



Geneva, January 10, 2024

Dear godmothers and godfathers,  
Dear donors,

Here is our newsletter for the beginning of the year 2024 to keep you informed of our latest actions. In February 2023, following the earthquake in Syria and Turkey, we appealed urgently to your generosity. You responded massively to our call and once again showed exceptional generosity. Thanks to you, we were able to finance tents, food, mattresses, blankets, and urgent care. We even helped the employees of our partner who had lost their homes. Despite technical and logistical difficulties, we maintained continuous communication with our partner on the ground.

Swiss-Group financed food distributions during the month of Ramadan in northern Syria and southern Turkey.

We also made a new trip to Gaziantep last May. We visited over 215 orphans and their families. We went with a doctor, an interpreter, a psychologist, and a committee member. Each visited family received a \$50 food card. We also paid for rent, mattresses, blankets, and water heaters. We visited the sick and set up a follow-up system for people suffering from post-traumatic stress.

During this trip, we were immensely moved and joyful to see the progress of some of our orphaned children with health problems. Some even started walking, thanks to funding for physiotherapy sessions!

But we also met new orphans or families living in appalling conditions (unhealthy apartments, rats, lack of heating, etc.). Indeed, there was a housing shortage following the earthquake, making it extremely difficult to relocate our orphans.

We also observed that the mental health of orphans and refugees has been significantly affected by these 11 years of war in Syria, the pandemic, the earthquake, inflation, their difficult living conditions, etc. That's why we announced to you that we are launching a new psychological follow-up project, which is still under development.

During the summer, Swiss-Group appealed to your generosity for an emergency food distribution in northern Syria to approximately 9000 families.

In September, we financed university studies for orphans who reached the age to start university, to allow them to better integrate into Turkish society, but above all to offer them hope for a better future. The funding covered tuition fees, cost of living (housing, food, transportation, etc.). On December 31, 2023, another donor took over.

In December, we had to end a collaboration with the NGO Masrrat with whom we had been collaborating for 7 years. We thank them for this partnership.

Swiss-Group has signed a collaboration with UOSSM International (link below), a major organization specializing more in medical care. This partnership is an opportunity for Swiss-Group to deepen its medical and psychological support for orphans. However, there is no change in our sponsorship operation. The medical care already in place is maintained.

<https://uossm.org/>

We conclude this letter by wishing you our best wishes for this new year 2024.

**Help us continue**

<https://www.swiss-group-team.org>