



Inside

Mercy-USA News

March 2023 • Volume 29 Issue 1



Earthquake in Turkey

Page 2



Earthquake response in Syria

Page 4



Saving Lives in Somalia

Page 6



Fighting food insecurity in Lebanon

Page 7

Two major earthquakes struck southern Turkey and northern Syria within 9 hours of each other. The first 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck at 4:17 am while most were sleeping. Just nine hours later, a second 7.5 magnitude quake hit. Buildings have been flattened in Turkey and in Syria, causing a death toll that is still

climbing. At time of printing, more than 46,000 people had died.

Since 2011, Mercy-USA has had relief coordination offices in Antakya, Turkey and implementing relief staff on the ground in northern Syria. These are some of the areas hardest hit by these devastating quakes. *Read more on page 2.*

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development

is a nonprofit relief and development organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering and supporting individuals and their communities in their efforts to become more self-sufficient.

Incorporated in 1988, Mercy-USA's projects focus on improving health, nutrition and access to safe water, as well as promoting economic and educational growth around the world.

- Registered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Special Consultative Status with the United Nations
- Member of InterAction

Headquarters

44450 Pinetree Drive, Suite 201
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-3869
Phone: 734-454-0011 800-556-3729
FAX: 734-454-0303 info@mercyusa.org

Other Mercy-USA Offices

Tirana, Albania
Tuzla, Bosnia
Nairobi, Kenya
Tripoli, Lebanon
Mogadishu, Somalia
Antakya, Turkey



mercyusa.org



Antkaya, Turkey Mercy-USA's hometown for Syria cross border operations

Mercy-USA's office in Antakya has been coordinating the relief efforts aimed at Syrian refugees and Syrians inside their country. As the years passed and our Syria relief operations grew each year, so did the staff we welcomed on to our team to coordinate those massive projects. Many of our staff are Syrian refugees themselves.

When the earthquake struck at 4:17 am, our staff like most everyone else in southern Turkey were

sleeping in their beds. Most were able to escape their buildings though a few beloved colleagues were not heard from again.

Still reeling from the effects of the powerful quakes, our team settled their families safely and began contacting each other to mobilize for relief efforts. Our office is unsafe to work from so our teams are using makeshift space to coordinate relief efforts.

Within a couple days of the earthquakes, most



people had fled the city. Aside from rescue workers and anyone who was not standing by their wrecked building waiting for news of missing family members, people went to small towns and villages outside this city chock-full of tall apartment buildings. This is where we found people, along the roadside living under plastic sheeting, or if they were lucky, out of their cars or luckier yet, in a tent.



We met folks in a tent encampment who had lost 83 members of their community in a matter of minutes. They were traumatized and were only feeling safe outside even with the cold winter weather.

In another area, we helped Syrian refugee families living in an apartment block outside the city who were again made homeless when

the building came down in splinters. They were forced to scrape by again in makeshift tents.

Mercy-USA team members and volunteers quickly sourced ready to eat food and packaged it to distribute to these desperate families.

At the time of printing, our team was working furiously with Turkish authorities and suppliers to provide lasting support for the Turkish and Syrians affected by this colossal disaster.

Honoring the lives of Mercy-USA team members who were lost in Turkey.

Mercy-USA team members around the world consider themselves part of a big family and the loss of any of us is felt deeply by our entire worldwide team.

Tragically, the earthquake claimed the lives of three of our teammates and their young families in Turkey. We are devastated by their loss and they will be dearly missed and remembered.

Fadel Kattab, his wife, daughter, son and most of his extended family died in the earthquake. Fadel was a Procurement Officer for Mercy-USA. He worked with us for the last year and a half.

Fatma Zehra Idris and one of her sons left this earth while her other son survived. She was an Accountability Officer and joined our team early last year.

Jumana Aaiyan, her husband and daughter died together in their home. Jumana was a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with Mercy-USA for more than a year.

Please say a prayer for their souls and for God's mercy on them and their surviving relatives.



Ready to Respond When Earthquake Struck Syria

The two earthquakes that have devastated southern Turkey also caused major loss of life in northern Syria where Mercy-USA has close to 600 team members. This is the region where Mercy-USA has been providing daily life-saving humanitarian relief since 2012. It was hit hard by the earthquake which left even more displaced families without a solid shelter or means of support.

We are grateful that none of our current field staff and healthcare

workers were killed or injured. Once everyone settled their families and made sure they were safe, our team hit the ground running to help others who were also directly impacted by the disaster.

Since Mercy-USA distributes food aid to at least 250,000 people every month, we had food stocks in place where it was needed while everyone waited for the single border crossing from Turkey to reopen. In the early days after the quake, we began a daily bread distribution.

We also provided ready to eat meals and food baskets to last a month.

Mercy-USA Syria Communications Coordinator, Sana said, "This earthquake event has added



extreme trauma on top of the war trauma they already carry. They feel so alone and abandoned by the world. I'm grateful to be able to do

my job and help my neighbors know they're not forgotten despite this new hardship."

Mercy-USA provides food, shelter, healthcare and nutrition support for hundreds of thousands of displaced in NW Syria on a continuous basis regardless of natural disasters or political instability. We're there for them and they remain our priority.



Somalia's smallest victims of food insecurity.



In December of 2022, Malabay carried her 4 1/2 year-old son, Bishar on her back 49 miles to the Mercy-USA Health and Nutrition Clinic in Somalia. The little boy had been sick for three months and by the time she brought him to our clinic he was found to be suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition. Malabay's story of what happened to her family is becoming more and more common as the drought continues in Somalia.

