

Earthquake Response - A report

17.04.23



ATÖLYE

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Intro | Earthquake Response

It has been over 2 months since the earthquakes shook and devastated Turkey & Syria on February 6th. Millions of people have been impacted, displaced and made homeless; and hundreds of thousands of people have sadly left this world too soon.

I know many of us at ATÖLYE would agree that this period in history will be remembered as one that has been excruciatingly painful, and hard to deal with. Knowing that during this time we had one another, and could lean in towards solidarity and love, I believe, has been a blessing.

We still have a long way to go, so let's remember to take care of ourselves and each other. "How are you?" goes a long way.

In this report, there are a list the initiatives we have taken from day one till now; there are also a list of projects that have arisen due to our collective efforts. You'll see that all our actions have had a ripple effect—and we hope, will continue to do so.

With solidarity,

Melissa

***Note:** This report has been created for internal purposes with ATÖLYE team members and the post-earthquake workshop organisers & attendees being positioned as the primary audience(s).*

The goal of this report is to log what has happened since the earthquake of February 6, 2023—and what we have done in response to it, together with our community, partners, and network.

*The information here **can be circulated** and adjusted according to who the primary audience is. If you have any questions, feel free to contact melissa@atolye.io*

Since February 25th,

we have brought together over
200 people and over *100 organisations*
at ATÖLYE.

We have lead the way for over
20+ new projects to take life.

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Timeline of events

- *February 6th:* Earthquake hit Turkey & Syria
- *February 25-26th:* Post-Earthquake Workshop organised by ATÖLYE in collaboration with Neol & Aposto
- *February 27th:* ATÖLYE opened up the space for all workshop attendees (for foreseeable future)
- *March 7th:* ATÖLYE team met with Turkish Philanthropy Funds for potential funding for Mahal project
- *March 9th:* Community team hosted Buse Ustaoğlu Kaçar, visual storyteller (& capturer of workshop)
- *March 10th:* Mahal coordination meeting
- *March 11th:* Tasarım İhtiyaç Ağı Workshop Part 1 hosted at ATÖLYE
- *March 19th:* Tasarım İhtiyaç Ağı Workshop Part 2 at ATÖLYE
- *March 23rd:* ATÖLYE Architecture team hosted Tülin Hadi from Istanbul Kent Konseyi
Community team hosted Clinical Psychosociologist, Zeynep İclâl İncioğlu



Timeline of events



<i>March 27th:</i>	Translation of “Yuva” project for Hayata Destek, Earthlink, Topluluk Etkisi (Coordinated by Buğra, imece)
<i>1 April:</i>	EKA x 6 Şubatlar Workshop at ATÖLYE
<i>12 April:</i>	Community team hosted the Tech4R project team
<i>16 April:</i>	ÇİP (Association for Combating Child Abuse and Neglect) Derneği Workshop at ATÖLYE
<i>23 April:</i>	Neol & Aposto teams will be headed on the ground for Children’s Day alongside Ahbap
<i>May 23rd:</i>	“Mobilising communities in the face of crisis” article released
<i>June 8th:</i>	Mobilizing Technology Sector Volunteers for Resilience - UN Volunteers workshop
<i>June 13th:</i>	HBR x ATÖLYE Community-powered summit: Session on earthquake response.



