

# EARTHQUAKE SOLIDARITY FUND INTERIM REPORT / 2024 SEPTEMBER



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# Earthquake Solidarity Fond

## Interim Report April – September 2024

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## 1 What is the Earthquake Solidarity Fund

The immense unity demonstrated in the direct aftermath of the 6 February 2023 Earthquake has naturally eroded over time, while relief efforts shifted from immediate humanitarian aid to more long-term objectives. These include city reconstruction, safeguarding cultural heritage, addressing housing needs, promoting economic development, ensuring environmental justice, and prioritizing education for children and youth. Over the past months, numerous individuals and organizations have been actively addressing these concerns. As time has passed, the specific needs have become more apparent. To amplify their impact, initiatives in the earthquake zone focused on rights-based or developmental concerns need more backing.

To help these important and courageous initiatives Allianz Foundation, Allianz Foundation's Hub partner Postane, and the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) decided to set out an Earthquake Solidarity Fund amounting to 150.000 € in the beginning. The fund aims to support a vibrant civil society and the cultural sphere in the affected regions, with a special focus on empowering the next generations

Three ideas are at the heart of the fund: Decentralization needs assessment and collective giving. We are convinced a fund like this can only be successful through cooperation with partners that have a reliable network in the affected region. We also believe that ample time should be used to listen to those who will implement actions on the ground, to learn what programs and offers already exist, and to identify where our engagement can still make a meaningful difference.

### 1. Project Fund:

- Budget: Up to €10,000, supporting 8 project ideas. (One of them will be the joint project granted with €25,000)
- Focus: Funding small-scale projects with tangible outcomes, such as workshops, training sessions, and material purchases.
- Application Process: Designed to be simple and accessible, encouraging concrete outcomes and a clear implementation calendar.

### 2. Scaling Up Impact Fund:

- Additional Funding: €15,000 for one joint project.
- Eligibility: Available for projects involving collaboration between two or more organizations, allowing them to increase their project budget for greater impact.

### 3. Mobility Fund:

- Budget: €10,000, covering around 60 return trips.
- Objective: Enhance mobility for individuals and groups to and from the earthquake-affected region.
- Application Process: Open for the duration of a year, with an easy application for shortlisted organizations.

### 4. Visibility:

- Budget: €15,000.



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- Method: Production of short films by Postane Production for each project, suitable for social media dissemination. These films aim to contextualize the challenges and showcase the solutions offered by partner organizations. The film series may culminate in a documentary or stop-motion feature focusing on the overall situation and collective efforts.
- Distribution: Films will be disseminated by the Allianz Foundation, Postane, and partner organizations.

## 1.1 One Year After The Earthquake, Hatay, The Center of Antakya



## 2 Selection Process

### 2.1 Call & Selection Committee

An invitation email was sent to 16 initiatives and NGOs active in the earthquake-affected regions on February 5, 2024. As a result of this invitation, 3 joint project applications and 9 solo project applications were submitted.

On March 7, 2024, Thursday, a jury coordinated by Elifsena Biroğlu conducted an online meeting to select projects to be supported under the Earthquake Solidarity Fund, which lasted for 2.5 hours. The jury consisted of Yaşar Adnan Adanalı, Founding Director of Postane, Duygu Dağ, Environmental Justice Coordinator of Mekanda Adalet Derneği, Nino Klingler, Program Manager of the Allianz Foundation, and Lamia Faqirzada Özal, a lawyer and expert in law originally from Hatay and currently residing in Germany. Firstly, in this meeting, the earthquake region's current situation and the jury's experiences were shared. Later, all projects that applied for the support were evaluated one by one. Selection criteria were feasibility of the project, funding, and budget harmony, clarity of the target group, qualification of the aims and goals, sustainability, and qualification of the actions and outputs. Among 12 project applications, 8 were accepted for support. In addition, it was decided to support the transportation of projects that are not within the scope of support to the events they will participate in to develop the earthquake region.

Once the project applications were evaluated by the Selection Committee and accepted, a positive information email was sent to the applicant. Throughout the project, Postane continued to support the projects with coordination and communication. Those whose project applications were rejected were informed about the reasons for rejection and suggestions were made for their future applications.

