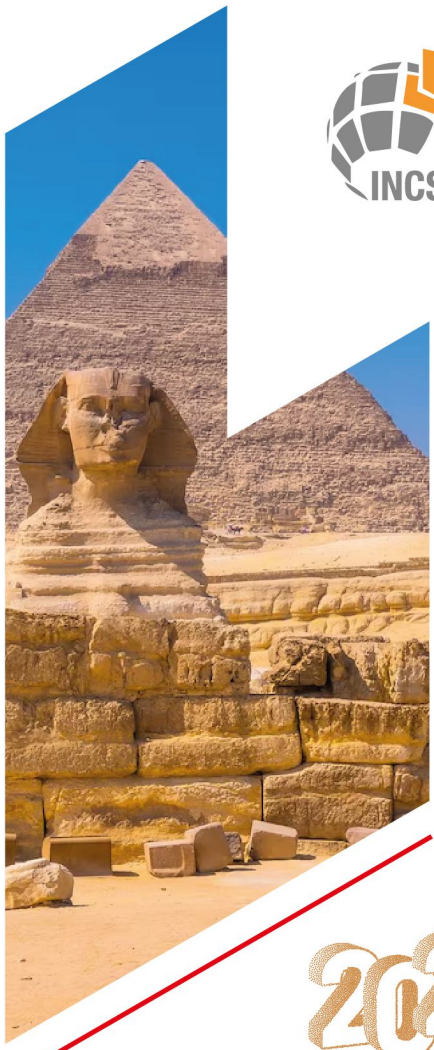

INCSOS

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

24-26 April

www.incsos.net

2025

ALEXANDRIA

EGYPT

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

INCSOS IX. Uluslararası Sosyal Bilimler Kongresi Tam Metin Kitabı

ISBN:978-625-5909-39-8

Editörler
Prof. Dr. Mehmet Dursun Erdem
Doç. Dr. Serhat Küçük

Kapak Tasarımı
Dr. Bülent Polat

Erişime Açıldığı Tarih
21.07.2025

Asos Yayınevi
1.baskı
Adres: Çaydaçıra Mah. Hacı Ömer Bilginoğlu Cad. No: 67/2-4/MERKEZ/ELAZIĞ
Telefon: 0532 643 75 23
Mail Adresi: asos@asosyayinlari.com
Web: www.asosyayinlari.com
İnstagram: https://www.instagram.com/asosyayinevi/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/asosyayinevi/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Asosyayinevi

Bu sempozyum Sakarya Uygulamalı Bilimler Üniversitesi Bap Biriminin 269-2025 nolu projesiyle desteklenmiştir.

A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF NGO RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EARTHQUAKE: THE FEBRUARY 6 KAHRAMANMARAŞ EARTHQUAKES[16]

Prof. Dr. Gökhan TUNCEL

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2313-2300
İnönü University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Department of Political Science and Public Administration /gokhan.tuncel@inonu.edu.tr

Dr. Fatma Nur GÜVEN

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-5136-8516
İnönü University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Department of Political Science and Public Administration / fatmanur.ozdemir@inonu.edu.tr

Prof. Dr. Osman AĞIR

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-1087-0478

İnönü University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Department of Political Science and Public Administration / osman.agir@inonu.edu.tr

Research Assistant Mehmet Emin GÜVEN

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-9863-5212
İnönü University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Department of Political Science and Public Administration /mehmetemin.guven@inonu.edu.tr

ABSTRACT

Throughout history, natural disasters have occasionally caused significant destruction, leading to substantial disruptions in the ordinary course of life. Among these disasters, earthquakes pose the most serious threat to humanity due to their frequency, the high number of casualties they cause, and their considerable economic impact. Situated on the Alpine-Himalayan seismic belt—one of the world's most active earthquake zones—Türkiye has experienced numerous devastating earthquakes. The most recent of these, the earthquakes of February 6, affected 11 provinces and resulted in widespread destruction. In the aftermath of the earthquake, alongside public institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also played an active role in search and rescue operations as well as humanitarian relief efforts. NGOs made significant contributions in providing essential services such as food, shelter, healthcare, and psychological support to those affected, particularly during the critical early response phase. Given that no state can permanently maintain sufficient resources and personnel to respond to large-scale

[16] This paper was prepared based on interview notes conducted with NGO administrators within the scope of the TÜBİTAK-funded project numbered 323K120, carried out by the authors. We would like to express our gratitude to TÜBİTAK for its valuable support.

disasters on its own, the voluntary, cost-free assistance provided by NGOs to the public sector in the aftermath of such crises becomes particularly vital.

