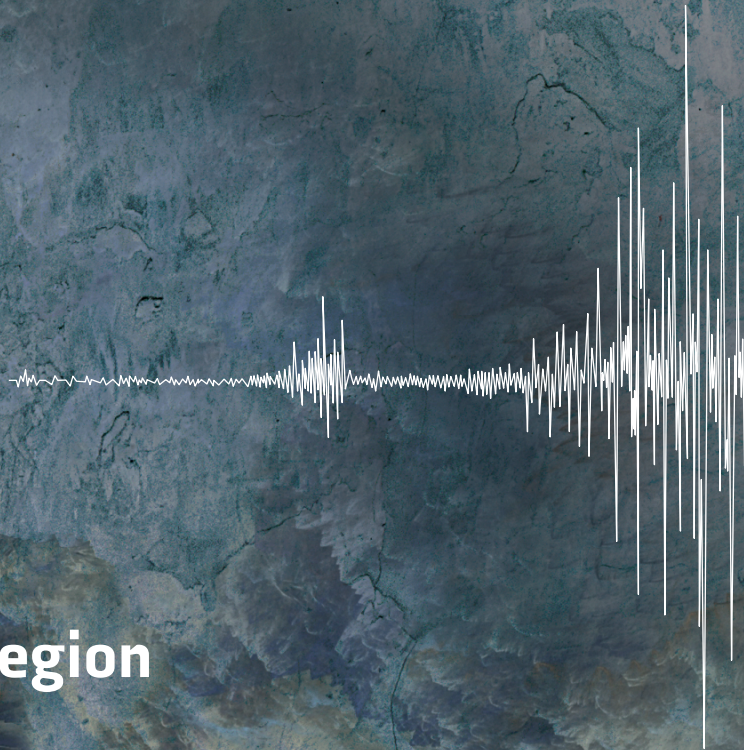




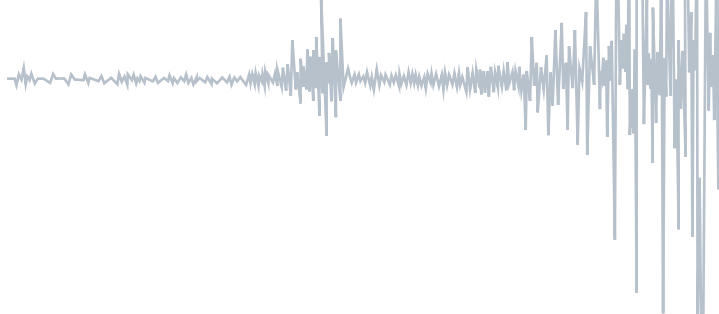
Funded by
the European Union



The Impact of
February 6
Earthquakes
to Associations in the Region



This report has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents are the sole responsibility of the Association of Civil Society Development Center Association and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



INTRODUCTION

On the night of February 6, 2023, two unprecedented earthquakes measuring 7.8 and 7.5 on the Richter scale shook the country, causing a disaster of epic proportions. These earthquakes caused significant loss of life and property in 11 cities. The total population of the affected cities was about 14 million. In addition, Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa were the cities with the highest concentration of immigrants according to local demographics.

Official statements after the earthquakes said that more than 50,000 people lost their lives throughout the region, and records showed that more than half a million buildings were damaged. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) stated that by the end of March 2023, about 3 million people had been displaced in Türkiye due to the earthquakes.¹ A report prepared by the Presidency of Strategy and Budget also stated that in addition to the negative social impact, the earthquakes have caused significant economic damage.² The Presidency of Strategy and Budget announced that the total cost of the earthquakes through March 2023 is 1 trillion 955 billion Turkish Liras (\$103 billion 600 million).³

Both local and national civil society organisations (CSOs) operating in the affected cities played a critical role in demonstrating solidarity from the first hours of the earthquake. As outlined in the report of Presidency of Strategy and Budget report, the presence of CSOs played an important role in alleviating the destruction caused by the earthquakes.

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At this point, when the importance of civil society organizations became evident again, it was important to understand how CSOs in the region were affected by the earthquake.

In this study, conducted to understand the situation of CSOs in the cities affected by the earthquake, we aimed to find out the extent to which CSOs were affected by the earthquake and assess the current situation. As part of this study, we conducted interviews with 172 representatives of associations from the four cities most affected by the earthquake (Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya) to prepare this Rapid Assessment Report based on the results of these interviews.

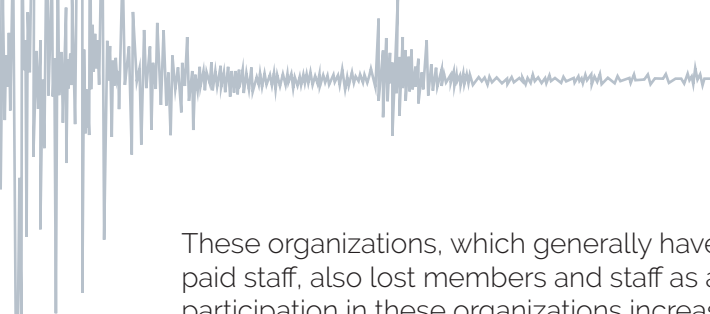
According to the findings of the report, the biggest problem caused by the earthquake in the four affected cities was financial damage, with the majority of organizations suffering severe damage to their offices and having their assets rendered useless.

¹ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-13-6-april-2023-entr>

<https://turkiye.unfpa.org/en/turkiye-earthquake-situation-report-6>

² Presidency of Strategy and Budget., 2023 Kahramanmaraş Hatay Earthquakes Report, March 2023, p.125-130. <https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-Kahramanmaras-and-Hatay-Earthquakes-Report.pdf>

³ Presidency of Strategy and Budget., a.g.e, s. 125.



These organizations, which generally have few members and usually do not employ paid staff, also lost members and staff as a result of the earthquake. However, volunteer participation in these organizations increased after the earthquake.

The results of the study showed that half of the organizations could not hold board meetings after the earthquake and almost half of them were unable to continue their activities. It was found that the priorities of the work areas of these organizations were affected due to the new needs created by the earthquake.

