

CWRD UPDATE

SUMMER 2023

Earthquake Response | Turkey-Syria



On February 6 a series of earthquakes and aftershocks registering at 7.8 hit the region surrounding Turkey and Syria. The area was already dealing with food insecurity and fragile infrastructure in part due to 12 years of war and most recently the conflict in Ukraine. Geir O. Pedersen, special envoy of the secretary-general for Syria, said, “The earthquakes struck when affected people’s needs were highest, when the economy was at its lowest, and when infrastructure was already

heavily damaged.” These factors, along with frigid winter temperatures and storms, contributed to the astonishing death toll of more than 57,000. The earthquakes brought unprecedented devastation to the region.

Just six months before the earthquakes, Covenant World Relief and Development staff Adam Edgerly and Nils Clauson visited the Middle East. Through Jeff Anderson, regional coordinator for Middle East North Africa, they were introduced to a potential ministry partner. MERATH (Middle East Revive and Thrive) in Beirut, Lebanon, is a Christian organization that works alongside more than 50 churches and faith-based organizations in Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. With its partners, MERATH distributes vital food assistance, much-needed winter items, and essential products to thousands of vulnerable households, especially those with young children. They also provide supporting health services.

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Turkey-Syria | continued

donations. As God provided, MERATH was able to step in and provide much needed resources to hurt and displaced people following the disaster. As of April 1, MERATH had been able to reach 4,200 households with food, supplies for hygiene and basic needs, blankets, and winter

clothing. MERATH also equips the local church with resources to reach those in need. Like all our partners, MERATH will continue to be present when these events are no longer in the headlines but the suffering of vulnerable people continues.

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IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM RELIEF: Why Support CWRD in Disaster Response?



When a disaster happens, the Evangelical Covenant Church responds. Covenant World Relief and Development (CWRD) works hard to facilitate immediate response through our partners on the ground. We are also committed to a long-term engagement through the recovery phase. Adam Edgerly, CWRD director, along with our team and Covenant leadership, discerns how we respond to disasters throughout the

world. The entire denominational team works together to get the word out to churches and individual donors. This is no small task. Our marketing and communications team works closely with CWRD to prepare press releases and communication to alert you to the need. The finance and advancement teams aid in the creation of wire transfers to our partners so funds can be used for the desired purpose. CWRD works with on-the-ground ministry partners to coordinate the initial and continuing funds and how they will be distributed. Our ministry partners, who are vetted and evaluated in an ongoing process, reach out to those in need.

So why support CWRD in disaster response?

When tragedies strike, your generosity, the CWRD team, and most of all, God's provision make a real difference to those in need.



100% of every gift to CWRD goes to ministry.
90% of every gift goes directly to ministry programs.
Learn more & give at CovChurch.org/cwrld



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