This study aims to examine the relief activities carried out by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the aftermath of earthquakes, focusing on the February 6 earthquakes through the lens of search and rescue, food provision, shelter, healthcare, and psychological support services. The research is based on the relevant literature as well as interview notes collected from NGO representatives in four of the provinces most severely affected by the February 6 earthquakes (Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Adıyaman, and Malatya) within the scope of a TÜBİTAK-funded project.

Keywords: Disaster, NGO, Humanitarian Aid, The February 6 Earthquakes

INTRODUCTION

Each year, numerous natural disasters occur across various regions of the world, and their impacts often reach severe levels in terms of both human casualties and economic losses. Disasters—particularly earthquakes, floods, and other natural events—have profound consequences that deeply affect societal structures. The direct effects of such disasters are not limited to physical destruction; they also contribute to the weakening of social cohesion, destabilization of the economy, an increase in psychological trauma, and, in the long term, the disruption of social harmony. At this point, the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in rapid post-disaster response and recovery processes becomes critically important.

By adopting a human-centered approach, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) assume significant responsibilities during disaster periods. Providing rapid humanitarian assistance to communities directly affected by disasters, ensuring the delivery of life-support materials, and—most importantly—contributing to the post-disaster social recovery process are among the critical functions of NGOs. In areas where the state is unable to reach or where its capacity is insufficient, NGOs play an active role in addressing immediate humanitarian needs and engaging in long-term psychosocial support and rehabilitation efforts. They do so in a manner that is responsive to local needs, thereby making meaningful contributions to the recovery and resilience of affected communities.

The earthquakes that struck on February 6, 2023, centered in Kahramanmaraş, caused massive destruction across southeastern Türkiye and directly affected approximately 14 million people. With a death toll of 53,537, the disaster has been recorded as one of the most devastating natural catastrophes in Türkiye's history. The post-disaster economic cost has been estimated to exceed 34 billion USD (EM-DAT, 2023). Following this major disaster, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), alongside the state, assumed significant responsibilities both during the acute phase of the crisis and throughout the recovery process, playing critical roles in responding to the needs of earthquake victims. NGOs made substantial efforts across a wide range of activities aimed at mitigating the impact of the disaster most notably in search and rescue operations, the provision of shelter, food, healthcare services, and psychological support.

The successful implementation of post-disaster relief efforts has not only addressed immediate humanitarian needs but has also contributed to the long-term reconstruction of the social fabric. Considering Türkiye's history of disasters, the February 6, 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes—following the August 17, 1999 İzmit earthquake—have once again underscored the crucial role of NGOs in post-disaster response processes. In this context, evaluating the activities carried out by NGOs in the aftermath of disasters is of critical importance for

understanding current crisis response mechanisms and for developing more effective strategies to address future disasters.

This study aims to evaluate the activities carried out by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the aftermath of the earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş on February 6, 2023. Utilizing one of the qualitative research methods, the study employed semi-structured interviews conducted with NGO representatives operating in the provinces most severely affected by the disaster—namely Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Adıyaman, and Malatya. The findings obtained from these in-depth interviews provide insights into both the strengths of NGOs in disaster response processes and the challenges they encountered. Furthermore, these findings are expected to serve as a guiding framework for shaping future NGO efforts in response to similar disasters.

1. DISASTERS AND THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Throughout history, disasters have caused significant destruction and severely disrupted the functioning of societies. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), disasters are defined as events that disrupt the normal functioning of communities by causing large-scale loss of life, material damage, and environmental degradation (UNDRR, 2025). Similarly, the Glossary of Disaster Terms prepared by the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Türkiye (AFAD) defines disasters as events—originating from natural, human-made, or technological causes—that affect part or all of a community, halting or interrupting normal life (AFAD, 2025).