The research findings show that CSOs in earthquake-affected cities have been severely affected by the devastation caused by the earthquakes, and this situation has reached a level that significantly threatens the existence of a significant number of CSOs. The research findings show that a large number of CSOs have de facto ceased their activities, while those trying to survive after the earthquake are struggling to continue their activities.

METHODOLOGY

This report is a rapid assessment focused on CSOs operating in the four cities most affected by the earthquake.⁴ The survey included CSOs operating in Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya, the cities most affected by the Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes. It is known that the number of associations in these cities was not very high even before the earthquake, and the number of new foundations was even lower.

According to the data published by the Directorate General of Civil Society Relations of the Ministry of Interior, 37% of the associations in Türkiye are located in the Marmara region, 18.77% in the Central Anatolia region, 12.76% in the Aegean region, 11.62% in the Black Sea region, 8.88% in the Mediterranean region, 6.02% in the Southeast Anatolia region, and 4.94% in the East Anatolia region.⁵ New foundations, on the other hand, are mainly found in large cities. This is reflected in the low number of associations and foundations in the four cities included in the research.

#	City	Number of associations	Number of new foundations	Population (2022)	Number of associations per person	Number of new foundations per person
1	Hatay	1.229	54	1.686.043	1.371	31.223
2	Kahramanmaraş	823	33	1.177.436	1.430	35.679
3	Malatya	910	35	812.580	893	23.216
4	Adıyaman	559	19	632.148	1130	33.270


5

When determining the sample for the selected four cities, the classification of associations published by the Directorate General of Relations with Civil Society and the association lists published for these four cities were used. As of the date when the sample was determined, the distribution of associations in these cities by type was as follows:

Associations by Provinces	Adıyaman	Kahramanmaraş	Malatya	Hatay	Total
Professional and Solidarity Associations	132	200	322	423	1077
Humanitarian Aid Associations	27	132	90	208	457
Educational Research Associations	75	31	71	130	307

⁴ STGM (Civil Society Development Center) has allocated a special place for the impact of the February 6th Earthquakes on NGOs in the region in two separate field surveys that will take place across Türkiye in the second half of 2023. The results of these field surveys will be announced to the public in reports prepared in the first half of 2024.

⁵ <https://www.siviltoplum.gov.tr/derneklerin-bolgelere-gore-dagilimi>

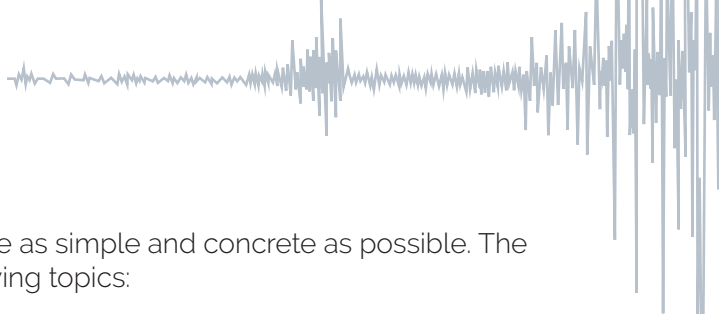


Associations by Provinces	Adiyaman	Kahramanmaraş	Malatya	Hatay	Total
Sports and Sports-Related Associations	79	53	59	84	275
Culture, Art, and Tourism Associations	37	43	52	83	215
Preservation of Social Values Associations	39	36	24	19	118
Environmental, Wildlife, and Animal Protection Associations	19	39	17	33	108
Health Sector Associations	13	13	22	26	74
Rights and Advocacy Associations	14	9	12	28	63
Individual Belief and Social Development Associations	17	24	11	11	63
Disability Associations	11	11	22	19	63
Urban Planning and Development Associations	7	2	12	23	44
Food, Agriculture, and Livestock Sector Associations	16	6	14	7	43
Thought-Based Associations	8	7	8	14	37
Associations for the Elderly and Children	1	1	0	2	4
International Organizations and Cooperation Associations	1	0	0	2	3
Total number of associations by province	496	607	736	1112	2951

In the scope of the study, during the phase of determining the associations to be surveyed, a shortlist was prepared by experts from the Association of Civil Society Development Center (STGM) after a thorough examination of all associations. This list also included **141 new foundations located in the four cities**. The following criteria were considered in this review:

- **Activities conducted before and after the earthquake.**
- **Areas of operation.**
- **Websites and social media accounts.**
- **Contact information.**
- **News published about them.**

Following this review, **a total of 372 CSOs consisting of 364 associations and 8 foundations**, were selected based on the above criteria. In order to understand how these organizations were affected by the earthquake, **a questionnaire with 23 questions** was prepared. (See



Appendix 1.) The questionnaire was designed to be as simple and concrete as possible. The research aimed to gather information on the following topics:

- **How the physical conditions of the organizations (offices, assets, records, etc.) were affected.**
- **The status of members, employees, and volunteers.**
- **Whether the organizations continued their activities.**
- **The income level of the organizations and whether they received any support.**
- **Any legal issues they faced.**

The services of ECHOCCS, a company that provides call center services, were used to conduct the questionnaire. All identified CSOs were contacted with computer assistance, and the survey was conducted with the organizations reached. To ensure internal consistency of the survey, all interviews were conducted by the same call center expert. Some CSO representatives could not be reached for various reasons and some of them declined to participate in the survey. **None of the eight selected new foundations could be reached. In the end, 172 associations were interviewed.**

Distribution of Organizations Reached by Provinces	
Adiyaman	36
Hatay	58
Kahramanmaraş	39
Malatya	39

RESEARCH FINDINGS

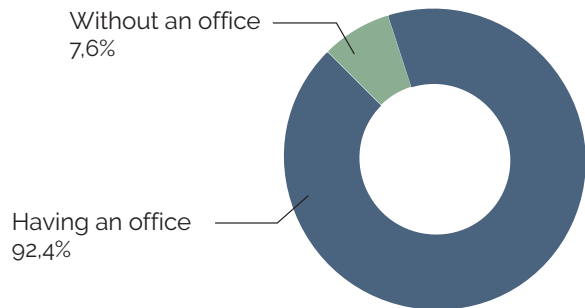
Physical Conditions

The survey asked questions to determine whether CSOs' offices were damaged after the earthquake, whether their assets were in usable condition, and whether they were able to access the necessary documentation. The results showed that the vast majority of organizations had offices that were severely damaged and that their assets were not in a usable condition.

