



Türkiye Psikiyatri Derneği / Psychiatric Association of Turkey
Genel Merkez / *Headquarters*

**Information on PAT's (Psychiatric Association of Turkey) Activities Regarding the
February 6, 2023, Earthquake – February 8, 2023**

In the days of one of the biggest natural disasters of the 21st century, we are all sad, worried, and willing to contribute as much as possible to heal our wounds.

As the Executive Committee, we thought it would be appropriate to share a brief note with our members on PAT's activities on the first day of the disaster.

On February 6th, at 9:00 am, the Executive Committee (EC) held the first meeting on the disaster. At 9:45 am, the EC along with the Disaster Preparedness and Response Unit (Dr. Münevver Yıldırım, Dr. Rümeyza Taşdelen, Dr. Hamid Boztaş, Dr. İrem Yıldız) and coordinators of the Scientific Section on the Mental Trauma and Disaster Psychiatry (Dr. Rengin Güvenç and Dr. Kerem Laçiner) had a meeting to assess the emergency of the situation and create a roadmap.

Based on the results of the meeting, with Dr. Münevver Yıldırım in charge of coordination, tasks were shared among Dr. Rümeyza Taşdelen and Dr. Rengin Güvenç to review and share visual and written materials with the Turkish Medical Association (TMA) and other colleagues. The preparation of materials for field teams were also initiated.

Dr. Hamid Boztaş and Dr. İrem Yıldız were assigned to manage the relationship with the TMA. Dr. İrem Yıldız also served on the TMA Crisis Desk. Dr. İrem Yıldız and our EC member Dr. Emre Mutlu gathered with the TMA UDEK to ensure coordination with other medical specialty associations.

Dr. Kerem Laçiner and our EC member Dr. Alper Bülbül were tasked with establishing contact with the regional branches. Although our priority was reporting, the number of people and regions affected was extensive. We contacted the branch managers in the affected regions.



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At 12:00 pm, we met with the Branch Managers to plan a solidarity network and identify branch managers responsible for disaster support in official assignments in the branches.

Dr. Kerem Laçiner and Dr. Alper Bülbül contacted the branch managers to create human resources, field information, and branch structures. With the coordination of our EC member Emre Cem Esen and our Psychiatric Trainees Committee members, we

contacted our colleagues in the earthquake region and collected information on their health status and current needs. WhatsApp groups were established for each province to facilitate communication with our colleagues in the region's cities.

An SMS line was activated, and two messages were sent. We shared the link to the Telegram group that would serve as a support call network and where those who need support could reach us. The PAT Psychosocial Support and Solidarity group was established.

Afterward, we held a meeting with the TMA Disaster and Emergency Health Services Branch at 4:00 pm.

Planning was made to ensure the flow of services to our patients with chronic illnesses and to other patients in the region whose treatment was disrupted. Dr. Sencer Tabakcı and Dr. Sevilay Kılınç were assigned to this task.

Collaboration letters were prepared and sent to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family and Social Services, and AFAD.

Brochures targeting both the public and health and disaster relief professionals, as well as information on how news should be presented in the media, have been shared on social media. Field awareness has been attempted through the TMA, but due to difficulties in transportation and information gathering, unfortunately, there are still many constraints for planning psychosocial services. Contact has been made with the Ministry of Health, and initial steps have been taken regarding a volunteer network.



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On February 7th, work continued based on the developments and plans mentioned above, and discussions with other institutions for solidarity are ongoing. An online meeting was held with approximately 300 participants from the Trauma and Disaster Working Unit at 9:00 PM. Current information on the field and on our activities was shared and ideas were exchanged conducted regarding the future plans. The first order of business will be to establish the volunteer pool and obtain the necessary resources.

We will organize ourselves effectively in difficult times, heal our wounds together, and work together to ensure the success of long-term intervention programs.

In solidarity,

Turkish Psychiatric Association Executive Committee