In the 21st century, a significant global increase in the number of disasters has been observed. As of 2023, according to the EM-DAT database, a total of 399 disasters occurred worldwide, affecting approximately 93.1 million people. These disasters resulted in 86,473 fatalities, while the total economic cost was recorded at 202.7 billion USD (EM-DAT, 2024). Figure 1 presents the ten countries that experienced the highest number of natural disasters in 2023, while Table 1 lists the ten disasters that caused the greatest number of fatalities.

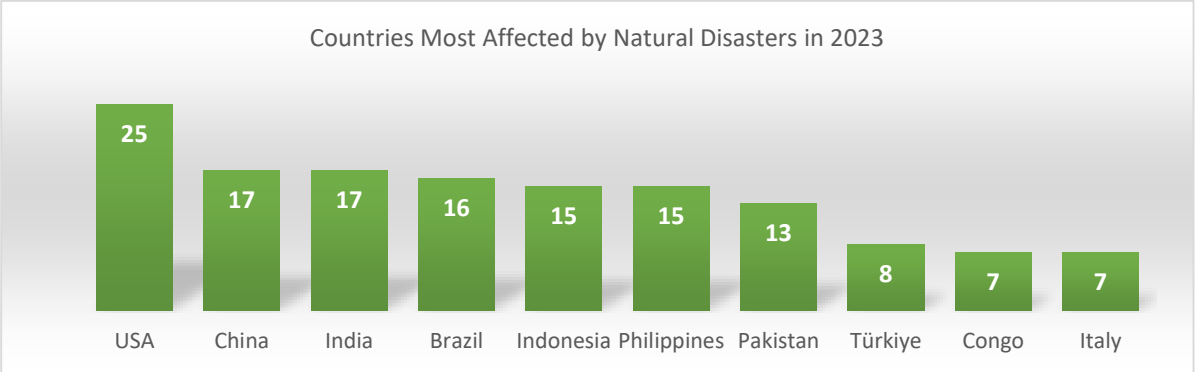

Figure 1: Countries with the Highest Number of Natural Disasters in 2023

Source: Statisca, 2025.

Table 1. Disasters Causing the Highest Number of Fatalities in 2023

Country	Type of Natural Disaster	Fatalities
Türkiye	Earthquake	50.783
Libya	Storm Daniel	12.352
Syrian Arab Republic	Earthquake	5.900
Congo	Flood	2.970
Morocco	Earthquake	2.946
Afghanistan	Earthquake	2.445
India	Flood	1.529
Malawi	Hurricane Freddy	1.209
Nigeria	Flood	275
Yemen	Flood	248

Source: EM-DAT, 2024.

Earthquakes hold a significant position among natural disasters occurring globally, and some of the largest earthquakes in history include the 1960 Great Chilean Earthquake (magnitude 9.5), the 1964 Alaska Earthquake (magnitude 9.2), the 2004 Northern Sumatra Earthquake (magnitude 9.1), and the 2011 Japan Earthquake (magnitude 9.1). In 2024, a total of 1,374 earthquakes with a magnitude of 5.0 were recorded (Statisca, 2025).

The impacts of disasters on human populations are generally more pronounced in developing countries. Between 1991 and 2000, the average death rate per disaster was 22.5 in developed countries, whereas this rate increased to 145 in developing countries and surged to 1,052 in least developed countries. Traditionally, it is accepted that least developed countries suffer greater loss of life, while developed countries experience higher economic damages. However, although this view holds true in terms of total cost, there is a direct correlation between a country's income level and the economic impacts of disasters. For instance, the cost of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras in 1998 amounted to approximately 75% of the country's GDP, the 1999 earthquake in Türkiye accounted for 7–9% of its GDP, while the cost of Hurricane Andrew in the United States in 1992 was less than 1% of its GDP (Handmer & Dovers, 2007: 5). The primary factors underlying these differences include the effectiveness of disaster monitoring and early warning systems, the enhancement of urban infrastructure resilience against disasters, and the utilization of advanced technologies (Avaner, 2022: 291).

Furthermore, mortality rates resulting from natural disasters vary across continents, and this distribution is illustrated in Figure 2.