### 2.2 Selected Projects

Organisation	Project Title	Project Location	Target Group	Area	Project Duration
<b>Nehna</b>	Oral History Project	Online	Youth	Cultural Heritage	June-September 2024
<b>Polen Kolektif</b>	Increasing Polen Gardens in Hatay	Gümüşgöze	Children, youth: 4-15 years	Education, Art	April-June 2024
<b>Hatay Gençlerle Sanat İnisiyatifi</b>	What is the utility of art?	Serinyol & Samandağ	Youth: 12-18 years	Art	April-June 2024
<b>Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası</b>	Light of Art in Hatay	Antakya	All age groups (residents of tent & container-cities)	Art	April-June 2024



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<b>Defne Apollon İpekçilik</b>	Ethical and Sustainable Peace Silk	Harbiye	Women	Cultural/Natural Heritage	April-October 2024
<b>Rimmen Kadın Kooperatifi &amp; Deprem Dayanışma Derneği</b>	Safe Production and Living Space for Women & Common Area Arrangement for Children	Samandağ	Women and children	Craftsmanship, Education	April 2024 -January 2025
<b>Kültürhane</b>	Repair Library and Workshops	Serinyol	Adults (residents of tent & container-cities)	Manual skills	April-September 2024
<b>Beytna</b>	Creative Experiences with Children	Künstlerin, Kuratorin	Insel Tinos, Griechenland	Children & Youth (primary), adults (secondary)	May-November 2024

## 2.3 Fieldwork in Hatay

On April 27-28, 2024, Yaşar Adnan Adanalı and Elifsena Biroğlu from Postane team and Nino Klingler from the Allianz Foundation team met with project partners in Antakya, Samandağ and Defne and conducted interviews. On May 31-June 2, Elifsena Biroğlu and Mert Balıkcı from Postane team revisited the region to observe and meet with project partners. The field notes in the chapters below stem from these trips.



Meeting of the teams of the supported projects in Mersin. August 11th, 2024

## 3 Supported Projects

### 3.1 Nehna – Oral History Project<sup>1</sup>

Project Location: Online

Target Group: Youth

Project Duration: June–September 2024

Nehna has undertaken the collective endeavour to research, unearth, amplify, and perpetuate the largely unrecorded history of the Antakya Orthodox community, with a predominant operational focus on the Antakya, Samandağ, İskenderun, Arsuz, and Altınözü districts within the province of Hatay. Oral History Project, designed to cater specifically to a target demographic comprising individuals between the ages of 18 and 25, who harbor a keen interest in the historical narratives of Antakya and its adjacent environs and societies. Nehna's project aims to formulate an oral history curriculum tailored for young individuals aged 18–25, originating from Antakya and its surrounding regions, or those aspiring to engage in oral history endeavors within this geographic domain. To achieve this aim, a cadre of proficient instructors will conduct online courses weekly, delivering specialized lessons in their respective fields of expertise to impart comprehensive knowledge and skills relevant to the practice of oral history in the specified region. The outputs of the Oral History Project will be compiled and a digital booklet will be created. The digital output of the project will significantly contribute to the transfer of this heritage to future generations by documenting the cultural heritage of Antakya and its surroundings and the contributions of young people through oral history projects.



Nehna team

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<sup>1</sup>Website: <https://www.nehna.org> Instagram: @nehnabiz



Nehna's project call

### 3.1.1 Narratives from the field: Nehna's Project

*"Nehna was founded 3 years ago to preserve the Rum Orthodox community's history from the late 1800s. Due to migration and community decline, we're now focusing on an oral history project to document remaining experiences and educate young people in minority communities.*

*Many Rum Orthodox have moved from Antakya to surrounding areas, and significant damage has been done to churches and historical sites. Restoration efforts face high costs and limited funding, posing challenges to maintaining cultural heritage.*

*We aim to increase qualified personnel and uncover recent history while supporting education and cultural memory. Local and external scholars are encouraged to contribute to these preservation efforts."*

-An interlocutor from Nehna Team, Antakya, 2024.

### 3.2 Polen Kolektif – Increasing Polen Gardens in Hatay <sup>2</sup>

Project Location: Gümüşgöze

Target Group: 4-15 years

Project Duration: April-June 2024

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<sup>2</sup> Website: <https://www.polenkolektif.com> Instagram: @gumusgozecocukevi



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The main areas that Polen Kolektif focuses on are children's rights, ecology, and cultural art. In this sense, they organize activities for children in the 4-15 age group in Hatay Samandağ and Defne regions. The initiative entitled "Increasing the Pollen Gardens in Hatay" endeavors to facilitate the recuperation of children residing in earthquake-affected areas through a holistic approach that integrates art, ecology, and permaculture. The primary objectives of this project include mitigating the deleterious effects of trauma resulting from the disaster, ameliorating adaptation challenges, and fostering the sustained development of children despite adverse conditions by enhancing their social and emotional competencies.