When asked if they had an office where they conducted activities/meetings and kept records before the earthquake, 90% of the organizations reached answered "yes"

Number of organizations with offices before the earthquake

Having an office	159
Without an office	13

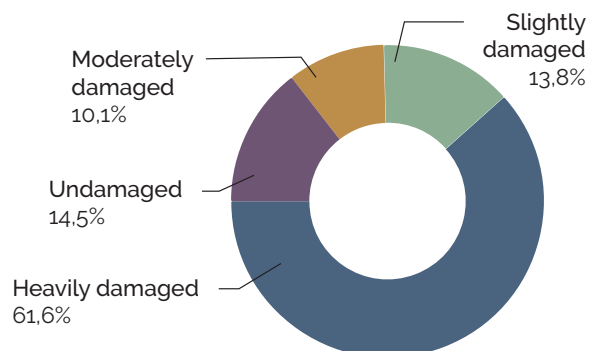


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Of the associations that had offices, 60% reported that their offices were severely damaged by the earthquake and were unusable. Even those organizations that reported that their offices were moderately or slightly damaged were in a situation where their offices were unusable.

The condition of the offices of associations after the earthquake that had offices before

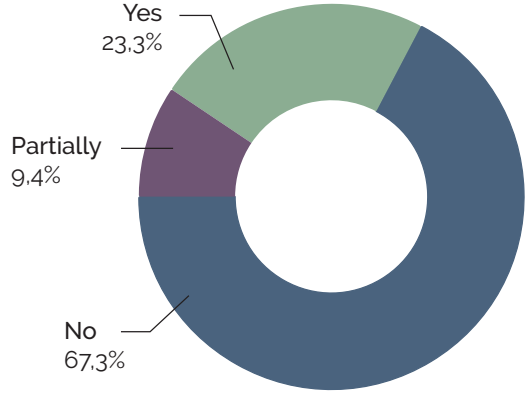
Heavily damaged	98
Slightly damaged	22
Moderately damaged	16
Undamaged	23





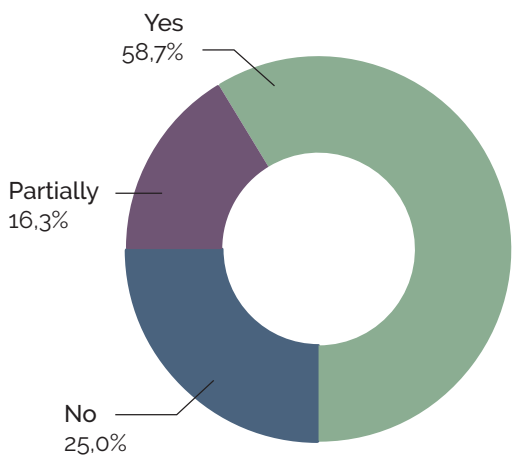
Based on responses to the question “Are assets (furniture, computers, printers, etc.) in usable condition?” it was found that nearly 70% of organizations could not use their assets. Organizations with severely and moderately damaged offices also had assets that were not in usable condition.

Status of fixed assets	
No	107
Yes	37
Partially	15



Responses to the question “Are you able to access statutory records (resolution book, register of members, register of documents, business account book, etc.)?” indicate that approximately 40% of organizations have difficulty accessing statutory records.

Were you able to access your statutory records after the earthquake?	
No	43
Yes	101
Partially	28



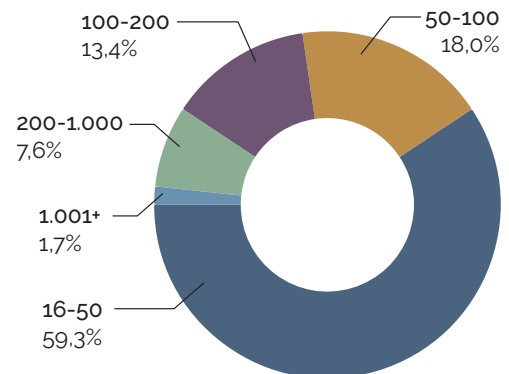
Members, Staff, and Volunteers

The survey asked questions to understand how the human resources of the organizations were affected by the earthquake. From the survey, it was found that the organizations had a limited number of members and most of them did not have professional staff. The organizations struggling to survive with the constraints imposed by the lack of human resources were negatively affected by the earthquake as they suffered a significant loss of members and staff. However, 40% of the organizations reported that the number of volunteers had increased after the earthquake.

Number of Members

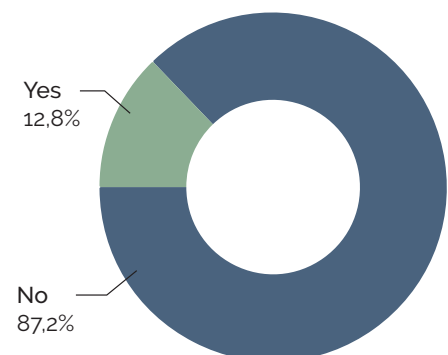
The answers to the question of how many members the organizations have show that the number of members of the surveyed associations varies greatly. There are very few organizations with more than 200 members. **Almost 60% of the organizations reached reported having between 16 and 50 members, while only 1% of the organizations reported having 1,000 or more members.**

The organization's number of members	
16-50	102
50-100	31
100-200	23
200-1000	13
1001+	3



Based on the responses to the question “**Did your organization have professional staff before the earthquake?**” it was found that 87.2% of the organizations did not have professional staff.

Did you have professional staff before the earthquake?	
Yes	22
No	150

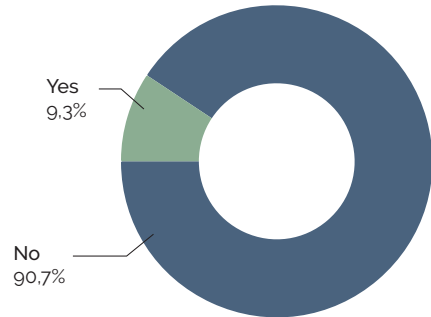




Of the organizations reached and asked the question “**Have your organization's employees suffered casualties?**”, 10% of them responded that there had been casualties among their staff.