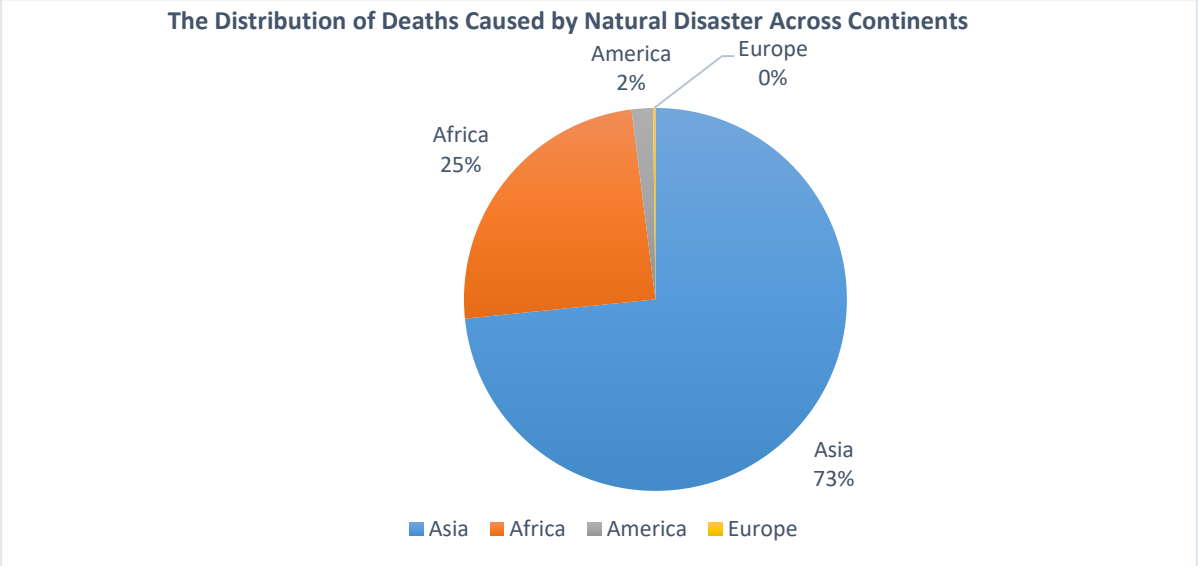

Figure 2. Distribution of Fatalities Caused by Natural Disasters by Continent (2023)

Source: Statisca, 2025.

There has been a significant increase in the number of disasters worldwide, and correspondingly, the number of people affected by these events has also risen. Although disasters cannot be entirely prevented, mitigating their impacts is of critical importance. In this context, disaster management is defined as a series of operations aimed at preventing or reducing loss of life and damage caused by disasters. (Rawls & Turnquist, 2011: 46). According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), disaster management is defined as the organization, planning, and implementation of measures for preparedness, response, and recovery in the face of disasters. (UNDRR, 2025).

The disaster management process fundamentally consists of four phases: risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery. During the risk reduction phase, various measures are implemented to minimize the impacts of disasters. This phase includes preparations such as the procurement and strategic pre-positioning of necessary supplies to reduce response time after a disaster. In the response phase, pre-established plans are activated to mitigate the effects of the disaster, and emergency supplies are distributed accordingly. The recovery phase involves activities aimed at rebuilding infrastructure and addressing the damage in the affected areas. (Rawls & Turnquist, 2011: 46).

In contemporary literature, two types of disaster management systems are recognized. The first is the integrated disaster management system, which envisions the coordinated utilization of all resources. This system is implemented in Türkiye as well as in many countries worldwide. Within the integrated disaster management system, protective activities such as preparedness and loss and damage reduction are defined as “risk management,” whereas post-disaster recovery, response, and reconstruction activities are referred to as “crisis management.” In

modern disaster management frameworks, crisis management cannot succeed where risk management is neglected (Kadıoğlu, 2008: 2). In Türkiye, following the establishment of AFAD, the approach shifted from crisis management to risk management, marking a transition to an integrated disaster management system (AFAD, 2025).

The other widely accepted management system is the community-based disaster management system. This system envisages the active involvement of the community throughout the disaster management process. It adopts an approach that emphasizes the participation of the public, volunteers, and non-governmental organizations before, during, and after disasters. In community-based disaster management, the inclusion of vulnerable groups is of particular importance. (UNDP Climate Change Adaptation, 2025: 34). This approach aims for disasters to be managed not only by the state and public authorities but also effectively by various segments of society. Thus, it seeks to build communities that are more resilient to disasters.