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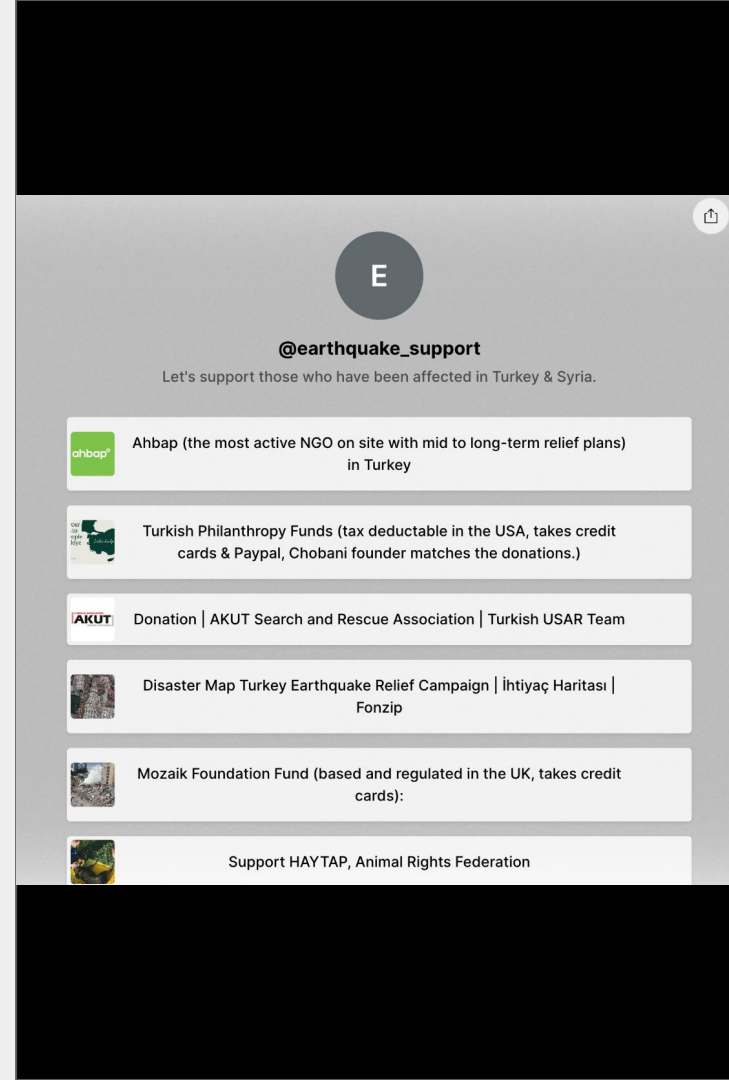
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As **ATÖLYE** we;

1. Donated 200,000 TL in total together with [Neol](#) to [AKUT](#), The Search & Rescue Association.
2. Responded externally by sharing open resources such as [Earthquake Info](#) page which was updated daily with the latest, fact-checked information and data helping both those impacted on the ground and those on the field.
3. Shared trustworthy donation links within our global community through creating a linktr.ee/earthquake_support.
4. Stopped all external communications till March 3rd. Postponed events in Istanbul.
5. Released a 24/7 psychological hotline with Avita for team members to call.
6. Held an emergency Town Hall with the entire team and a session with our community for people to voice needs.
7. Opened an anonymous survey to team members to voice their feelings, concerns and thoughts.



As individuals, we;

1. Donated essential items and clothing through partnering with local municipalities, organisations and their network in both IST and DXB.
2. Coordinated to support relief efforts on the ground through joining various initiatives both online and in-person.
3. Went to the earthquake areas for field research together with the Neol team; some members from Neol accessed remote areas for the first time since the earthquake.
4. Joined sessions of daily Depremathon sessions that took place everyday organised by Habitat.

Appendix:

- [Earthquake Response Asana board](#)



Initiatives | Post-disaster workshop

ATÖLYE co-organised a workshop with Neol and Aposto on the weekend of 25-26 February, at ATÖLYE, **to focus on mid-long term earthquake relief efforts** focusing specifically on joint living spaces temporary accommodation areas.

The workshop brought together **over 100 individuals** (people with field experience, as well as design practitioners from myriad disciplines) **from 65 organisations** (NGOs, institutions, platforms etc.).

Aposto



ATÖLYE



Neol



We chose to focus on *10 main areas* which were then developed throughout the workshop.

Basic Needs

Housing, food, water, hygiene, electricity, and heating

Social Needs

Activities, rituals, psychosocial support

Spatial Needs

Common areas, need areas, production (rural and urban), health areas, recreation areas, infrastructure

Health

Emergency intervention, women's health, child health, epidemic diseases, mental and spiritual health, drug supply

Education

Formal education, skill development, social integration, certificate programs



We chose to focus on *10 main areas* which were then developed throughout the workshop.

Governance

Team and volunteer system,
decision-making processes,
communication, coordination,
organization

Digital Transformation

Digital solutions, software
development, hardware
development

Local Production and Development

Agriculture, livestock, crafts,
supply, incentive mechanisms.