"We had almost 30 goats that provided milk for my young children and sometimes I sold some of it to buy food and medicines. My husband used to earn well enough from herding, so we were in good shape; however, the drought killed off almost all of our livestock. Bishar became ill after I stopped giving him milk because we weren't getting any from our few remaining goats. He was weakening and getting thinner every day and I was left with no choice but to provide him with river water and white rice."

Bishar was also diagnosed with pneumonia and whooping cough. He was given immediate admission to our clinic for treatment. He weighed just 13 pounds and was only 2 feet tall. A healthy four-and-a-half year old boy should weigh around 40 pounds and should be at about 3.5 feet tall. Little Bishar was no where near these averages.

At the time of printing, Bishar was receiving treatment for his malnutrition and other illnesses. Once his weight reaches an adequate level and his health becomes stable, he will be placed into Mercy-USA's Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Program. His mother, Malabay is also receiving training on improved hygiene and Infant and Young Child Feeding best practices to help her



maintain the nutritional needs of her children.

"My son's condition was not good when I arrived at the health

center yesterday, but I'm grateful that he is receiving treatment. He was given nutritious milk and other medications and we are getting free food from the clinic. The medical staff is working hard to ensure that my son's health improves"

Mercy-USA is helping malnourished children with lifesaving nutritional support in the Hiraan region in partnership with the Somali Humanitarian Fund.

Fighting Malnutrition With Early Intervention in Lebanon

When Mercy-USA community health and nutrition workers examined 6-month old Hanaa, she was found to be suffering with acute moderate malnutrition.

Hanaa was admitted into our nutrition program and given a month of PlumpySup therapeutic feeding supplements.

Her mother, Ayesha was counseled on feeding strategies for an infant at six months. She said, "This program helped me improve and change my feeding practices. I thought that my breast milk would be enough for Hanaa even at her age, but she was not gaining weight. The Mercy-USA Infant and Young Child Feeding counselors at the clinic taught me how to introduce complementary feeding into her routine. They gave me advice on the amount, texture and quantity of food I should



be introducing to Hanaa. Now my baby girl is active, chubby and loves to eat what I give her!"

Early intervention in malnutrition saves lives, but also builds a healthier society for the future.

Moderate to severe malnutrition during infancy is associated with a significantly elevated incidence

of impaired IQ in adulthood. Hanaa can grow up happy, engaged in learning and be less vulnerable to illness now that her mother has the tools to keep her fed.

Where We Work • mercyusa.org



Albania

English and computer skills training for orphans
Read to Succeed program for school-age children and teens



Bangladesh & Rohingya Refugees

Seasonal food aid
Emergency Relief



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vocational and career training for orphans, at-risk teens and young adults
Assistance to special needs students
Read to Succeed program for school-age children



Ethiopia

Seasonal food aid
Emergency Relief



The Gaza Strip

With grant funding to UNRWA, support for a special school for blind and visually-impaired elementary school-aged children.
Health and vision screenings



Kenya

Seasonal food aid
Emergency Relief



Lebanon

Mobile Medical Clinic for Syrian Refugees and their hosts in Wadi Khalid
Healthcare for Palestinian Refugees
Nutritional support for mothers and children
Cash assistance for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian Refugees
Seasonal food aid



Pakistan

Seasonal food aid
Emergency Relief



Somalia

Approximately 800 new or rehabilitated wells and other water resources for access to clean drinking water throughout Somalia including emergency drought relief
Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children
Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion
Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention



Syria

Covering the daily food needs for approximately 250,000 vulnerable persons in northern Syria
Winterization projects for vulnerable children and their families
Semi-permanent homes for Syrian families
Nutritional support and health services
Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion
Livelihood support



United States

Seasonal food aid
Support for refugees
Support for Detroit area disadvantaged students
Emergency Relief



Turkey

Earthquake Relief and Recovery



Yemen

Seasonal food aid
Emergency Relief

Mercy-USA Board of Directors*

Chairperson

Ms. Iman Elkadi

Vice-Chairperson

Dr. Ali El-Menshawi

Treasurer

Ms. Rasha Ghobashy

Members

Mr. Hassan Amin

Ms. Samar Mady

Mr. Moses Hammett

Mr. Othman Altalib

**All members of the Board of Directors serve as volunteers.*

Senior Officers

Mr. Umar al-Qadi,

President & CEO

Mr. Anas Alhaidar, CFO

**Our donors and volunteer fundraisers make our work around the world possible!
Get involved to make a difference!
mercyusa.org**



Donate Online: mercyusa.org • Call to donate: 734-454-0011 • Toll-free: 800-556-3729

Clip and Mail this Donation Form to Mercy-USA • 44450 Pinetree Dr. Ste. 201, Plymouth, Michigan 48170-3869 • US Federal Tax # 38-2846307
In Canada: PO Box 99055, RPO Heritage Green • Stoney Creek, ON L8J 2P7 • Charity Business #89458-5553-RR0001

Contribution / Pledge Form

One Time Donation \$ _____

Monthly Donation \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Check

Credit Card (Fill out Credit Card Section)

Monthly Gift \$ _____

I give my permission to Mercy-USA/Mercy-USA (Canada) to withdraw from my Credit Card the amount I have indicated above. I also understand that I may change or end a monthly donation agreement at any time with a written notice.

Credit Card Information

Account No. _____

Expiration Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (Please print) _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

E-mail _____

More ways to contribute!

Many companies match their employees' donations; ask your employer if they have a "Matching Gift Program". Automatic Giving Program: A gift of your choice can be automatically deducted monthly from your bank account. Please call us toll-free at **800-556-3729** for details on how you can make an easy and sustaining gift.