Integral to these goals is the aspiration to contribute to the growth of children who, having overcome the psychological and social ramifications of the earthquake, can continue their healthy development. Additionally, the project seeks to cultivate individuals with heightened ecological awareness, instilling deep-seated care for nature. Furthermore, it aims to internalize a culture of solidarity through the incorporation of artistic and permaculture practices, thus fostering an environment conducive to holistic development and community resilience. In this context, they will be having 78 workshops with 1200 children focused on ecology and permaculture. Workshops and activities will be prepared with a multidisciplinary approach in the fields of visual arts, creative drama, storytelling, creative reading, poetry, photography, animation, music, plastic arts, and literature, and will allow children to engage in verbal, written, two- and three-dimensional production.



Outdoor workshop by Polen Kolektif



Children inside the new activity tent

### 3.2.1 Narratives from the field: Polen Kolektif's Project

*"Polen Kolektif had several workshops during their project. On the 11th of June, we had a final exhibition and event for children. Families do not know how to behave with their children. It is an enormous trauma, and it is not possible to completely erase these scars, but a lot of time is needed*

*to minimize them. Education has not been entirely sidelined; some children are staying in containers, and others in tents.*

*Families are also worried. Students hitchhike: tent cities were not established for education. All teachers are trying to do their jobs. The number of children continuing or not continuing school is unclear due to significant migration, leading to a serious deficiency. Anyway, with the help of the Allianz Foundation and Postane, we bought tents for the children and are organizing events. We still need support, but this project grant had a big impact on our lives and made us feel good. Thank you very much.”*

–An interlocutor from Polen Kolektif project team, Gümüşgöze, 2024.

### **3.3 Hatay Gençlerle Sanat İnişiyatifi – What is the utility of art? <sup>3</sup>**

Project Location: Serinyol & Samandağ

Target Group: 12-18 years

Project Duration: April-June 2024

The initiative focuses on the well-being of young people after the earthquake in Antakya- Samandağ-İskenderun-Defne. As part of the project, a targeted outreach will be conducted, specifically inviting young individuals aged between 12 and 18 to participate. The overarching aim is to engage a total of 30 young participants, distributing a maximum of 15 individuals among each of the two selected fields. The initiative will feature art workshops facilitated by designated artists and local coordinators, overseen by the project's field implementation team. During these art workshops, participants will actively engage in the creation of artistic works, with a subsequent focus on the practical application of these creations within the spaces they inhabit or utilize. A comprehensive structure has been designed for the workshops, comprising a total of four sessions for each group of young participants, where the project's field implementation team, local facilitators, and the appointed artists will provide guidance and support. A culminating event in the form of a closing meeting will bring together young participants from distinct communities. This gathering will serve as a platform for collective reflection, allowing the participants to assess the entire creative process. Moreover, the meeting will facilitate discussions surrounding the impact of their artistic endeavors, particularly addressing the question: 'What is the utility of art?' This reflective dialogue aims to deepen the understanding of the transformative potential of artistic expression within the context of the project's broader objectives.

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<sup>3</sup>Instagram: @genclerlesanatinisiyati



Hatay Gençlerle Sanat İnişiatifi Team

### 3.3.1 Narratives from the field: Hatay Gençlerle Sanat İnişiatifi's Project

*"Local youths were invited to explore "What is the Purpose of Art?" through a series of workshops at the Zeytun Children's Area. Over seven weeks, four artists will guided the children in sculpture, mosaic, and graffiti, culminating in a final project. Two artists will be from outside, including a mosaic artist from Antep.*

*In the first session on April 28, children used "emotion cards" to express and discuss their feelings in a circle. They then set group rules and engaged in interactive activities like games. Future sessions are scheduled for May 1 and June 8-12, with a final collaboration between groups from Samandağ and Serinyol. The workshops will continually explore the purpose of art, with early responses highlighting self-expression, individuality, and freedom. At the end of each workshop, they asked "What is the Purpose of Art?" and sought answers together.*

*Some responses given for Art in the first workshop included: A method of self-expression, being yourself, freedom, communication."*

