



## Final Report on Distribution of Water-Survival Box Aid

Türkiye

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## **Background of the Disaster**

On February 6, 2023, two devastating earthquakes and a series of powerful aftershocks struck Türkiye and Syria, killing more than 50,000 people and injuring more than 100,000. The 7.8- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes caused significant damage to more than half a million buildings, destroying at least 298,000 structures and leaving communities in dire need of humanitarian assistance. According to UN OCHA, more than 3 million people have been displaced in Türkiye alone due to the quakes, 2.6 million of whom are residing in temporary settlements. Half of these settlements are considered informal. These internally displaced persons (IDPs) are expected to continue living in the temporary shelters over the cold winter months, increasing the risk of disease and other health concerns.

International Medical Corps worked in Türkiye from 2012 until 2018, with extensive programs in southern areas (including Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Mersin and Sanliurfa) providing health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and treatment service, child protection, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs. In response to the earthquakes, International Medical Corps is working alongside local partners in Türkiye to procure and distribute non-food items and provide food and health services to IDPs in camps and shelters.

MSYD-YSYD, a local partner in Türkiye, started implementing projects in February of 2023, that aim to provide timely life-improving multisectoral assistance. MSYD-YSYD conducted a baseline study where they asked survivors of the earthquake about the three most critical problems their families and community were facing, and it was determined that hygiene was by far the most frequently cited, followed by clean water. When it comes to the health status of the earthquake-survivors, the obtained data revealed that the most common health complaint is diarrhoea (65%), followed by general infections (33%) and vomiting (31%).

## **Partnering with Rotary International and Water Survival Box Limited**

In response to the earthquakes in Türkiye, Water Survival Box Limited, Rotary International, MSYD-YSYD and International Medical Corps collaborated to distribute 200 Water Survival Kits to provide critically needed WASH support in Türkiye.

## **Arrival of the Water-Survival Boxes**

International Medical Corps received 200 Water Survival boxes from Rotary International and Water Survival Box Limited to support its emergency response efforts. The boxes were

distributed in densely populated areas and informal settlements in Antakya, Samandağ, and Defne districts, which were most impacted by the earthquakes.

### Local Needs Assessment

International Medical Corps and MSYD-YSYD distributed the boxes to earthquake survivors who had been forced to relocate to Hatay. The materials in the Water Survival Boxes meet the basic needs of the earthquake-affected individuals by supporting their physical and mental well-being and improving their living conditions. Many people in the areas served had specialized needs for WASH after the disaster, particularly in terms of access to safe water for drinking, cooking and household hygiene.



Figure 1: The MSYD-YSYD team going through the Water Survival box contents.

The selection of areas for distribution were based on the initial assessment of the earthquake's impact and the concentration of affected individuals in different districts. The team identified informal settlements where displaced populations were residing and prioritized these areas. People in these settlements faced greater vulnerabilities and were in urgent need of water purification and hygiene materials. Focusing on these areas allowed the team to address the most critical and immediate needs.

### Organization of the Distribution

#### Phase One: Logistics and Partnership

The team received the Water Survival boxes from the Istanbul Customs Directorate. The boxes were then shipped by a trusted courier company to the compound in Hatay. This process was planned and supervised to ensure that all logistical operations were conducted smoothly. During the pre-distribution phase, boxes were securely stored in MSYD-YSYD's dedicated logistics center, which ensured the safety of the boxes.

#### Phase Two: Increasing Knowledge and Skills through Training

Before starting the distribution of Water Survival boxes, MSYD-YSYD field departments received informative training on how to use and install the water purification devices. Senior International Medical Corps WASH specialists provided MSYD-YSYD representatives with comprehensive training that covered the following topics:

- 1. Introduction to the GrifAid Family Filter:** The GrifAid Family Filter was introduced to participants by trained staff. Participants learned about the filter's capability to transform contaminated water into clean drinking water by lowering pathogens to 0.01 microns. Additionally, they were informed that the production of safe drinking water at the rate of 90 liters of water per hour the family filter and 300 liters of water per hour for the community filter. Trainers made note that the



Figure 2: An MSYD-YSYD team member conducting the training session.

filter does not require a cartridge or electricity for its functionality at least six years.