Are you aware of any fatalities among your organization's employees?

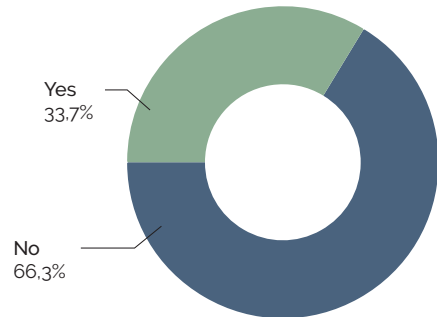
Yes	16
No	156



The percentage of organizations that answered 'Yes' to the question “**Have members of your organization lost their lives?**” is 33.7%.

Have members of your organization lost their lives?

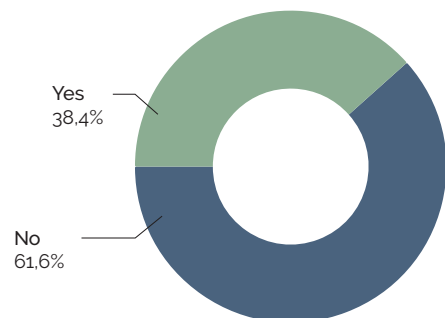
Yes	58
No	114



In response to the question, “**Did your organization gain new volunteers after the earthquake?**” nearly 40% of organizations indicated that the number of volunteers had increased.

Did your organization gain new volunteers after the earthquake?

Yes	66
No	106



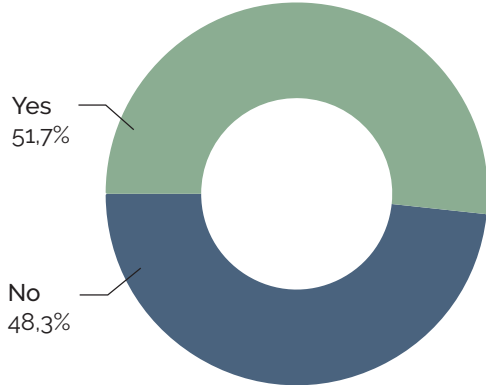
The Impact of the Earthquake to the Activities of CSOs

The answers to the questions aimed at understanding whether the organizations were able to continue their activities after the earthquake showed that the organizations struggled to stay afloat.

Board Meetings

Based on responses to the question **“Were you able to hold board meetings after the earthquake?”** it was found that half of the organizations continued to hold board meetings, while the other half were unable to do so.

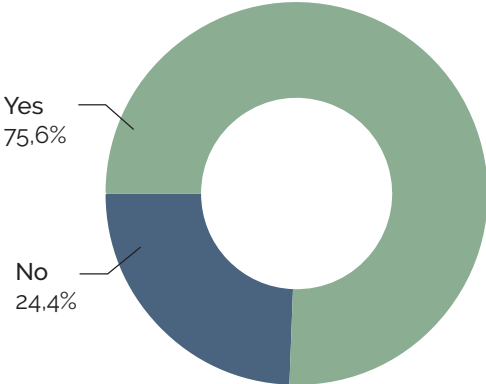
Did you hold a board of directors meeting after the earthquake?	
Yes	89
No	83

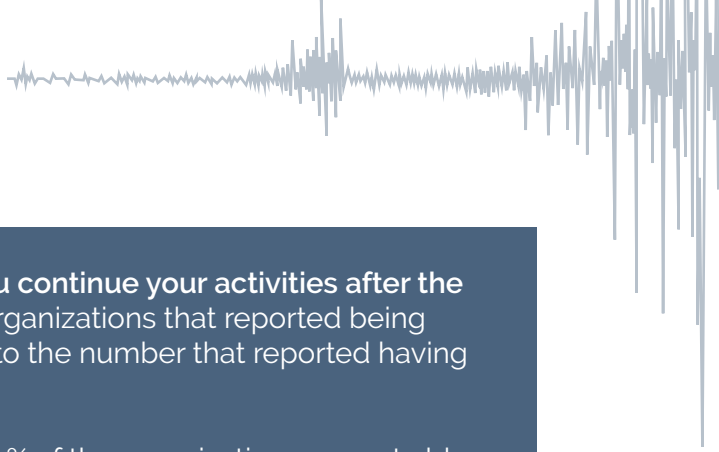


12

Responses to the question **“Were you able to maintain communication with your board members, members, staff, or volunteers after the earthquake?”** indicate that the vast majority of organizations were able to continue communication with their members, staff, and volunteers.

Were you able to maintain communication with your board members, members, staff, or volunteers after the earthquake?	
Yes	130
No	42

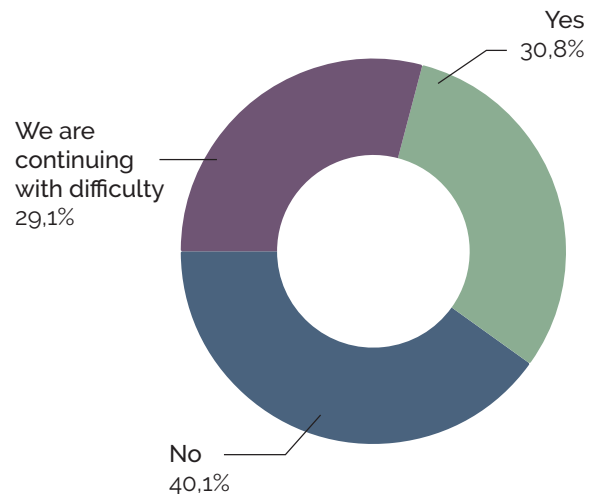




From the responses to the question “**Can you continue your activities after the earthquake?**” it is clear that the number of organizations that reported being able to continue their activities is very close to the number that reported having difficulties.

According to the answers to this question, 40% of the organizations are not able to continue their activities. Considering that most of the organizations were affected by the earthquake and could not use their offices and facilities, this percentage shows that the organizations are trying to continue their activities in difficult conditions.

