Turkey to relocate to the city of Hatay, the team was subsequently moved to this city. Hatay has located 192.2 km from Adana and specifically in the Hassa region, where the Indonesian Government has established a field hospital to aid the earthquake survivors in Turkey. The TBT team embarked on a four-hour ground transportation journey to reach the designated location. The team participated in delivering the Indonesian Government's assistance to the earthquake survivors in Turkey, with the event being attended by high-ranking officials, including the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia (Coordinating Minister for PMK). During this occasion, the BSMI TBT team presented a report on their humanitarian assistance activities to Indonesian government representatives, including the Indonesian Ambassador to Turkey, the Head of BNPB, and the Head of the Indonesian Humanitarian Team for Turkey.

After the aid handover activity, a government coordination meeting was conducted involving all volunteers and Indonesian humanitarian agencies. The meeting was chaired by the Coordinating Minister for PMK and focused on discussing the regulations set by the Turkish Government regarding foreign aid operations. According to the Turkish Government, permits for Search and Rescue (SAR) assistance from foreign countries would expire on February 22, 2023, and work permits for foreign medical volunteers would end on February 28, 2023. Additionally, it was decided that the Indonesian Field Hospital in Hatay would be closed on February 27, 2023. Another important recommendation discussed during the meeting was the Indonesian Government's proposal to establish an Indonesian Village in Turkey to provide support to the country's earthquake survivors.

After the meeting, the TBT team departed from Hassa, Hatay, and returned to Adana. The team traveled by land, and the journey took approximately five hours.

As a result, the BSMI TBT team successfully concluded all the assistance programs for the earthquake survivors in Türkiye. Upon reaching Adana, the team decided to rest for a day before proceeding with further activities.

### **Preparation for sending the next team**

The departure of the next medical team to Turkey was unfortunately impeded by the regulations imposed by the Turkish Government, which restricted the arrival of foreign medical personnel after February 28. However, the team received information regarding an opportunity to provide medical assistance to Syrian survivors. Subsequently, the team engaged in consultations with the Indonesian Embassy (KBRI) in Damascus and the Humanitarian Agency Alliance of International Doctors (AID), a medical division of the İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri (IHH) - Humanitarian Relief Foundation, which maintains an office in Istanbul. In order to proceed with the mission, the team made their way to Istanbul, located 971.1 km from Adana. They utilized public transportation, spending 3 hours on a bus to reach the airport in Keyseri, and then undertook a 1.5-hour flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival in Istanbul, the team rested and finalized their activity report while awaiting the meeting with AID administrators.



The meeting with AID took place on February 27, 2023. The team was warmly received by AID administrators, namely Dr. Mevlit Yurtseven (General Chair of AID), Dr. Murat Kadir Topcu (Coordinator of the AID Medical Team for the Turkey Earthquake), and Burak Tasdemir (AID Board Member). During the meeting, the AID administrators informed the team that foreign healthcare workers are permitted to provide medical services in the Idlib region, Syria, under the supervision of the Turkish military. In that area, AID operates three healthcare facilities: a general practitioner clinic, a dental clinic, and a cataract clinic. AID expressed its willingness to collaborate and assist in obtaining licensing from the Turkish Ministry of Health as long as the BSMI medical team possesses a letter of recommendation from the Indonesian Government.

Additionally, AID invited the team to contact AID administrators at the border between Turkey and Syria. Furthermore, the team met with the Indonesian Ambassador in Ankara to report on their humanitarian activities in Turkey and discuss plans. On March 1, 2023, the team departed from Istanbul to Ankara by train, which took approximately five hours.

On March 2, 2023, the team met with the Ambassador and his staff at the Indonesian Embassy. The Ambassador expressed his appreciation for the team's plan to provide medical assistance to earthquake survivors in Syria. He suggested that any aid not needed in Turkey should be redirected to Syria. The Indonesian Embassy in Turkey supported and assisted in facilitating these activities. Additionally, the Embassy provided a line of communication to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which could help with logistical assistance, although they could not support the delivery activities. After the meeting, the team bid farewell to the Ambassador as they prepared to return to Indonesia on March 5, 2023.

Information obtained from the Indonesian Embassy in Syria revealed that the regions most severely affected by the earthquake were Idlib, Aleppo, Latakia, and Hama. These areas are conflict zones, some under government control and others under rebel control. The region is in urgent need of skilled medical professionals. Sending a medical team to Syria requires obtaining a visa from the Syrian Government and a recommendation letter from the Indonesian Government. The recommendation letter can be arranged in Jakarta. Additionally, BSMI should submit an official application letter to the Indonesian Embassy in Syria.