Regional Economic Development

Employment, industrial developments,
economic modeling

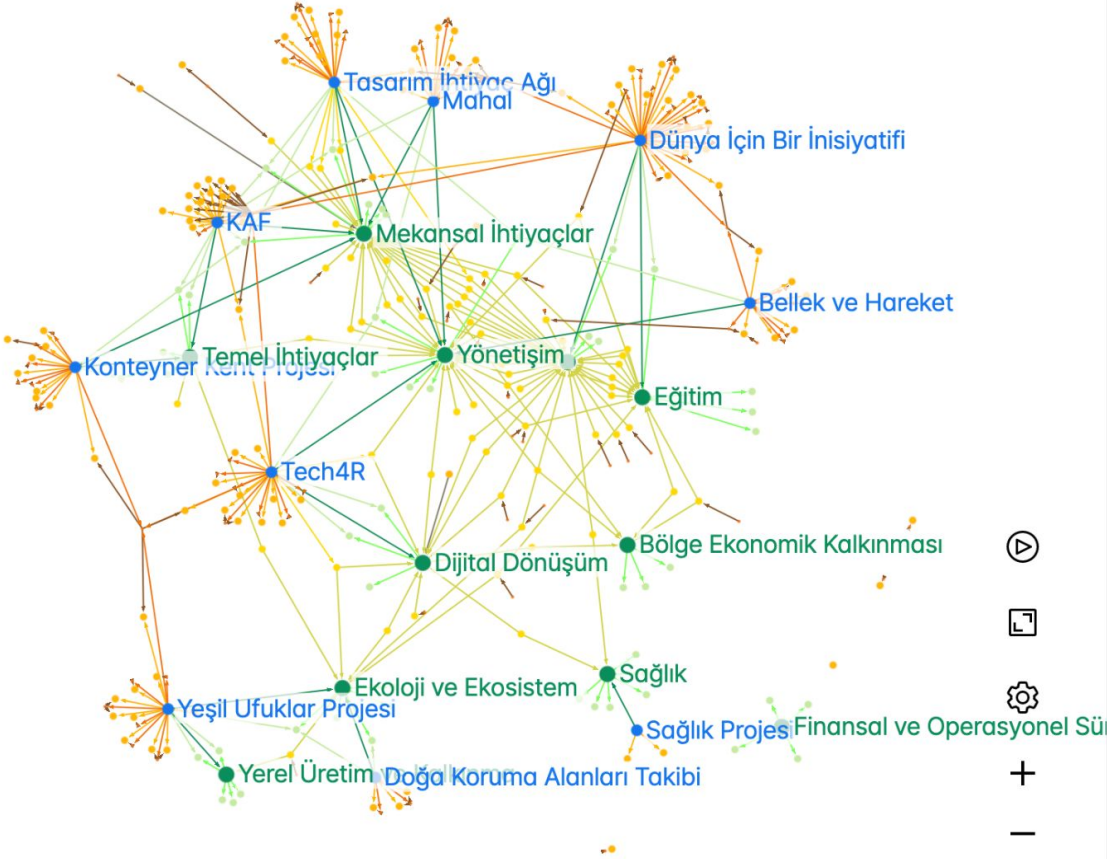
Ecology and Ecosystem

Protection of natural habitats and living beings, rubble
management, waste management, sustainable energy
systems, preservation of seeds.

Appendix:

- **Workshop Outputs** which includes:
 - [Aposto's publication](#) about the workshop including detailed information about all the projects that came out of the workshop.
 - Graph Commons map of all organisations, people and projects that came up - with version 3.0 we have opened it up to others as a ["Solidarity Network Map"](#).
 - A [visual illustration](#) of the workshop.
 - Our [open-source library](#) of resources relating to focus areas.
 - A [database of organisations/NGOs](#) working on the field.
- **Other actions taken:**
 - Slack channel for Solidarity Network
 - Solidarity Network Form
 - [Neol Volunteer Form](#)
- **Feedback Report**





Afet Dayanışma Ağı

ATÖLYE

Updated Apr 10, 2023

Nodes 320

- 11 Odak Alanı
- 49 Alt Kategori
- 85 Kurum
- 64 Dayanışma Ağı
- 101 Çalıştay Katılımcısı
- 10 Proje