In conclusion, disasters are not only events that exceed the capacity of state intervention but also become more effectively managed through social solidarity, volunteer activities, and contributions from civil society. In this context, the diversity of disaster management systems and the successes demonstrated in practice further underscore the importance of the strategies developed by each society to address the risks they face.

2. THE ROLE OF NGOS IN THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are defined as the third sector, distinct from both the public and private sectors, operating on a non-profit and voluntary basis. These organizations are autonomous entities established with the purpose of improving social conditions and are independent from, and not subordinated to, political authorities, the state, or government (Folger, 2024). NGOs operate at local, national, and international levels across political, social, and cultural spheres, undertaking activities tailored to diverse needs. These organizations contribute to addressing social issues by functioning in many areas where the state and private sector are either unable to reach or insufficient. Particularly, NGOs aiming to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged groups play a significant role as independent actors, leveraging their autonomous structure (Vakil, 1997: 2060).

According to data from the Directorate General of Foundations, there are 6,693 active foundations operating in Türkiye (Directorate General of Foundations, 2025), while data from the Ministry of Interior indicates that there are over 100,000 active associations (T.C. İçişleri Bakanlığı-STGM, 2025). The 1999 Marmara Earthquake is regarded as a pivotal moment for NGOs in Türkiye's disaster management processes. During this major catastrophe, NGOs were actively involved in search and rescue as well as humanitarian aid efforts on the ground, even before public institutions began their interventions in the affected areas. These interventions paved the way for the recognition of NGOs as effective actors during disaster and crisis situations. Moreover, the 1999 earthquake established the legitimacy of civil society's involvement in response to disasters, as social needs reached a critical peak. In the post-earthquake period, NGOs emerged as key actors in disaster response and relief efforts and gained widespread acceptance by society during these crisis times (Altay, 2011: 47).

In 2009, the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Türkiye (AFAD) was established, consolidating the authority and responsibilities related to disaster management under a single institutional framework. With the formation of AFAD, Türkiye's disaster

management system was restructured through an integrated approach. The paradigm shifted from crisis management to risk management, emphasizing preventive measures, early warning systems, and preparedness phases prior to disasters (AFAD, 2025). In 2014, the Türkiye Disaster Response Plan (TAMP) was developed to organize disaster response processes in a more systematic manner. As a strategic plan, TAMP identifies the ministries, institutions, private sector entities, NGOs, and other stakeholders responsible for disaster and emergency response, becoming a vital instrument within the disaster management framework (AFAD, 2025).

TAMP presents a comprehensive plan encompassing the pre-disaster, response, and post-disaster phases, within which NGOs participate as "supporting solution partners" in the disaster management process. The plan organizes four main service groups: operations, logistics and maintenance, finance and administrative affairs, and information and planning. In these service groups, ministries and other public institutions act as primary solution partners, while NGOs serve as supporting solution partners, contributing to operational activities. At the national level, NGOs' involvement in disaster response interventions is coordinated by the primary solution partner of the respective service group, whereas at the local level, coordination is managed by the service group's coordinators (TAMP, 2025).

Table 2: Working Groups Involving NGOs in TAMP

Service	Groups Including NGOs	Total Number of Working Groups	Number of Groups Without NGOs
Operations Service	Communication, Search and Rescue, Health, Evacuation, Settlement, and Planning, Transportation, Transport Infrastructure, Shelter, Nutrition, Psychosocial Support, Debris Removal, Agriculture Forestry Food Water and Livestock, Identification and Burial	17	5
Logistics and Maintenance Service	In-Kind Donation Warehouse Management and Distribution, Technical Support and Supply Group	3	1
Finance and Administrative Affairs Service	National and International Cash Donations	3	2
Information and Planning Service	-	2	2
Total	**15**	**10**	**25**

Source: TAMP, 2025.