Can you continue your activities after the earthquake?	
Yes	53
No	69
We are continuing with difficulty	50

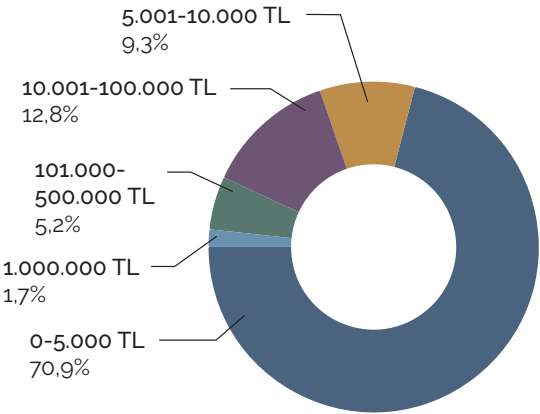


The Impact of the Earthquakes to the Financial Situation

The responses indicate that organizations with incomes of less than TL 5,000 and those whose work relies heavily on voluntary contributions received very few support from national and international institutions after the earthquake.

Based on the responses to the question **“What was your organization’s annual income before the earthquake?”**, 70% of the organizations had an income level in the range of 0-5,000 TL before the earthquake. Only 3 organizations indicated that their income was above 1,000,000 TL.

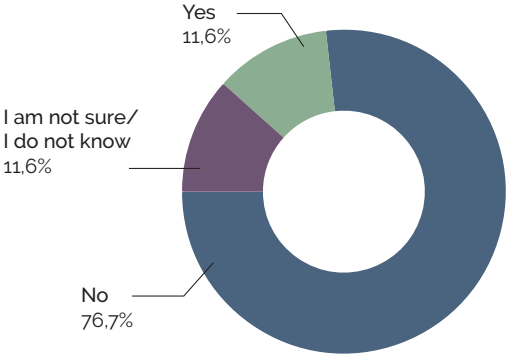
What was your organization's annual income before the earthquake?	
0-5.000 TL	122
5.001-10.000 TL	16
10.001-100.000 TL	22
101.000-500.000 TL	9
1.000.000 TL	3



14

Of the responses to the question **“Will you be able to maintain this annual income level after the earthquake?”** only 11% of organizations said they would be able to maintain this income level, while 76% said they would not be able to maintain this income level. This indicates that the majority of organizations expect their income level to decrease after the earthquake.

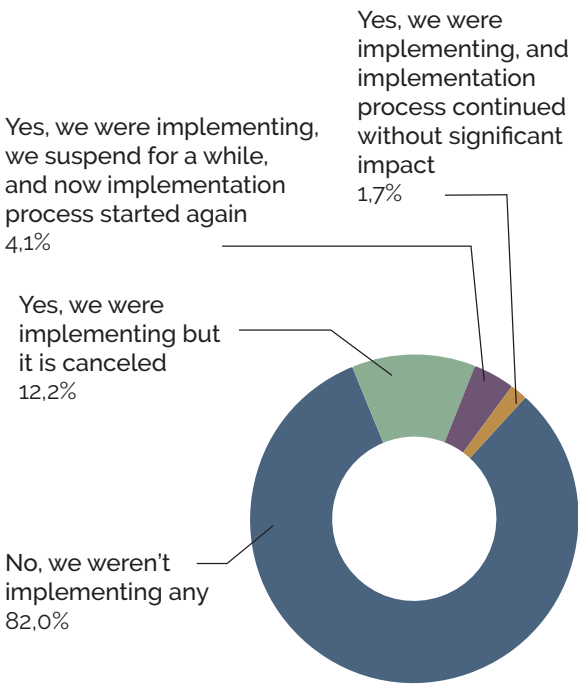
Will you be able to maintain these annual income level after the earthquake?	
Yes	20
No	132
I am not sure/I do not know	20





Responses to the question "Are there any grant projects under implementation before the earthquake?" indicate that 80% of organizations were not implementing grant projects before the earthquake. Of the organizations that were implementing grant projects, the vast majority were unable to continue their projects after the earthquake.

Are there any grant projects under implementation before the earthquake?	
Yes, we were implementing but it is canceled	21
Yes, we were implementing, we suspend for a while, and now implementation process started again	7
Yes, we were implementing, and implementation process continued without significant impact	3
No, we weren't implementing any	141

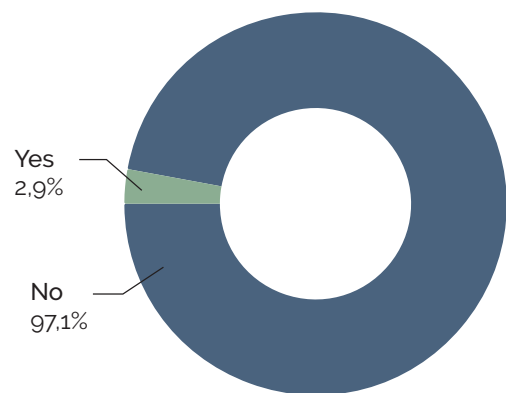


In-Kind and Cash Support

The survey included questions about whether organizations received support from public institutions, the private sector, and international organizations after the earthquake.

Responses to the question “**Did you receive any in-kind or cash support from public institutions after the earthquake?**” indicated that only 3% of organizations received in-kind or cash support from public institutions after the earthquake.

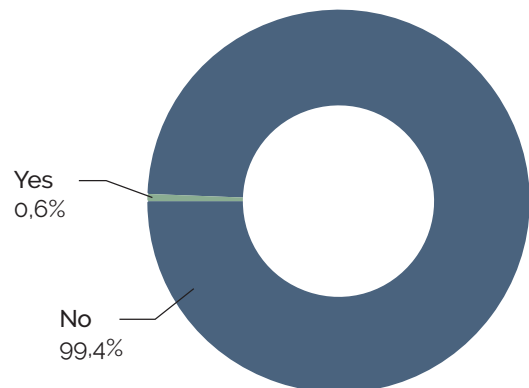
Did you receive any in-kind or cash support from public institutions after the earthquake?	
Yes	5
No	167

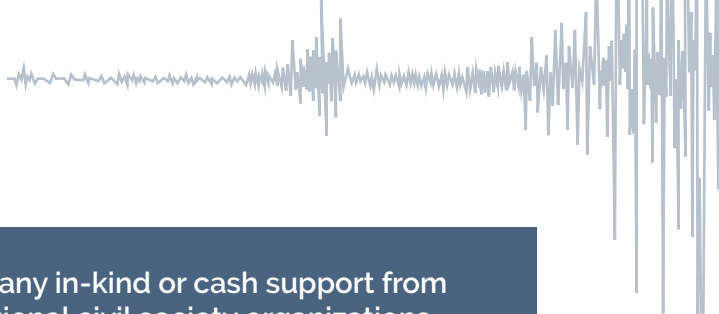


16

Responses to the question “**Did you receive any in-kind or cash support from national organizations after the earthquake?**” indicate that only one organization received support from a national organization after the earthquake.