Initiatives | ATÖLYE Community Team Response

- The ATÖLYE IST Hub space has been opened for everyone who attended the post-earthquake workshop.
- 3 Lunch & Learns have been held hosting individuals who attended and supported the post-earthquake workshop:
 - We met the Post-Disaster Workshop Illustrator, Buse Ustaoglu Kaçar, who captured the workshop experience in a beautifully designed narrative illustration. Buse shared insights into her creative process for the live illustration and approach to the craft of visual storytelling. A large format poster of the workshop drawing was on display, and continues to be present in the Istanbul Hub for the community to view. Color copies for each of the project team visual narratives were also made available as takeaways.
 - Clinical Psychosociologist, Zeynep İclâl İncioğlu, joined the community for an interactive dialogue to share about her field experience working alongside Humanitarian Aid and Civil Society organizations as a trauma responder and being on a team supporting victims and survivors in the disaster area. İclâl offered guidance and tools for processing our own trauma using the method of A-B-C's (Awareness, Balance and Connection) and the BASİC Ph Coping Strategy.
 - We met with the Tech4R team ("table 8") listened to their development process, current projects, partners and needs.

"Post-Disaster Common Life and Community Spaces Workshop"

VISUAL NOTETAKING PROCESS



- **Relationship Building: Special Partnership Conversations**

The Community team has curated a list of organizations from the post-earthquake workshop and started building community partner relationships under the “Creatives for Impact” strategic framing. This process continues in collaboration with the Communications and Architecture teams. There will also be future opportunities for our Projects teams to become involved. We are in talks and partnerships with the following organisations:

- [Erişilebilir Her Şey](#)
- [The Circle](#)
- [Urban.koop](#)
- [Piknik works](#)
- [EKA Creative Studio & Community](#)
- [6 Şubatlar](#)



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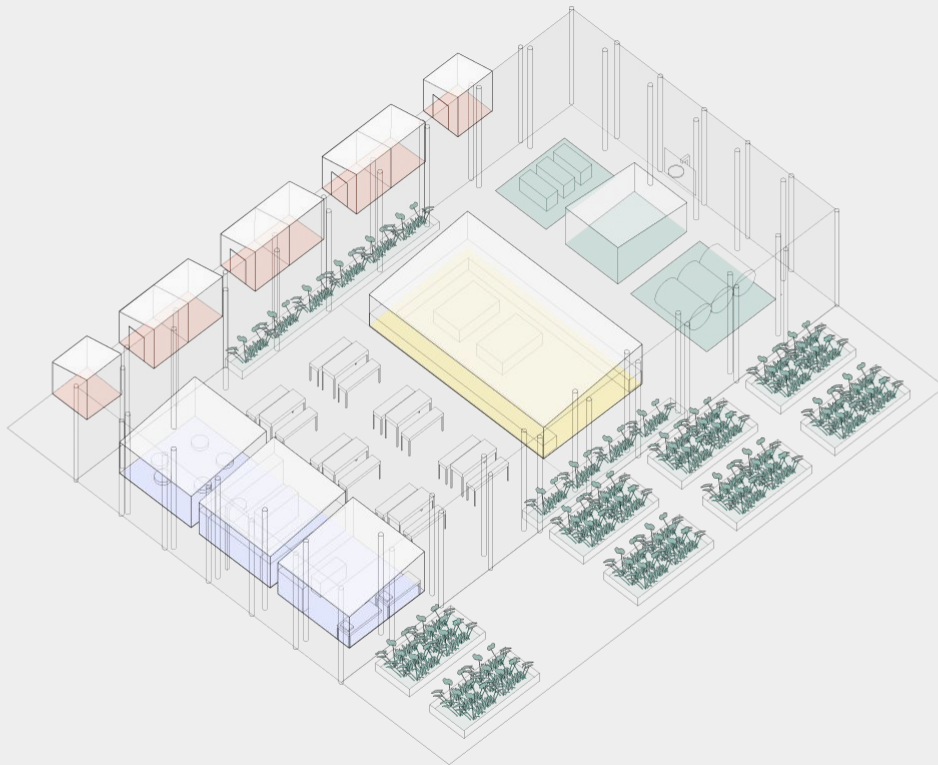
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Projects - Mahal