-An interlocutor from Hatay Gençlerle Sanat İnişiatifi workshop attendee



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Gençlerle Sanat İnisiyatifi's project meeting with local youth



Artworks created by local youth attending the project with the assistance of local artists





Gençlerle Sanat İnisiyatifi's project workshop

### **3.4 Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası - Light of Art in Hatay<sup>4</sup>**

Project Location: Antakya

Target Group: All age groups, residents of tent & container-cities

Project Duration: April-June 2024

Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası, as the first and sole independent symphonic ensemble in Hatay, is integral to the Light of Art in Hatay project. Within the scope of the project, concerts will be held in the city and it is aimed to reach 50 thousand people with music and art. The primary objective of this endeavor is to advocate for the right to participation and equitable access to cultural and artistic engagement. This is realized through the orchestration of concerts specifically tailored for individuals affected by the earthquake, featuring musicians hailing from Hatay within the Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası.

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<sup>4</sup>Website: <https://hataysenfoniorkestrasi.com/index.php/category/haberler/> Instagram: @hatayakademisenfoniorkestra

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This initiative aims to reinstate cultural and artistic involvement among musicians in the city, thereby allowing them to actively contribute to the cultural and artistic landscape. Simultaneously, it endeavors to extend the sphere of cultural and artistic experiences to the residents of container cities, ensuring their right to access culture and the arts. By integrating musicians affected by the earthquake as active contributors to the musical production process, the project aspires to harness the therapeutic potential of art, bringing solace and cultural enrichment to thousands of individuals in the earthquake-stricken region.



Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası

### 3.4.1 Narratives from the field: Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası's Project

*"We lost some orchestra members in the earthquake. We hadn't realized it yet. We were all devastated when we realized those friends weren't with us in our first online meeting after the earthquake. On June 1, with the support of the Allianz Foundation and the coordination of Postane, we were able to give our first concert after the disaster. We are happy and hopeful. We held this concert in a container city, hundreds of people came. Everyone lost someone in the earthquake, and many of our people passed away. Thanks to this concert, we tried to heal with art for the first time. We want the light of art to spread in Hatay. We rehearse in tents but the tents are flooded when it rains. The buildings we take shelter in are collapsing because they are unsafe. Still, we don't give up."*

-An interlocutor from the orchestra, Antakya, 2024.



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Impressions from Hatay Akademi Senfoni Orkestrası's first concert in Antakya after the earthquake, 1st of June, 2024

## **3.5 Defne Apollon İpekçilik – Ethical and Sustainable Peace Silk <sup>5</sup>**

Project Location: Harbiye

Target Group: Women

Project Duration: April–October 2024

“Hatay Sarısı” is an endemic species of silkworm, which is about to be extinct and is trying to revive it by Defne Apollon İpekçilik. It is one of the 3 races registered in Türkiye and is among the 3% endemic species in the world. Defne Apollon, which continued its fair production before the earthquake and ensured that women in Hatay Defne were included in the production area, aims to carry forgotten cultural heritage to the future and to include women and young people in the earthquake region in this production process. Defne Apollon considers the participation of women and young people in life as helping a living being find a way to heal itself by contributing to its life cycle. The results of the project include popularizing ethical and sustainable textile products, moving away from consumerism and artificial products, and increasing the production of “Hatay Sarısı”, an endemic species. The project also includes rehabilitating endemic species of silkworms, repairing their habitats, and bringing new silkworms to life using ecological methods.



Emel Duman from Defne Apollon İpekçilik, working on ethical and peace silk

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<sup>5</sup>Website: <https://www.defneapollon.com> Instagram: @defne\_apollon\_ipekçilik



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## 3.5.1 Narratives from the field: Defne Apollon İpekçilik's Project

*"We are keeping Antakya's ancient production culture alive. We were experiencing some difficulties before the earthquake. However, with the earthquake, it became problematic for women from the villages to come to our land and work for production. Many people died in the earthquake. These already saddened and affected people a lot. Afterward, there was an economic crisis, there was no employment in the region. With our project, we aim to both keep the culture alive and to revive women's employment in Hatay. We work together with women from the villages. We produce pure silk products in a fair and nature-friendly way."*

-An interlocutor from Defne Apollon İpekçilik project team



Elif and Mert from Postane at Defne Apollon İpekçilik. 2nd of June, 2024



### **3.6 Rimmen Kadın Kooperatifi & Deprem Dayanışma Derneği - Safe Production and Living Space for Women & Common Area Arrangement for Children<sup>6</sup>**