Furthermore, the Indonesian Embassy in Damascus, Syria, successfully convinced BSMI to collaborate with the Syrian Red Crescent (BSMS) as the official government agency responsible for managing humanitarian aid and medical personnel. BSMS will facilitate the distribution of assistance to areas under government control. It is advised not to disclose the presence of Indonesian volunteers entering the conflict zone of Idlib, which opposes the Syrian Government. Another recommendation is to bring an adequate amount of cash, as there were no banks or automated teller machines (ATMs) available in the area.



Figure 5. Visit to an Indonesian hospital and preparation for sending the next team, Turki (Hafidz Muftisany, 2023b).

- A. Assisting Government of Indonesia and NGOs in Hassa, Hatay February 22, 2023
- B. Reporting BSMI Humanitarian Actions to the Indonesian Ambassador to Turkiye, Mr. Lalu Muhammad Iqbal, and Indonesian Chief Humanity for Turkiye, Mr Bambang Surya February 22, 2023
- C. Coordination with the Alliance of International Doctors (AID) for international medical programs February 27, 2023
- D. Coordination with the Indonesian Embassy in Ankara March 1, 2023

### Evaluation and Monitoring of Activities

The monitoring and evaluation of activities are conducted using two communication channels. The first channel is through a WhatsApp group, while the second involves online meetings. Activities are evaluated during post-activity evaluation meetings, where team organization and management are discussed. Furthermore, the team submits narrative reports and illustrated reports as part of the evaluation process. Activity monitoring is carried out through two means of communication. The first is through the WhatsApp group, and the second is through online meetings. Activity evaluation is carried out through a post-activity evaluation meeting which discusses team organization and management organizations. In addition, the team submitted narrative reports and illustrated reports.

### Discussion

The TBT humanitarian team had successfully conducted an international humanitarian mission in response to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. They provided crucial humanitarian assistance in the provinces of Hatay and Kahramanmaraş.





Additionally, the team effectively planned the departure of the next medical team. This achievement could be attributed to several key factors, including a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand, adherence to legal frameworks, sufficient funding availability, dependable and dedicated volunteers, strong team cohesion, effective organizational governance, extensive networking capabilities, and successful collaborations with various domestic and international partners.

Understanding is a crucial element in the implementation of humanitarian actions. This comprehension serves as the foundation for problem-solving and preparing essential measures to address the issues at hand. Humanitarian practitioners must deeply understand the challenges they encounter, such as the aftermath of an earthquake disaster. Earthquakes destroy buildings, infrastructure damage, loss of life, injuries, and the onset of diseases. Numerous individuals are displaced and left without shelter, experiencing cold temperatures, sickness, thirst, and hunger. The adverse consequences of earthquakes inflict immense hardships upon humanity. Our moral duty is to offer assistance that caters to the specific needs of the earthquake survivors and contributes to alleviating their suffering (Basuki Supartono, Muhammad Djazuli Ambari, 2022).

The emergency response effort encompasses two main aspects: the nature of the activities conducted and the characteristics of the survivors. The activities involved in emergency response include: a) problem assessment, b) managing the disaster situation, c) search and rescue operations, d) ensuring security, e) providing emergency aid, f) evacuating affected individuals, g) providing clean water, h) establishing sanitation facilities, i) distributing food supplies, j) providing clothing, k) delivering healthcare services, l) addressing social and psychological needs, m) providing shelter, n) facilitating housing arrangements, and o) restoring vital infrastructure. Particular attention should be given to specific groups of survivors who may have distinct needs and vulnerabilities, namely infants, toddlers, children, pregnant women, nursing mothers, people with disabilities, and the elderly (The Disaster Law of Republic of Indonesia, 2007).

The BSMI team has made efforts to fulfill food, clothing, and medicine needs and has provided services to children. However, these activities represent only a subset of the emergency response efforts, and not all vulnerable groups have been accounted for. This limitation was understandable given the various constraints and limitations that the team faced, including location, time, permits, regulations, human resources, funding, and climate. It was worth noting that the team operated during a snowy winter in Turkey, having traveled thousands of kilometers to a sub-tropical country with vastly different weather conditions compared to Indonesia, a tropical country. This experience can serve as a valuable learning opportunity for future deployments of the team.