- ATÖLYE worked on putting together a project prototype, “Mahal” together with the imece, Neol & Aposto teams:
 - [English version](#)
 - [Turkish version](#)
- Since then, we have spoken with the Turkish Philanthropy Funds.
- Those on the ground from imece have stated that it may be risky to move forward since basketball areas and schools will be used for elections in Mid-May; there are currently more urgent needs taking place.
- We are in the process of activating ATÖLYE's association in case we can further this initiative.
- Gensler are interested in collaborating with ATÖLYE on design projects such as this one.
- Next steps will be to secure funding for potential future disasters and prototype this so it can be used as a blueprint.
- Aposto's article about this project has been published [here](#).

Project Coordinators: Aposto, ATÖLYE, imece, Neol



Projects - Tasarım İhtiyaç Ağı

- A group of architects and designers formed a micro-community called “Tasarım İhtiyaç Ağı” (Design Needs Network) to respond the spatial and architectural needs that came out during the post-earthquake response workshop. The ATÖLYE Architecture team has been heavily involved in the coordination of this project.
- So far, they have organized 2 working sessions, with 40 participants focusing on the needs of organizations such as TEGV, İhtiyaç Haritası, K.Maraş Chamber of Architects on March 11 and 19.
- With 7 different groups they have worked on child-friendly container cities, learning and working spaces, maker spaces, sanctuaries.
- The projects are continuing to evolve and expand; Tasarım İhtiyaç Ağı will publish the projects and make it an open source library.
- Aposto’s article about this project is [here.](#),

Project Coordinators: SO? Mimarlık, Mas Mimarlık, ATÖLYE, Herkes İçin Mimarlık, EKA Creative Studio, Piknik Works, Studio Mada, Betül Ergün (Serbest Tasarımcı, Akademisyen), Oğuzhan Tunçay (Öğrenci, KHAS).