- 2. Installation of the filter:** Participants were presented with the waterproof user manual of the filter and were taught how to mount the filter mounted to a water storage container as per GrifAid's instructions. The participants filled the water container approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  full of contaminated water from the village and conducted their own water purification.
- 3. Routine Operation and Maintenance of the GrifAid Filter:** With the water storage container  $\frac{1}{4}$  full, the participants produced safe drinking water out of biologically contaminated water. Participants were also trained on the daily routine cleaning of the filter as well as back washing of the GrifAid Family Filter.

### Phase Three: Details of Distribution

The product installation and usage trainings were completed by May 10, 2023 while the distribution of the donated kits started on May 15, 2023, and was completed by the last week of August. During this process, the distribution of basic hygiene materials and other necessities to earthquake survivors and affected communities was successfully conducted. These materials are significant as they meet the urgent needs of those struggling with life after the earthquakes.

During the distribution stage, particular attention was given to earthquake survivors most in need who had been forced to relocate to Hatay. These services are implemented to meet the basic needs of the earthquake-affected individuals, through supporting their physical and mental well-being, and improving their living conditions. Vital support such as water purification devices and essential hygiene materials are distributed to ease their daily lives and reduce health risks.

Water Survival Boxes were distributed to assist people who have limited access to clean water or are affected by water pollution. The items in the boxes included a water purification device, soap, water containers, towels, and other materials to meet essential sanitation need and prevent waterborne diseases.

### Phase Four: Distribution of the Water Survivor Boxes

The distribution of materials focused on densely populated areas such as informal settlements in Hatay's Antakya, Samandağ, and Defne districts, which were most impacted by the earthquake.

Each box was specifically prepared and distributed to an individual family or household. This approach was adopted to meet the individual needs of those affected and to provide more effective assistance.



*Figure 3: A MSYD-YSYD team member distributing Water Survival boxes.*

MSYD-YSYD and International Medical Corps distributed the donated products to health facilities located in Samandağ, in Defne, and in Antakya. The Water Survival boxes reached a target

population of 200 people residing in the camps: 82 in Antakya, 62 in Defne, and 56 people in Samandağ.

During the distribution process, the team collaborated with local authorities and community leaders to ensure an inclusive and efficient distribution. This collaboration helped facilitate effective and coordinated distributions. The distribution activities continued until the last week of August, ensuring a response to the needs in the affected areas.



*Figure 4: A MSYD-YSYD team member demonstrating how to use the water filter.*

Overall, the distribution efforts in the selected areas were strategically targeted to address the most urgent and crucial needs of the affected communities. The collaboration with local stakeholders and the team's strategic approach contributed to the successful and impactful distribution of materials to those in need.

### **Feedback**

Mehmet, 45: "Rotary International's support for our project was not only a financial aid, but also a great example of responsibility and empathy. This support shows that Rotary International really aims to change societies in a positive way. I was particularly impressed by the contents of the water purifier kit. The efficiency of the purification process and the ease of use make it a truly admirable product. However, more visual guidance could be provided in the user manual. Apart from that, I am sure that you will continue to create social impact with similar products in the future of your project."

Fatima, 33: "Rotary International's contribution made me feel that this is the support of a community, not just a project. We are more hopeful for the future because of their support. The water purifier kit is a great idea. At the same time, projects such as a mobile cook stove or food preparation equipment could also be investigated. Providing hygiene trainings and quality supplies can greatly contribute to community health."

Emine, 55: "Rotary International's support shows that it is not just a company lending a hand, but a stakeholder and a friend. This support is valuable not only financially but also spiritually. The water purifier kit fulfils an important need. One can also consider projects aimed at ensuring hygienic conditions for food preparation and service. Such projects can be of great importance to protect the health of the community."

### **Conclusions**

Our team thanks Rotary International and Water Survival Box Limited for being a key part of International Medical Corps' earthquake response efforts in Türkiye. Your support has provided 200 households with safe water and other essential supplies.

We are grateful for Rotary International and Water Survival Box Limited's support of our response and recovery efforts in Türkiye and look forward to your continued support of our mission.