Did you receive any in-kind or cash support from national organizations after the earthquake?	
Yes	1
No	171

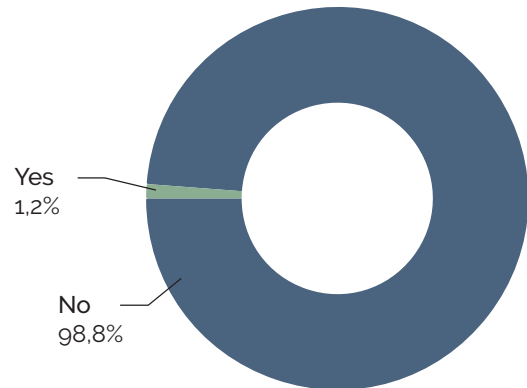




Responses to the question "Did you receive any in-kind or cash support from international organizations (EU, UN, international civil society organizations, etc.) after the earthquake?" indicate that only two organizations received support from international organizations after the earthquake.

Did you receive any in-kind or cash support from international organizations (EU, UN, international civil society organizations, etc.) after the earthquake?

Yes	2
No	170



While the survey data suggest that organizations received virtually no support after the earthquake, a significant majority of organizations believe they will not be able to continue their activities due to financial constraints.

Problems Arising After the Earthquake

It is evident that almost all organizations gave similar answers to the questions about post-earthquake problems, indicating common problems. The main problems included lack of working space, lack of human resources, and lack of financial resources.

Based on the responses to the question “**What is the biggest problem your organization faced after the earthquake?**” the most important problems after the earthquake were the lack of an office/workspace, difficulty in obtaining financial resources, and communication. The percentage of organizations that said they had not faced any problems after the earthquake was only 1%.

What is the biggest problem your organization faced after the earthquake?

The inability of the organisation to continue its activities due to the loss of population in the area	90
Change in the priorities	98
Inability to access temporary settlement areas in the earthquake zone	88
Office/workspace issues	122
Human resources problem (volunteers)	87
Human resources problem (professional)	84
Infrastructure problem (internet, computer, office supplies, etc.)	91
Difficulty in generating income	113
Communication problems (website, social media, etc.)	99
Other - (no issues)	9

The inability of the organisation to continue its activities due to the loss of population in the area

Change in the priorities

Inability to access temporary settlement areas in the earthquake zone

Office/Workspace issues

Human resources problem (volunteers)

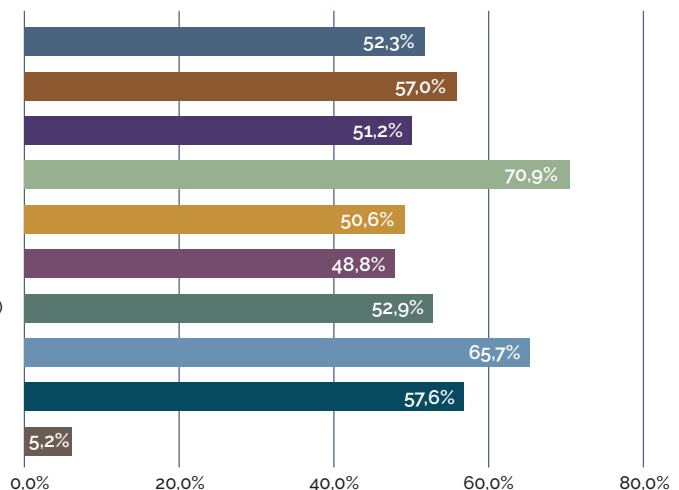
Human resources problem (professional)

Infrastructure problem (internet, computer, office supplies, etc.)

Difficulty in generating income

Communication problems (website, social media, etc.)

Other - (no issues)

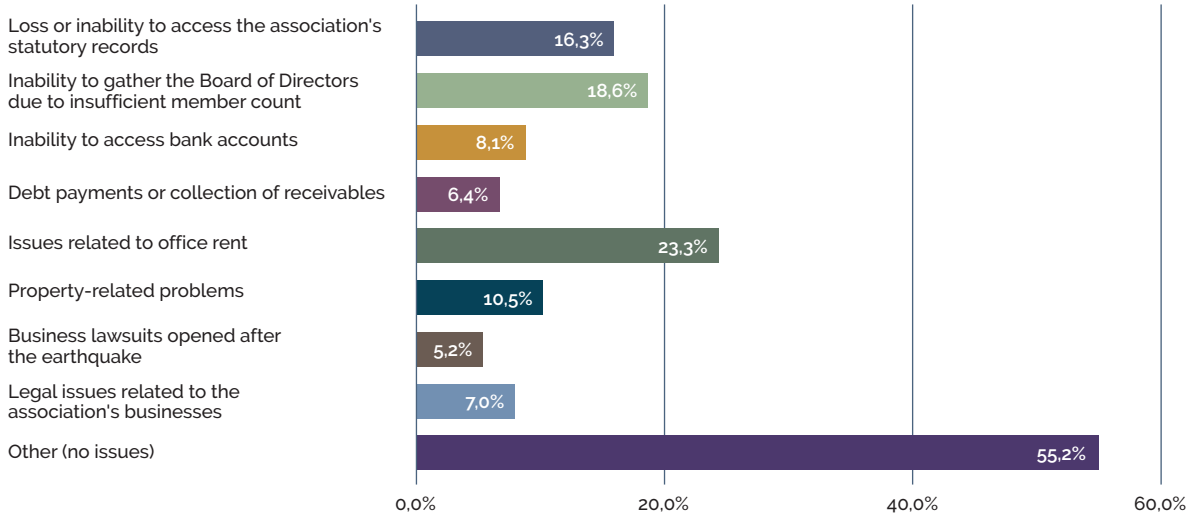




In response to the question "Does your organization face any of the following legal issues?", 36.7% of organizations indicated that they do not face any legal issues.