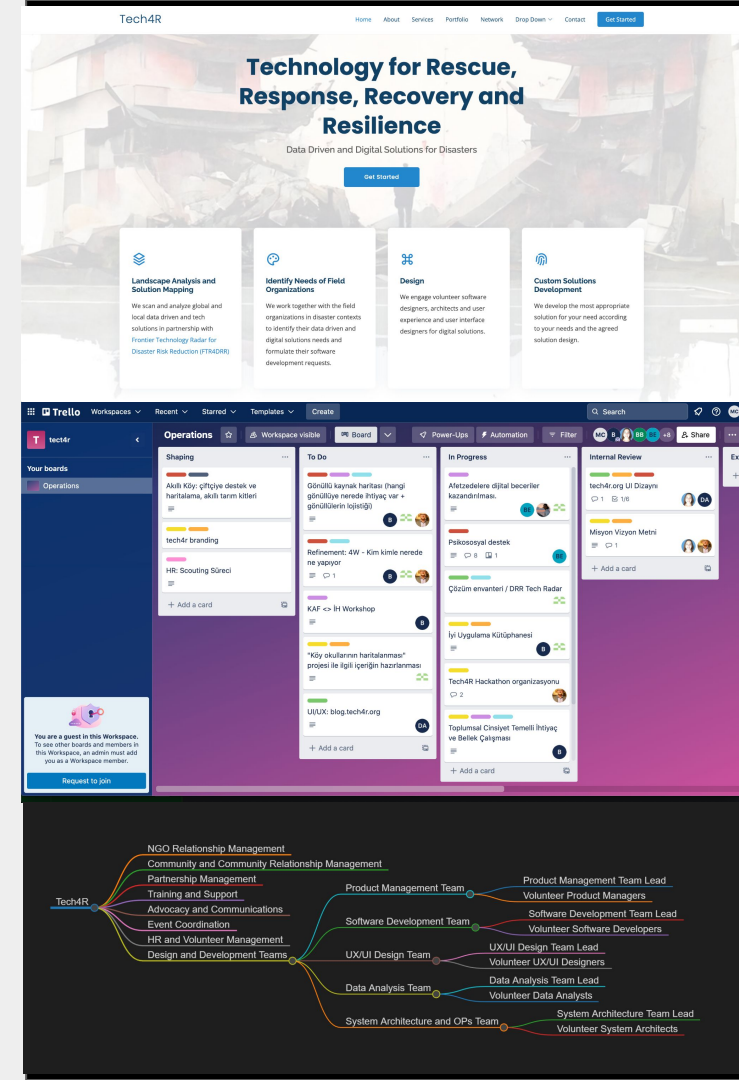
Projects - Tech4R

- The Tech4R project is up and running and you can visit their website here: www.tech4r.org
- So far, they have delivered 9 projects on the ground working with local and international NGOs as well as other organisations.
- They are in need of volunteers! So if you are interested in joining their team, feel free to reach out to melissa@atolye.io (Positions below)

Project Coordinators: Interwerk, Neol, HOLIST Bütünsel Yaşam Derneği, UN SDG AI Lab, Etki Çemberleri Vakfı, Pincident.

Appendix:

- [ATÖLYE Lunch & Learn Progress Update](#)



Projects - Doğa Koruma Alanları Takibi (Follow Up of Natural Protection Areas)

- This project focuses on the follow up of debris and rubble from the buildings that were destroyed during the earthquake. Since the workshop, [Esmiyor](#), [Yerçizenler](#) and the newly formed post-earthquake workshop team [Tech4R](#), have worked together to create a system to track the removal of debris.
- Since the workshop, they have organised a “Mapathon” and are now in the process of looking for funding.
- More about the project will be added once an update is shared.
- An Aposto article about this project has been published [here](#).

Project Coordinators: Esmiyor, Yer Çizenler, Tech4R



Projects - Konteyner Kent Projesi (Container City Project)

- The Container City Project focuses on developing modular living spaces to address the need for innovative housing solutions, especially in earthquake-affected regions in Turkey. By evaluating past shelters and considering residents' diverse needs and regional conditions, the project aims to create accessible, habit-responsive spaces that prioritize privacy, community, and inclusivity for different demographics.
- More about the project will be added once an update is shared.
- **Project Coordinators:** MAS Architecture, Neol, Ahbap, and Needs Map



Projects - Yeşil Ufuklar Projesi (The Green Horizons Project)

- The Green Horizons Project aims to promote economic growth, ecological sustainability, and community empowerment in earthquake-affected regions through agriculture and livestock initiatives. By implementing regenerative agriculture training, facilitating stakeholder collaboration, and developing a sustainable finance program, the project seeks to build a support network of partners, ensuring farmers have ongoing access to resources like market access, technical assistance, and business development.
- More about the project will be added once an update is shared.
- **Project Coordinators:** Good4Trust, Anadolu Meraları, Sodexo, Earthist, Neol, and IDEA Universal

Projects - Bellek ve Hareket (Memory and Action)

- The Memory and Action project aims to create collaborative working spaces and policies involving underrepresented groups, focusing on various areas like refugees, gender, LGBTI+, and animal rights. The project's first phase emphasizes women's and LGBTI+ rights and raising the voices of earthquake victims, while the second phase involves digital memory work to counter erasure policies, aiming to create a public opinion for the prosecution of responsible individuals and institutions, through initiatives like an "Earthquake Museum" or citywide installations.
- Participants of the Memory and Action project took part in the "8 Mart Kadın Koalisyonu" meeting, after which they continued with their distinct initiatives to aid earthquake victims.
- The project is set to evolve and foster collaboration in the near future. More about the project will be added once an update is shared.
- **Project Coordinators:** Alara represented 6 Şubatlar, Fanon and Piccolo, Ceylan participated individually, Duygu represented Merkezsiz, Öykü represented Incomplit, and Zarife represented SPoD.