An analysis of the role and activities of NGOs within the scope of TAMP reveals that three seats have been allocated to NGOs within the Disaster and Emergency Advisory Board, provided that they are accredited. However, all associations, foundations, trade unions, and professional chambers established for various purposes—excluding official institutions—are recognized as NGOs. This broad categorization creates ambiguities regarding which NGOs are actively involved in TAMP. It is evident that the effectiveness of TAMP must be enhanced, and that NGOs should play a greater role in disaster management processes. In this context,

increasing the inclusion and operational capacity of NGOs in disaster response efforts will be a key factor in improving the overall success of disaster management. Clearly defining the roles of NGOs within TAMP in a more explicit and concrete manner will contribute to a more transparent and efficient disaster management process.

3. A CRITICAL REVIEW OF NGO ENGAGEMENT AFTER THE FEBRUARY 6 EARTHQUAKES

In the aftermath of natural disasters, civil society organizations—alongside governments and international institutions—play critical roles in both response and recovery processes. The earthquakes that struck on February 6, 2023, centered in Kahramanmaraş and described as the "disaster of the century" in Türkiye, caused severe destruction to the country's social, economic, and physical infrastructure. During this period, numerous NGOs operating at local, national, and international levels made significant contributions to both the emergency response and recovery phases. The effectiveness of NGOs in mitigating the humanitarian and social consequences of the earthquake was clearly observed.



Figure 3. NGOs Operating in the Field During the February 6 Earthquakes

Source: Anadolu Ajansı, 2023.

According to the findings obtained through semi-structured interviews, all NGOs operating in the earthquake-affected region were engaged in various humanitarian aid activities. In particular, NGOs played an active role in areas such as search and rescue, food provision,

shelter, and psychosocial support. These organizations maintained a presence in the field both during the acute crisis phase and throughout the long-term recovery process.

One of the most critical roles of NGOs in disaster response processes is participation in search and rescue operations. Interviews revealed that, although the majority of NGOs lack professional equipment and technical capacity, they still engage in volunteer-based search and rescue activities. With the exception of certain organizations such as IHH and Cansuyu, most NGOs were found to be inadequately equipped for such operations. For instance, the Hatay branch of IHH initiated its search and rescue efforts with a team of 30–35 members. Some NGOs, despite not having locally based teams in the earthquake-affected areas, contributed to the process by dispatching teams from other provinces. However, common challenges encountered during search and rescue operations included a lack of coordination, insufficient logistical infrastructure, and security threats. Among these, coordination problems were particularly detrimental, significantly hindering the effectiveness of search and rescue efforts.

Food and nutrition services constitute one of the areas in which NGOs demonstrate the greatest capacity. Following the earthquake, many NGOs undertook the distribution of hot meals and essential food supplies. While several NGOs established soup kitchens to provide hot meals, others utilized mobile units for food and meal distribution. Some NGOs also contributed significantly by producing bread. These activities, carried out in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay), were partially systematized thanks to the rapid mobilization capacity of NGOs amidst the chaotic environment in the early days of the disaster. However, shortcomings in record-keeping and the duplication of aid led to problems regarding fairness in the distribution process.

During the earthquakes of February 6, many NGOs provided shelter services. Support in the form of tents, containers, and temporary housing was offered in this context. While some NGOs supplied tents and containers, others opened their dormitories to earthquake victims and public personnel. However, significant shortages were experienced in the provision of tents and containers, and coordination problems with governorates and municipalities reduced the overall effectiveness of shelter services.

In addition to search and rescue, food and nutrition, and shelter services, NGOs also contributed significantly to health and psychosocial support activities during both the acute and recovery phases following the earthquake. NGOs with healthcare infrastructure established field hospitals and mobile clinics, playing a vital role in the provision of medications and the delivery of essential services. Nevertheless, due to the chaos in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, access to basic healthcare services was severely hindered. Psychosocial support services were of critical importance for survivors exposed to trauma. NGOs implemented psychological support programs, including individual counseling and group therapy sessions. However, these activities were largely limited to psychological first aid and delivered predominantly at the individual level.

Professional associations and community groups among the interviewed NGOs contributed to disaster response by providing services within their respective areas of expertise. For example, the Hayat Foundation established a field hospital and pharmacy in the health sector, while the Hatay Bar Association offered free legal aid services. Moreover, these organizations were also found to be directly involved in humanitarian aid activities. Some NGOs, such as the Gökkuşağı Association based in Adıyaman, extended their services beyond their usual scope, particularly offering food, hygiene, and shelter assistance in rural areas. Consequently, it was observed that

NGOs distributed aid indiscriminately during the initial phase of the earthquake but continued their efforts targeting their specific beneficiary groups after the acute phase.

