



Report on the May 2023 trip

In May 2023, the Swiss-Group Association went on mission in southern Turkey with an emergency doctor, a psychologist and a translator, as well as a member of the committee. On site, we carried out the visits in collaboration with the local NGO MASSRAT, with whom we have been working since almost the beginning of Swiss-Group. It is made up of 2 orphan leaders, two nurses and a driver. The association has visited more than 55 families and we received news from around 150 children. We also visited the Hatay region, the epicentre of the earthquake. We saw a devastated region and considerable damage.

Despite the terrible earthquake of 6 February 2023, our orphans are back in relatively "good" conditions. Some orphans lost their homes, but thanks to your generosity in the aftermath of the disaster, we were able to rehouse them temporarily or permanently. We inspected the homes that were still intact. Despite this, they have suffered a great deal of damage and we have found cracks in almost all the houses. We are continuing to look for permanent accommodation for some families, but there is a shortage of homes, and we need to be patient. Some families, although living in accommodation that was already too small, have taken in other families who lost theirs in the earthquake. We were very touched by this solidarity, and we in turn offered to provide them with financial and/or medical assistance.

The children, their mothers and their families are shocked by the earthquake and are finding it difficult to resume the normal course of their lives, which have already been disrupted so much by the war. They are suffering from night terrors and other ailments common to people who have suffered such a catastrophe. The children who went to school have not yet been able to return, which does not help them to return to normal life and a reassuring routine. To put a smile back on the children's faces and give them as many carefree moments as possible, we have given them a bicycle, in addition to the small gifts we give them each trip (clothes, sweets, little games, etc.). Thanks again to all the donors who, in addition to sponsorship, have given these little gifts that make life so much sweeter for the orphans.

Like we did in our previous trips, we made medical visits to refugees suffering from injuries and/or various medical problems. Thanks to the doctor who comes on site and the nurse we've hired, we're able to set up effective medical follow-up and we're already seeing improvements in many of the refugees. One of the fathers has even managed to walk again thanks to the medical care and physiotherapy we are funding!

Swiss Group also distributed food cards worth CHF 60 to each family visited. This card can be used in small local grocery shops. CHF 60 is equivalent to around 3 weeks' subsistence for a family.

The Swiss-Group association is currently setting up a project to provide financial and educational support to orphans of university or school age. We'll be sure to keep you informed about this magnificent project and to call on your solidarity when the time comes.



Like each trip, we come back overwhelmed by the suffering faced by the orphans and their families, but also by their courage, their smiles, their solidarity and their generosity. In order to continue to provide them with help, we need funds for the various medical services: psychological assistance, wheelchairs, urinary catheters, operations, daily and ongoing care for chronic illnesses, bandages, dressings, glasses, etc.

We are also looking for sponsorships for new orphans and new suffering families we met on our last trip.

Thank you again for your generosity...

Association Swiss-Group

CH- 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex Banque Alternative Suisse

Account No 46-110-7

IBAN : CH10 0839 0034 6485 1000 6



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Case Postal 36 -CH - 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex

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