Projects - Dünya için Bir İnisiyatifi (One for the World)

- One for the World Initiative focuses on aiding children in disaster-affected areas by facilitating post-disaster socialization and uniting them through art. By providing support and guidance to artists and leveraging the connections and strengths of NGOs, the initiative aims to bridge gaps in expertise and resources, ensuring appropriate approaches are used to engage children and youth while increasing fieldwork activities.
- More about the project will be added once an update is shared.
- **Project Coordinators:** TEGV (Turkish Education Volunteers Foundation), KODA (Village Schools Change Network), Konuşmamız Gerek Association, Afet Çocuk, Dünya İçin Burada, 484 Urban Garden, Artolution, ÇiP (Association for Combating Child Abuse and Neglect), Özel Sezin School, The Circle, Oyun Parkı Community, and Istanbul Youth Platform

Projects - KAF

KAF Collective is a 25-person civil initiative that started with the efforts of three friends who set out for Kahramanmaraş from Istanbul. They currently run a collective in Kahramanmaraş, Sümer Mahallesi, Dulkadiroğlu district. In cooperation with local and international non-governmental organizations, they ensure the direct and rapid realization of projects such as the general infrastructure of the temporary campus, activities and playgrounds for children, social areas for women, as well as vital needs such as shelter, clean water and food.

Appendix:

- [KAF Kolektif Instagram](#)
- [Aposto's Interview with KAF](#)
- Donate & Volunteer: linktr.ee/kafkolektif

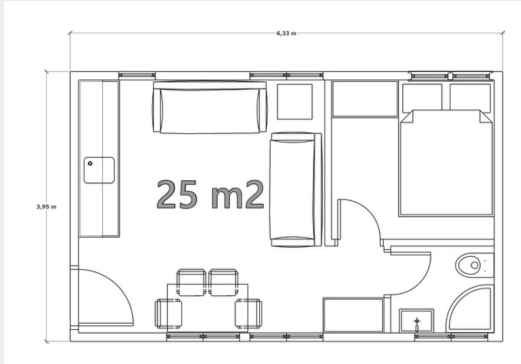


Yuva

Yuva has been designed to provide a practical, and economical solution to citizens who need medium-long-term sheltering and resilient living space in the earthquake zone.

After the urgent need for sheltering is met, it can be used for different purposes in the same place or another location. This project was not one of the projects that came about in the workshop but came about afterwards.

- **Project Coordinators:** Hayata Destek, Topluluk Etkisi, Earthlink & Co, Buğra Çelik (imece)



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Workshop - EKA x 6 Şubatlar (1 April)

- On April 1st, [EKA Creative Studio](#) hosted a Community Gathering at **ATÖLYE** in partnership with [6 Şubatlar](#), a creative initiative established by one of ATÖLYE's community member **Alara Demirel** with the aim of **bringing together people in the creative sectors** in big cities and providing donations to NGOs to heal the wounds caused by the earthquakes that Turkey endured.
- 35 participants have joined the event to learn more about this creative initiative and build its future with the core team of it.
- During the event, ideas were developed about future actions that 6 Şubatlar can take, their risks and **new solidarity opportunities** that it can provide for people in the creative sector.
- At the end of the event, participants shared the journeys they have envisioned for 6 Şubatlar over the course of a year and joined the collaborator pool of 6 Şubatlar to introduce their talents and support cultivating this platform.



Event - ÇİP Derneği (16 April)

- On April 16th, the Association for Combating Child Abuse and Neglect (Çocuk İstismarı ve İhmali ile Mücadele Derneği) hosted an event at ATÖLYE called **"A Multidisciplinary Approach to Children in the Post-Disaster Period."** The event aimed to educate individuals, groups, and NGOs that support children in disaster areas through humanitarian aid, psychosocial assistance, education, and other activities. The sessions focused on enhancing participants' ability to communicate effectively with children, maintain their mental health amid traumatic events, and develop an understanding of rights-based child advocacy.
- 10 participants attended the event to improve their communication skills with children in earthquake-affected areas. The majority of the attendees were volunteers working in disaster zones.
- The event featured informative sessions led by expert speakers, including "Effective Communication with Children Affected by Disasters" by lecturer and child development specialist Elif Türel, "Coping Strategies for Secondary Trauma in Volunteers" by psychologist Burcu Seven, and "Child Advocacy" by ÇİP Association Board Member Volkan Çolakoğlu.



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Next Steps

- [We have recently published an article about “Mobilizing Communities in the Face of Crisis”.](#)
- We aim to organise a follow-up event for those who attended the first post-earthquake workshop. The focus of this event may be on supporting with the needs of these projects.

Thank you!

To get involved, please email melissa@atolye.io