

Post Turkey/Syria Earthquake Istanbul Fieldwork Report (2023/2/19 - 22).

Theme : International research collaboration activities, post Turkey/Syria Earthquake 2023

Place : Istanbul, Turkey

Introduction

In the early hours of February 6, 2023, Turkey's southeast province of Pazarlık (Kahramanmaraş) was struck by a M7.8 earthquake, followed by a M7.6 one nine hours later in the region of Elbistan (Kahramanmaraş). In response, Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office) and researcher Deniz Demirag from SOAS, University of London with the support of IRIDeS (International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University) traveled to Istanbul to assess the earthquake's impact on vulnerable communities, role of NGOs and NPOs, and seek international collaborations with Bogazici University.

Fieldwork Activities

19th February: The team arrived on the evening of 19th February and conducted informal meetings with a volunteer and an NGO worked from a student-led group, [AFS Volunteers](#) (AFS Intercultural programs) that fosters intercultural learning experiences among young students.

20th February: Team visited local NGO that works on vulnerable groups and women in the Earthquake affected areas. [KEDV](#) (Foundation for the Support of Women's Work) conducts programs with low-income women in individual and collective capacity building, becoming collective, economic empowerment, and disaster/migration. Women are crucial in disaster management and leadership in the community and official capacities. In many disasters, women are disproportionately affected, but they also have unique skills and perspectives that can contribute to disaster response and recovery efforts.



Researchers with KEDV members at their Istanbul headquarters.

21st February: Team has visited Gebze University and Bogazici University to meet with valuable researchers from different disciplines, including civil engineering and social sciences to foster interdisciplinary research opportunities to disaster studies. The research aimed to identify areas where international collaboration could be leveraged to support recovery and building efforts. The following academics were visited:

Prof. Fikret Adaman, Prof. Ali Tekcan, Prof. Zeynep Kadirbeyoglu, Prof. Ceren Özer Sözdinler

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Miwako Kitamura and Zeynep Kadirbeyođlu (left)

Deniz Demirađ and Ceren Özer Sözdinler (right)

22nd February: Team visited Mor Çatı (Purple Roof Women's Shelter Foundation) was founded to provide women with social, psychological, and legal support through its shelter and solidarity centres.

Conclusion

The trip to Istanbul provided valuable insights into the impact of the Turkey/Syria earthquake and the response efforts of local and international stakeholders. The research highlighted the importance of international collaboration in supporting disaster response and recovery efforts and identified several areas where researchers and international organizations could provide support. The findings will contribute to ongoing efforts to support affected communities and promote disaster resilience in the region.

Text and photos from : Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)
Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)
Fumihiko Imamura (Tsunami Engineering Lab)
Deniz Demirag (PhD student)