Project Location: Samandağ

Target Group: Women and children

Project Duration: April-December 2024

This joint project is being conducted in collaboration with the Rimmen and Deprem Dayanışması Derneği, with a specific focus on the Hatay-Samandağ-Defne region. Within the ambit of this project, Rimmen's primary objective is to furnish inducements to women adversely impacted by the earthquake, facilitating their sustained engagement in production activities within the cooperative framework. Concurrently, the project endeavors to institute gender equality training programs aimed at enhancing the socio-economic empowerment of women involved in ongoing production processes. Meanwhile, Deprem Dayanışması will provide psychosocial support to approximately 30 children in the common area, while also organizing workshops that will strengthen children's relationships with nature, science, and art. As a result of this project, it is also aimed to establish a library for children.



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<sup>6</sup>Website: <https://depremdayanisma.org/> Instagram: @rimmenkooperatifi & @depremdayanis-madernegi

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### 3.6.1 Narratives from the field: Rimmien & Deprem Dayanışma's Project

*"The biggest issue for women is the education of their children. More high schoolers are coming to our place. In our place, even we provide a chess course and women learn chess here too. They reach difficult-to-access places better together than alone. Continuing women's production is very important. Rimmien and Deprem Dayanışma Derneği formed through solidarity. Women with different skills came together to make it permanent. This is a special place. It is a place that is a heritage of Turkey. The feeling that we should do something for the city became strong. When life started to move faster elsewhere, I struggled. As people return to their routines, you can't forget it in 10 days. This became my motivation to stay. We didn't come here with a plan but thinking about how to do permanent work. We distributed materials. We set up children's tents. We need to create children's areas. There was also a demand from women who used to produce. Young people need to see themselves as subjects. It's crucial for their sense of belonging to coordinate all planning. With our project, we will provide better spatial support for women and young people. We are working on this."*

-An interlocutor from Rimmien Kooperatifi





Photos from the common area that has started to be built in Samandağ within the scope of the joint project of Rimmen&Deprem Dayanışma Derneği. Many containers will be placed in the area, and it will be a safe living center for women and children.

### **3.7 Kültürhane - Repair Library and Workshops<sup>7</sup>**

Project Location: Serinyol

Target Group: Adults

Project Duration: April-September 2024

It is a project that focuses on earthquake victims who stay in temporary living spaces such as containers and tent cities and cannot repair their belongings damaged in the earthquake due to the inadequate conditions of these places. Due to inadequate infrastructure and poor-quality materials, earthquake victims continue to face several technical problems. Moreover, it is very difficult for them to get professional support to solve these problems. Repair masters who do this type of work are generally unreachable either due to workload or cost. However, some of these are problems that can be easily solved if you have some basic knowledge and materials. The necessary equipment will be supplied with the tool library to be established. In addition, with the basic wood, electrical, and installation courses to be held here, earthquake victims will be able to carry out simple maintenance and repair work themselves. By attending these courses, adult

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<sup>7</sup>Website: <https://guncel.kulturhane.org> Instagram: @kulturhanemiz



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earthquake victims will increase their problem-solving capacity and perhaps have the opportunity to earn an income over time. The repair workshops that will be recorded will later be made available online to those interested. The project will take place in Hatay-Serinyol, which suffered great destruction in the earthquake.



Kültürhane Office in Mersin.

### 3.7.1 Narratives from the field: Kültürhane's Project

*"Through this project, we strive to repair all the products that adults have recovered from the earthquake debris that are damaged and that they cannot afford to repurchase, and therefore, the fragile memories of adults. We organize workshops for adults in Hatay, Serinyol on how to repair pieces of stuff."*

-An interlocutor from Kültürhane team

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Kültürhane's workshop in Serinyol, Hatay.



