

Sujet : Emergency Appeal

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Dear friends and partners in Christ

On the dawn of 6 February a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the province of Kahramanmaraş in south Turkey leaving after only 20 hours 1762 dead and more than 12000 injured. destroying several cities and leaving 1762 dead and several thousand injured. However, the aftershocks of the earthquake strongly reached the cities of northern Syria leaving cities like Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia only 20 hours after the earthquake with 1143 dead and around 3000 injured.

"There is an ongoing possibility of additional collapses, and we often see numbers eight times higher than the initial numbers," Catherine Smallwood, director of emergencies at the WHO's European office, told AFP. She added, "We always see the same pattern with earthquakes, unfortunately. This means that the initial number of dead or injured will rise dramatically in the week following the earthquake."

Although Aleppo is the most hit by the earthquake, the earthquake completely or partially toppled many buildings in the stricken cities of Latakia and Hama, and there are surrounding villages that were destroyed and have become completely doomed.

It is important for the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon now to be close to the people who were affected and are still afraid. Of all the disasters that befell us, this one, so to speak, for which we were not prepared.

In a call with our pastor in Aleppo, he informed me that he opened our "Aleppo College" to receive all people to take refuge in the school building which is a safe space. The number reached several hundred. The Church is already providing food and warmth. The same in Latakia where the Church received terrified people to find refuge in the Church. It is the same situation in several of our Churches in Syria. Eventually, those people will need mattresses, blankets, and diesel oil for electricity and warmth in the cold winter.

We are talking of afflicted Syria, where millions of people are impoverished by the long war. Millions of people are without electricity, water, or heating. It is very cold, and the winter is harsh.

On behalf of NESSL, I appeal to you due to the extremely exceptional circumstances that the earthquake has imposed on innocent people who have no other fault than that they live in a politically unstable area and suffer the consequences of the war. But today they are suffering more because of the forces of nature that we cannot control. Today, we are called to be for them a Christ who went around doing good and pouring out love.

Blessings

Joseph



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