Does your organization face any of the following legal issues?

Loss or inability to access the association's statutory records	28
Inability to gather the Board of Directors due to insufficient member count	32
Inability to access bank accounts	14
Debt payments or collection of receivables	11
Issues related to office rent	40
Property-related problems	18
Business lawsuits opened after the earthquake	9
Legal issues related to the association's businesses	12
Other (no issues)	95

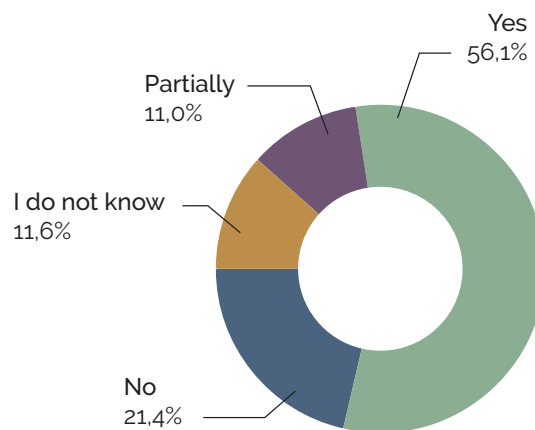


Flexibilities Introduced in Legal Obligations

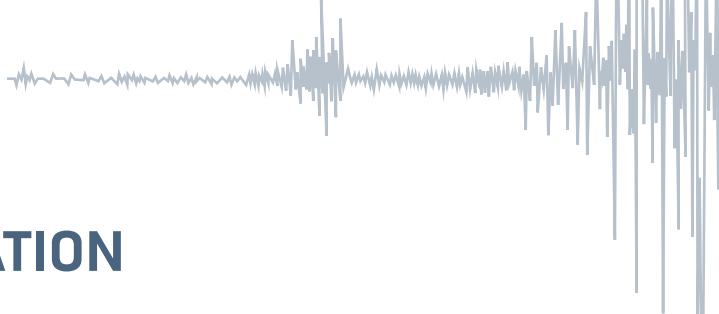
In response to the question "Do you think that the flexibility introduced for the legal obligations (declarations, reporting requirements, etc.) after the earthquake was sufficient?"⁶, 56% of the organizations thought that the flexibility introduced for the legal obligations after the earthquake was sufficient.

Do you think that the flexibility introduced for the legal obligations (declarations, reporting requirements, etc.) after the earthquake was sufficient?

Yes	97
No	37
I do not know	20
Partially	19



⁶ Notification and reporting obligations of associations, arising from the Law on Associations No. 525.3 with headquarters in Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa or the other organizations operating in these cities to eliminate earthquake damage have been postponed as of February 6, 2023, until the end of the state of emergency with the Presidential Decree No. 128 on Taking Certain Measures within the Scope of the State of Emergency, published in the Official Gazette No. 32121 dated March 3, 2023.



CONCLUSION and EVALUATION

Adiyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya were among the regions most affected by the earthquake. These regions also had relatively few CSOs and limited CSOs and participation levels to civil society participation before the earthquake. In these four cities, there were about 3,500 associations and only 140 newly established foundations before the earthquake. It was known that the number of CSOs in Hatay was slightly higher than in the other cities.

The limited number of CSOs in these regions, combined with their limited capacity to mobilize resources, carry out activities, and create recognition, has focused the efforts of the civil society sector primarily on survival even before the earthquake. The rapid assessment conducted with 172 associations shows that the situation of CSOs has further deteriorated after the earthquake.

The first expression of this deterioration can be observed in the physical conditions of CSOs. The offices of most of the associations are damaged and their equipment is in an unusable condition.

Second, the assessment revealed that the associations in the four cities have limited number of members with only about 12% paid staff and a small number of volunteers. The earthquake, which was accompanied by loss of life and internal migration, further reduced the already limited human resources of these organizations. However, an important development is that about 40% of the associations reported an increase in the number of new volunteers.


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Third, despite the difficult conditions, associations strive to maintain communication with their board members, members, staff, and volunteers. Nevertheless, only 30% of the associations are able to continue their activities. This difficulty is exacerbated by the fact that 80% of the associations have an annual income of less than 10,000 TL. This limited income level alone is considered insufficient for these organizations to continue their activities.

Finally, six months after the earthquake, few organizations have managed to obtain support from public institutions, international organizations or the private sector.

The difficulties faced by CSOs in these regions are also reflected in their responses to the question about the problems they faced after the earthquake. Only 1% of the organizations stated that they had not experienced any problems.

It is well known that civil society in Türkiye relies heavily on the voluntary contributions of individuals, and it is these volunteers and limited resources that are driving change in this area. The research findings clearly show that many civil society organizations have ceased their activities and those that are trying to continue their work after the earthquake are facing great difficulties. They receive very little support from the national and international actors. The isolation of these organizations can potentially be alleviated through the



contributions of organizations working in the earthquake-affected region. However, a long-term, structured perspective is needed to revitalize local organizations, improve their organizational capacity, and help solve local problems. The implementation of assistance programs, both in-kind and financial, for these organizations in collaboration with civil society organizations is urgently needed.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1 - Questionnaire

The name of your association:

City: Adiyaman Kahramanmaraş Malatya Hatay

1. Did you have an office where you conducted activities/meetings and kept records before the earthquake?

- Yes
 No

(If this answer is YES)

2. Who does this office belong to?

Association/foundation	1
Office for rent	2
Having a public instution	3
Having a our member/employer	4
Belongs to someone else but the rent is too low/ we do not pay	5
Other	

3. Did your office sustain damage in the earthquake?

- Heavily damaged
 Slightly damaged
 Moderately damaged
 Undamaged



4. Are assets (furniture, computers, printers, etc.) in usable condition?

- Yes
- No
- Partially

5. Are you able to access statutory records (resolution book, register of members, register of documents, business account book, etc.)?