## **3.8 Beytna - Creative Experiences with Children<sup>8</sup>**

Project Location: Bahçeköy

Target Group: Children & Youth (primary), adults (secondary)

Project Duration: May-November 2024

The target audience of the events is primarily children and adolescents aged 8+, and secondarily adults. We are planning to visit villages and neighborhoods outside the city center of Antakya and we are working with local initiatives, local offices and associations for this. The Beytna Collective will operate using the extensive local communication network we have established with dozens of villages and neighborhoods through the events we have organized intensively over the past year. To introduce children and young people to various branches of art to which access is very limited outside the big cities, to open the door to artistic creation and to help them gain self-confidence by giving them their first products in these fields. In addition to their function as a form of art therapy, the events also create environments where young people can socialize and engage in joint production with their peers. The closed workshops, some of which last for a full day or two-three days, will produce short films, animations, VR videos or other products that will be shared with the children and on social media. Parents will be introduced to examples of quality cinema outside the mainstream (art cinema, documentaries, animation, etc.) We believe that the events, which will be held in cooperation with local initiatives and institutions, will also fill an important gap for children and young people in Antakya, whose socializing spaces and opportunities have disappeared.



One the workshop outputs of Beytna's project from Bahçeköy, Antakya.

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<sup>8</sup>Instagram: @beytna\_kolektif



## 3.8.1 Narratives from the field: Beytna's Project

*"Children are a group that is largely ignored after the earthquake. With our project, we invite village children in Hatay to our garden and organize workshops. We organize workshops with many artists and experts. We aim to open space for children's creative thoughts, especially with virtual reality workshops and slow-motion workshops. We also organize film screenings for adults and children in the evenings."*

-An interlocutor from Beytna team



A photo from Beytna's virtual reality workshop in Bahçeköy, Hatay

## 4 Mobility Grant

Another financial resource included in the support provided to Earthquake Solidarity Projects is Mobility Support. This support aims to create a resource by paying for round-trip plane, train, and bus tickets from the earthquake zone to different cities in Turkey so that passengers can actively participate in events such as conferences, workshops, and training related to the earthquake zone (10 cities).

Project teams benefiting from Mobility Support were sometimes able to convey the problems in their region to other listeners at a conference; sometimes they received training for the post-disaster period as listeners at training; and sometimes they travelled outside the earthquake zone to join the concerts.

This mobility support is open to NGOs and initiatives that have applied to the call and are active in the entire earthquake zone. Applicants who contact the project coordinator Elifsena Biroğlu to apply for travel support are issued tickets for the destinations they have determined at least 10 days before their travel. After their travel, the user of the grant and the project coordinator stay in touch and share experiences about the travel and the situations over the earthquake zone.

### 4.1 Feedback on Mobility Grant

*"I have moved out of my city after a long time. I feel that I am contributing to raising awareness by getting away from the ruins and sharing my own experiences in a different city."*

-An applicant to the fund

*"I traveled to Ankara from Adana. There were court cases in Ankara to follow up on the situation after the earthquake. I traveled to be an observer in these cases."*

-An interlocutor from one of the project teams

*"I used this support to give a concert as a musician from Hatay to Istanbul, thank you."*

-An interlocutor from one of the project teams

*"Thanks to this support, I traveled from Adıyaman to Ankara. I attended a training given for children's rights in the earthquake region."*

-An applicant to the fund

## 5 Project Meeting in Mersin

10-11 AUGUST, 2024  
MERSİN



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EARTQUAKE SOLIDARITY FUND PROJECT MEETING  
*OUTPUTS*



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Within the scope of the Earthquake Solidarity Program, which is supported by the Allianz Foundation and the European Cultural Foundation and coordinated by Postane, 8 projects that have been working in Hatay since March came together in Mersin hosted by Kültürhane.

Project teams who carry out art, cultural memory protection, production and solidarity activities with women, children, and youth in various regions and neighborhoods of Hatay; talked about their concrete needs and possible collaborations that can be established for these needs under the titles of "Expectations from the Future of Hatay" and "What is Our Part in the Reconstruction of Hatay?"

During the two-day meeting, the "Correct Information Verification Workshop" by Teyit was held to develop ways to access accurate information in times of crisis and earthquake zones. Since 2016, Teyit has been examining suspicious information on the internet, conducting training activities to develop digital literacy and critical thinking skills, and contributing to the development of sustainable solutions to the problem of misinformation by bringing different actors together.