It was determined that national-level NGOs (such as IHH, Beşir Association, and Cansuyu) coordinated more rapidly during the earthquake response compared to locally operating NGOs. The headquarters of these national NGOs promptly dispatched teams to the affected region and began activities immediately. They established coordination and logistics centers, enabling swift deployment to the field. Furthermore, national NGOs did not experience shortages in human resources.

The majority of NGOs were found to lack adequate preparedness prior to the earthquake and were unaware of emergency action plans. Relief efforts were generally carried out based on notifications and requests, with attempts made to reach those in need through local leaders. Deficiencies in AFAD's data management system hindered the efficient distribution of aid and resulted in duplication of assistance. Additionally, it was reported that some NGOs' relief activities were delayed due to permit procedures, and that AFAD confiscated aid trucks. This situation complicated the rapid delivery of aid during the acute phase. NGOs facing bureaucratic obstacles emphasized the need for flexibilization of the state's bureaucratic structure during crises and underscored the importance of granting greater operational space to civil society.

Due to inadequate telecommunications infrastructure, NGOs experienced significant communication difficulties, particularly during the initial days following the disaster. They reported challenges related to coordination, security, transportation, and fuel supply. Despite receiving a large volume of aid, they generally did not face supply shortages. The collapse of telecommunications infrastructure, along with issues in coordination, security, transportation, and fuel procurement, emerged as the primary obstacles disrupting NGO activities. Most NGOs endeavored to resolve these problems through their own efforts but reported substantial shortcomings in collaborations with public institutions and local administrations. NGOs also expressed that they were not sufficiently considered by political institutions and the bureaucracy, emphasizing the need to improve public-NGO cooperation.

It was determined that NGOs experienced significant difficulties in documenting their activities, particularly during the first 20 days following the earthquake. It was concluded that NGOs receiving international funding demonstrated greater diligence in recording their activities compared to other NGOs. This situation is attributed to the accountability and transparency requirements imposed by funding organizations.

Regarding coordination and cooperation, all NGOs expressed that AFAD was inadequate in providing effective coordination. NGOs reported that collaboration and coordination between public institutions and NGOs were notably weak. They also indicated receiving insufficient support from local administrations. It was noted that bureaucracy and local governments held a negative attitude toward NGOs, and that political institutions and bureaucratic bodies failed to provide adequate support to them. Among the NGOs themselves, however, cooperation was generally observed, with the earthquake having fostered increased solidarity and mutual assistance among these organizations.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study aims to evaluate the aid activities carried out by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) following the Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquakes that occurred on February 6,

2023. Based on the findings obtained, it has been concluded that NGOs played critical roles during the disaster response, particularly in areas where state institutions and local administrations proved insufficient, thereby making significant contributions to crisis management.

The data obtained within the scope of this research reveal that a significant proportion of NGOs exhibit inadequate levels of preparedness for disasters and demonstrate a lack of knowledge regarding emergency action plans. This situation indicates the necessity of strengthening pre-disaster preparedness processes at an institutional level within NGOs.

Among the primary challenges faced by NGOs during the earthquakes were coordination deficiencies, bureaucratic obstacles, difficulties in communication and transportation, and security issues. In particular, findings indicate that the bureaucratic processes inherent in the centralized structure of the state limited the response speed of NGOs; in some cases, the shipment of relief supplies was reportedly obstructed by AFAD. In this context, granting greater autonomy to NGOs and simplifying bureaucratic procedures during the acute phases of disaster management would enhance their intervention capacity.

In order for nationally operating NGOs to be more effective in search and rescue operations, they need to strengthen their equipment infrastructure and develop professional training programs for their personnel. Furthermore, it was observed that during the disaster response, public institutions did not adequately engage with NGOs. This highlights the need to rebuild public–NGO collaboration on institutional foundations.