The TBT team endeavored to diligently observe and adhere to all pertinent legal provisions in Indonesia and the host country. The team promptly communicated extensively with diverse stakeholders upon receiving information regarding the earthquake disaster. This communication has been effectively established and reinforced through a comprehensive series of field coordination efforts. As a result, it has facilitated seamless operations, ensured alignment of activities with predetermined schedules and objectives, and enhanced overall efficiency.

The team meticulously allocated funds for operational and direct assistance purposes to aid the earthquake survivors. Operational funds were designated to cover transportation, accommodation, and administrative costs. Transportation costs encompassed the procurement of airline tickets for travel to the destination country, domestic inter-city airline tickets within the operational area, train tickets, bus tickets, and

other public transportation fares. An affordable apartment rental fee was secured to maintain cost-effectiveness, thereby opting against hotel accommodations. Consumption costs were allocated to meet the food and beverage requirements of the team's six volunteers.

The allocated aid funds were utilized to directly procure essential logistics such as clothing, food, and medicines for the earthquake victims. Notably, these logistics purchases were conducted in the destination countries rather than in Indonesia for several reasons, including cost savings, convenience, profitability, and the ability to cater to local needs. Purchasing logistics in Indonesia would have incurred additional operational expenses, including air baggage fees, logistics delivery costs from the airport to temporary shelters, and logistics delivery costs from temporary shelters to the target areas. By procuring logistics in the destination country, the team achieved cost savings, convenience, economic advantages, and better alignment with the specific needs of the local community. The team was committed to minimizing logistical and operational costs to maximize the impact of the assistance provided to the earthquake victims. Similarly, other operational expenses were reduced to enhance the value of direct assistance. The funds were sourced from organizational cash reserves and community donations collected before departure.

The competence and proficiency of the team members play a vital role in the successful execution of the mission. The team was led by experienced senior volunteers with valuable expertise in leading disaster response initiatives domestically and internationally. Additionally, young volunteers were actively involved in fostering succession planning and equipping them with the necessary skills to undertake and lead future disaster response activities. The combination of senior and junior volunteers contributed to a cohesive team dynamic and facilitated efficient collaboration. The central organization provides commendable management services to support the field teams. This harmonious coordination between the organizational central and team on the field yielded tangible outcomes, leading to measurable and high-quality team performance.

The BSMI team had established consistent collaborations with various partners in domestic and international disaster response endeavors. These collaborations have fostered institutional relationships and strengthened connections among fellow humanitarian activists. The team has maintained and nurtured these relationships, resulting in a wide cooperation network and robust collaboration. The presence of strong social capital had been instrumental in facilitating effective communication and collaboration during the team's disaster response efforts in Turkey. This collaboration yielded significant benefits, particularly in terms of assistance with accommodation, public transportation, as well as the procurement of logistics and medicines. Not only did collaboration streamline task execution, but it also contributed to cost savings in operational funds. Such community service activities necessitate robust collaboration to ensure successful implementation (Basuki Supartono et al., 2022).

However, there were certain limitations within the team, notably the absence of medical volunteers, which hindered their ability to engage in emergency response activities besides providing medical assistance. Collaboration was established with the Aceh Province IDI team to address this issue. Although it was initially planned to include BSMI medical volunteers in the subsequent team deployments, this was not feasible due to challenges faced by the Turkish Government regarding working arrangements for foreign medical volunteers. It is recommended that medical volunteers be included in the team in future missions without waiting for subsequent deployments.



The vast extent of the affected area posed a significant challenge for the team. Consequently, the BSMI team could not visit all provinces affected by the earthquake nor reach all survivors across the impacted regions. Furthermore, the amount of assistance provided fell short of meeting the needs of all earthquake survivors. To address this, future initiatives should proactively anticipate such challenges by augmenting financial support, increasing the number of volunteers, and securing additional forms of assistance. Proposed recommendations for future activities include incorporating medical volunteers and the augmentation of operational funds and assistance for earthquake survivors.

## Conclusion

The BSMI team successfully conducted a aid humanitarian mission during the emergency response to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. This accomplishment can be attributed to several key factors, including the availability of funds, adherence to legal regulations, the dedication and reliability of the volunteers, the team's cohesion, the extensive network, effective collaboration, and sound organizational governance. These elements contributed to the team's exemplary performance and the wide-ranging benefits it generated. Additionally, the team successfully portrayed a positive image of Indonesia to the people of Turkey and Syria. However, limitations were identified, such as the absence of medical volunteers, the vast area of the affected regions, and limited financial resources. To address these shortcomings, involving medical volunteers in future activities and increasing financial assistance for earthquake survivors is recommended.

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