## 5.1 Insights of the Mersin Meeting

### 5.1.1 What is needed in Hatay? – Quotes from participants

- *"We should include young people aged 12-18 in our projects. Spatial changes affect this group a lot and they need solidarity."*
- *"This is also true for children aged 8-15. Children need good environments."*
- *"There is a need for events focusing on young people. We should inform each other."*
- *"There is a need for a transformation movement in Hatay. There are big gaps in the field of culture and arts in Antakya and transportation difficulties."*
- *"Components of memory should be protected. The migration of groups that do not have rights from the region should be prevented. Therefore, events for young people and children should continue."*
- *"With economic recovery, production and solidarity will increase. For this reason, there is a need for support."*
- *"There is a need for communication coordination between cooperatives, NGOs and institutions."*
- *"There is a need for solidarity where everyone will be each other's supplier at the local level."*
- *"There is a need not only for nostalgia but also for the future."*
- *"Urban image is very important in the reconstruction and rehabilitation processes."*
- *"People who really have authority in the region do not actually use this authority."*
- *"There is also a need for volunteers."*
- *"We need to know that we are not alone in the region."*
- *"Motivation and support are needed for sustainable operation."*
- *"When you are alone, a person feels like nothing. For this reason, we must look for hope within ourselves."*
- *"Everyone should focus on what they do best and continue doing it."*

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- *"Education and health have been disrupted. There is a need."*
- *"We should organize participatory events."*
- *"We should also consider the well-being of employees."*
- *"Being a community is very important."*
- *"It is important for us to be 'not me, but us'".*
- *Economic freedoms will also provide motivation for education and art.*
- *We must provide each other with a "foothold".*
- *If we cannot reach the authorities, people with this connection should help us.*
- *It is very important to hold our events in the field. This provides motivation.*



Sessions and workshops were held at Kültürhane throughout the weekend. August 10, 2024.

### 5.1.2 What is Our Part in the Reconstruction of Hatay? – Quotes from participants

- *"As communities working and supporting in Hatay, how can we simultaneously make the priority needs, voices, feelings, and expectations of the people of the region heard by more people?"*
- *"We should talk about how to keep the autochthonous and disadvantaged groups of Antakya (minorities in particular) in the region."*
- *"We should design a city where at least a significant portion of the immigrants return. We need areas designed with a focus on the youth."*
- *"We must ensure that young people flourish within the community."*
- *"We want it to be a women-friendly, disabled-friendly, ecological city."*
- *"Employment should be provided."*
- *"Hatay residents should have a word in the reconstruction process."*



## POSTANE



Rimmen&Deprem Dayanışma team at the meeting in Mersin, K lt rhane. Aug 11,2024.



Defne Apollon İpek ilik, Polen Kolektif and Director of Postane, Yaşar Adanal  at the meeting in Mersin, K lt rhane. Aug 11,2024.



## 6 Upcoming Activities

As of July 2024, 2 field trips were made to the Hatay region. As a result of these observations, the 3 video documentary content and social media themes that will be the project output were determined and the script was written. Within the scope of this scenario, video recording started. A WhatsApp group was created with the project teams, creating a “people of solidarity” awareness. Frequent communication was ensured through this group. At the same time, 8 project teams supported each other within the scope of the needs of the projects.

In August 2024, all ESF project teams were invited to a weekend retreat event in Mersin, with the invitation of Kültürhane, one of the project partners, and under the coordination of Postane. It aimed to discuss and evaluate the situation of Hatay after the earthquake and the projects realized within the scope of cooperation between the Allianz Foundation and Postane.

A closing event of this iteration of the fund is planned to be held in Istanbul, hosted by Postane, on December 6-7-8, 2024. One of the biggest goals in this process is for all projects to become a “community”. The fund is open for additional funders and partners to continue supporting projects in the earthquake-affected regions in Turkey.

## 7 Contacts:

### POSTANE

**Elifsena Biroğlu**

Project Coordinator

Postane

Bereketzade Mah. • Camekan Sk. No: 9

Galata, Beyoğlu • İstanbul

+90 543 527 39 86

[elif@postane.co](mailto:elif@postane.co)

[postane.co](http://postane.co)

### ALLIANZ FOUNDATION

**Nino Klingler**

Program Manager

Allianz Foundation

Pariser Platz 6 • 10117 Berlin

+49 30 9940597-39

+49 152 34625696

[nino.klingler@allianzfoundation.org](mailto:nino.klingler@allianzfoundation.org)

[allianzfoundation.org](http://allianzfoundation.org)

The Earthquake Solidarity Fund is a joint program of Postane and Allianz Foundation, supported by the European Cultural Foundation.

The Fund is administered by Postane in Istanbul.

We welcome additional funders to continue supporting projects in the earthquake-affected regions in Turkey.

For more information:

[allianzfoundation.org/earthquake-solidarity-fund](https://allianzfoundation.org/earthquake-solidarity-fund)

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