For disaster relief activities to be carried out more effectively and to prevent duplication of aid, data must be systematically collected and processed. In this context, the deficiencies in AFAD's current data infrastructure highlight the need to establish a centralized and integrated data management system.

The earthquakes of February 6 clearly demonstrated the need to reassess the existing disaster management system in Türkiye. During the acute phase of the disaster, NGOs filled critical gaps in key service areas such as search and rescue, shelter, food provision, healthcare, and psychosocial support. In doing so, they once again underscored the indispensable role of civil society within the disaster management ecosystem.

In conclusion, despite the lack of professional capacity and institutional preparedness, the volunteer-based rapid response capacity demonstrated by NGOs during times of crisis has proven their effectiveness in the field. However, to ensure that this contribution becomes more sustainable, effective, and systematic, it is essential to establish a strong collaboration and coordination mechanism between public institutions and NGOs. To enhance preparedness for future disasters, systematic efforts should be undertaken to build the capacity of NGOs, develop disaster action plans, strengthen communication infrastructure, and improve data management systems.

REFERENCES

AFAD (2025). Türkiye Afet Müdahale Planı (TAMP). https://www.afad.gov.tr/turkiye-afet-mudahale-plani

Altay, E. (2011). Afet dönemlerinde kamu-STK işbirliği. *İdarecinin Sesi*, Kasım-Aralık 2011, http://www.tid.web.tr/kurumlar/tid.web.tr/tid/%C4%B0darecinin%20Sesi/148/11_-Ertugrul-Altay.pdf

Anadolu Ajansı (2023). STK'ların deprem bölgesindeki çalışmaları sürüyor. 11.02.2023, https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/asrin-felaketi/stklerin-deprem-bolgesindeki-calismalari-suruyor/2816384

Avaner, T. (2022). Afet yönetiminde teknoloji: Geçmişten geleceğe risk azaltma ve müdahale teknolojileri üzerine. Ed. Önder Bozkurt, Sürdürülebilir *Kalkınma Gündeminde Afet Politikaları* (ss. 291-319). Türkiye İdari Araştırmalar Vakfı.

EM-DAT (2024). 2023 Disasters in Numbers. https://files.emdat.be/reports/2023_EMDAT_report.pdf

Folger, J. (2024). Non-Governmental Organization (NGO): Definition, example, and how it works. Investopedia, (08.05.2024), https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/13/what-is-non-government-organization.asp

Handmer, J., & Dovers, S. (2007). *The handbook of disaster and emergency policies and institutions*. Earthscan, London.

Kadıoğlu, M. (2008). Modern bütünleşik afet yönetiminin temel ilkeleri. Ed. M. Kadıoğlu & E. Özdamar, *Afet zararlarını azaltmanın temel ilkeleri* (ss.1-25), Japonya Uluslararası İşbirliği Ajansı (JICA) Türkiye Ofisi, Yayın No: 2.

Rawls, C. G., & Turnquist, M. A. (2012). Pre-positioning and dynamic delivery planning for short-term response following a natural disaster. *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*, (46), 46-54.

Statista (2025). Countries with the most natural disasters in 2023. https://www.statista.com/statistics/269652/countries-with-the-most-natural-disasters/

Statista (2025). Distribution of fatalities from natural disasters worldwide in 2023, by continent. https://www.statista.com/statistics/273890/countries-with-the-most-fatalities-from-natural-disasters/

TC. İçişleri Bakanlığı-STGM (2025). https://www.siviltoplum.gov.tr/#

Türkiye Afet Müdahale Planı (TAMP) (2025). https://www.afad.gov.tr/kurumlar/afad.gov.tr/e_Kutuphane/Planlar/TAMP.pdf

UNDP Climate Change Adaptation. Community Based Disaster Risk Management (2025). https://www.adaptation-undp.org/sites/default/files/resources/draft_cbdrm_maunal.pdf

UNDRR (2025). Definition: Disaster management. https://www.undrr.org/terminology/disaster-management

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2025). https://www.undrr.org/terminology/disaster

Directorate General of Foundations (2025). Foundations, https://www.vgm.gov.tr/foundation-inquiry/foundation-inquiry?Page=1

Vakil, A. C. (1997). Confronting the classification problem: Toward a taxonomy of NGOs. *World Development*, 25(12), 2057-2070.