- Yes
- No
- Partially

6. In what range is the number of members of your organization?

16-50	1
50-100	2
100-200	3
200-1.000	4
1000+	5

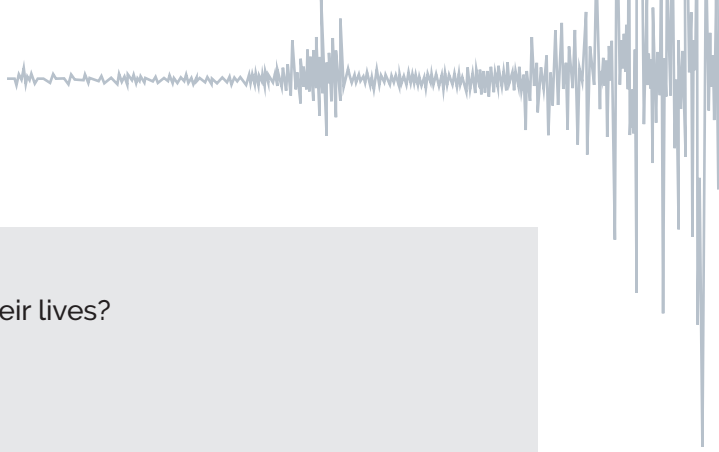
7. Did your organization have professional staff before the earthquake?

- Yes (How many people?)
- No

(7. If the answer is YES)

8. The number of your organization have professional staff after the earthquake:

- Now we do not have professional staff
- Unchange
- Increase (number)
- Decrease (number)



9. Have members of your organization lost their lives?

- Yes (number)
- No

10. Are you aware of any fatalities among your organization's employees?

- Yes (number)
- No

11. Did your organization gain new volunteers after the earthquake?

- Yes (number)
- No

12. Did you hold a board of directors meeting after the earthquake?

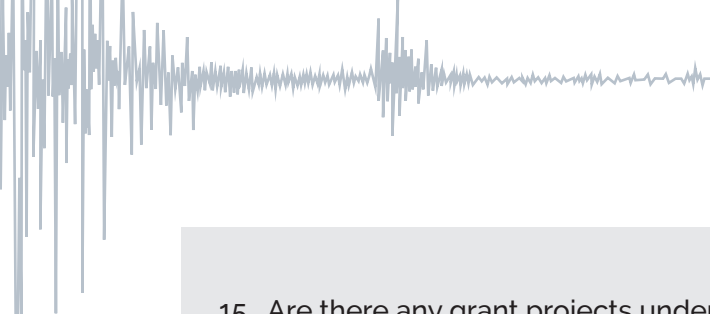
- Yes
- No

13. Were you able to maintain communication with your board members, members, staff, or volunteers after the earthquake?

- Yes
- No

14. Can you continue your activities after the earthquake?

- Yes
- We are continuing with difficulty
- No
- We are considering closing the organization



15. Are there any grant projects under implementation before the earthquake?

- No, we weren't implementing anyk
- Yes, we were implementing but it is canceled
- Yes, we were implementing, we suspend for a while, and now implementation process started again
- Yes, we were implementing, and implementation process continued without significant impact

16. What was your organization's annual income before the earthquake?

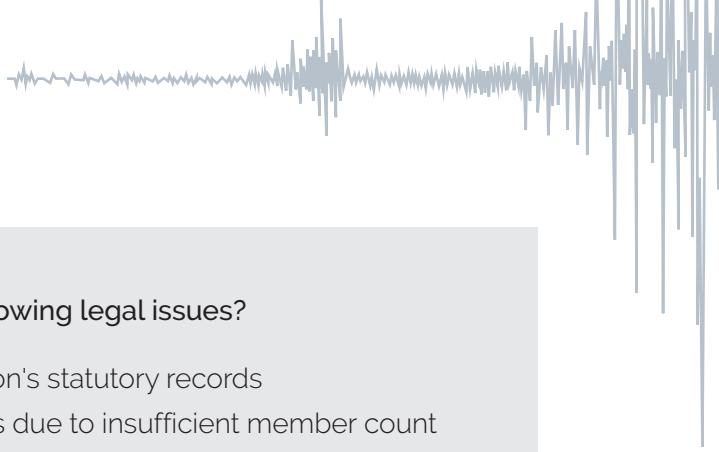
0-5.000 TL	1
5.0001-10.000 TL	2
10.001-100.000 TL	3
101.000-500.000 TL	4
500.001-1.000.000 TL	5
1.000.000 TL üstü	6

17. Will you be able to maintain these annual income level after the earthquake?

- Yes
- No
- I am not sure/ I do not know

18. Do you think that the flexibility introduced for the legal obligations (declarations, reporting requirements, etc.) after the earthquake was sufficient?

- Yes
- No
- I am not sure/I do not know
- Partially



19. Does your organization face any of the following legal issues?

- Loss or inability to access the association's statutory records
- Inability to gather the Board of Directors due to insufficient member count
- Inability to access bank accounts
- Debt payments or collection of receivables
- Issues related to office rent
- Property-related problems
- Business lawsuits opened after the earthquake
- Legal issues related to the association's businesses
- Other (no issues)

20. Did you receive any in-kind or cash support from public institutions after the earthquake?

- Yes
- We received but it was not enough
- No

21. Did you receive any in-kind or cash support from national organizations after the earthquake?

- Yes
- We received but it was not enough
- No

22. Did you receive any in-kind or cash support from international organizations (EU, UN, international civil society organizations, etc.) after the earthquake?

- Yes
- We received but it was not enough
- No



23. What is the biggest problem your organization faced after the earthquake?

- The inability of the organisation to continue its activities due to the loss of population in the ares
- Change in the priorities
- Inability to access temporary settlement areas in the earthquake zone
- Office/Workspace issues
- Human Resources Problem (Volunteers)
- Human Resources Problem (Professional)
- Infrastructure problem (Internet, Computer, Office Supplies, etc.)
- Difficulty in generating income
- Communication problem (website, social media, etc.)
- Other - (no issues)

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