



NEWSLETTER

The Official Bulletin of Caritas Turkey

NATIONAL OFFICE : UPDATE

The 30th to 31st August took place the online partner meeting of Caritas Turkey, which was attended by numerous colleges of CI MOs (Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Europa, Caritas Italiana, Caritas Spain, CRS, Caritas Germany, and Caritas Lebanon). As John Aloysius - secretary of Caritas Internationalis - said during his introductory speech "this event demonstrates the determination of Caritas to continue its work of charity and service to the poor, the result of a long tradition, an expression of the universal Church and the Turkish one". The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the reorganization process of Caritas Turkey. Each office of Caritas Turkey, the national office, and the three diocesan offices presented their activities and future plans. On the second day, the strategic Caritas Turkey's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 was presented. In the numerous efforts that Caritas Turkey is making to become a healthier organization, there is also the creation of an efficient structure and legal registration. Regarding this point, Caritas Turkey's national director, Nadir Nadhim, recalled that even without accreditation, Caritas Turkey is already working effectively by collaborating with local partners (sometimes even local authorities) who deal with the operational aspects of the intervention, while the financial aspects are managed through the Nunziatura, in total safety and transparency. For this reason, the government remains firmly in the hands of the CET, and the approach promoted aims to be as participatory as possible, in order to take up the exhortation of the General Secretary of Caritas Europa, Maria Nyman, who citing Pope Francis, encourages us to "open your windows and your doors and go". To conclude, it is important to summarize in one sentence what the CT President, Mgr. Bizzeti has repeatedly highlighted: "Caritas' message in Turkey has deep roots and Caritas Turkey is proud to continue this tradition. Today, Caritas is called to solidarity that crosses the borders of states and religions to bear witness to the values of the Gospel and of a solidarity civilization. The efforts we make go in the direction of spreading this message. Regarding the follow-up of the partner meeting and the process of institutional strengthening, two steps have been taken. First of all, in a meeting chaired by Monsignor Bizzeti on 10 September with the directors of Caritas Turkey (national and three diocesans), a focal point for each of the four sectors of the Strategic Plan were appointed. They will act as contact persons and have the overall role of facilitating the implementation of the Strategic Plan. For sector A. Migration, the focal point is Karin Timyanos, Caritas Istanbul Director; for sector B. Mobilization and support of local communities, the focal point is Fr. Ugo De Rosa, Caritas Izmir Director; for sector C. Organizational Development, the focal point is Liza Injeian, ODSS, and CI MS coordinator, and for the sector D. Emergency, the focal point is Giulia Longo, a new officer of Caritas Anatolia. This decision will allow a better division of the work between the national office and diocesan Caritas, increasing coordination, participation, and representation of the entire Caritas Turkey



One last important step to reinforce the mutual engagement between CT and Caritas sisters in future common actions was the development of a follow-up survey. Soon the survey will be launched via baobab and also disseminated to the participants in the partner meeting. The survey aims at cross-referencing and matching Caritas Turkey's needs with the availability of Caritas Sisters to support the priority activities for the first year of the CT Strategic Plan. This questionnaire represents an attempt to collect CI MOs manifestation of interest in specific sectors, while bilateral meetings will allow a deeper discussion/sharing of details and specific proposal (budget, methodology...).

İZMİR DIOCESAN OFFICE



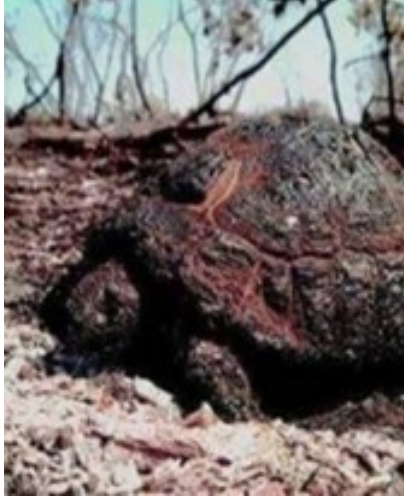
The work of the Regional Office of Caritas in İzmir:

In June, July, and August 2021, our support for refugee families continued. In addition to those in İzmir, we have paid visits to refugees living in 2 of the cities belonging to our diocese, Manisa, and Denizli. We have distributed food vouchers (121 vouchers to 71 families), we have made a contribution to rent expenses (91 families), and a contribution to health expenses (medicines, wheelchairs, nebulizers, and respiratory devices, treatment fees for 41 persons).

During these months, we have distributed a total of 47 food coupons to 25 Turkish families living in İzmir. We have also contributed to the rent expenses of 1 local family, we have purchased a nebulizer for 1 patient and paid also for her medical visit fee.



İZMİR DIOCESAN OFFICE



Emergency assistance to the population affected by the fires in 38 provinces of Turkey

On July 28, 2021, 154 forest fires broke out in 38 provinces of Turkey. Global warming and possible arson actions caused many fires to occur simultaneously. It negatively affected many people living in those regions. In this disaster, 9 people lost their lives and many people were injured. Villages and settlements in areas where the fire was effective were evacuated. Many houses were burned or rendered unusable. Beekeeping, agriculture and animal husbandry, which are their livelihoods, were also severely disrupted. Hundreds of creatures living in it lost their lives.

In Muğla province, 66,231 hectares of forest area of 9 districts (Marmaris, Bodrum, Milas, Yatağan, Menteşe, Köyceğiz, Fethiye, Seydikemer and Kavakdere) were burned.

According to the information received from Muğla Metropolitan Municipality as of August 5, 2021, the data of the damage assessment study carried out in 7 neighborhoods in Marmaris district (Osmaniye, Orhaniye, İçmeler, Bayır, Adaköy, Turunç and Armutalan) are as follows.

TOTAL NUMBER OF DETECTIONS IN MUĞLA

- INDEPENDENT SECTION
- BUILDING: 543
- HOUSING: 784
- BARN: 114
- WORKPLACE: 64
- OFFICIAL BUILDING: 5

Caritas İzmir evaluated the needs based on information from local authorities, NGOs that are working with us in the region, and contacts in the field. Afterward, as immediate support, we have purchased and distributed medicines and medical equipment to the victims with the help of the members of our diocese and private donors.

we have purchased and distributed medicines and medical equipment to the victims with the help of the members of our diocese and private donors have purchased and distributed medicines and medical equipment to the victims with the help of the members of our diocese and private donors.

As Caritas İzmir, we are planning to heal the wounds of the disaster by:

- contributing to the shelters allocated by the local government for the injured local people to sustain their lives, by providing food, medical and household equipment so that people could regain a minimum standard of living,
- making an economic contribution to replace animals they lost in order to maintain their livelihood; beehive, small cattle (goat-sheep), cattle (cow), chicken, etc.

ADDRESS: HARBIYE CAYIRI SOK 66, ELMADAĞ 80230, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

TELEPHONE: +90 212 23 44 564 FAX: +90 212 23 31 193

EMAIL: CARITAS.INFO@CET-TURKIYE.ORG

Story of the month

Over two hundred wildfires burnt 1,600 square kilometers of Turkey's forest in its Mediterranean Region in July and August 2021, the worst-ever wildfire season in the country's history. The wildfires started in Manavgat, Antalya province, on 28 July 2021, with a temperature around 37 °C. As of 9 August, 2021 two fires were still burning, both in Muğla. The fires are part of a larger series of wildfires, including those in neighboring Greece, originating from a heatwave made more likely by climate change. Wildfires in the forests of Turkey are common in summer, principally in the Mediterranean and Aegean regions, however, May 2021 was the hottest May for over 50 years and followed a drought, made more likely by climate change. This was followed by near to above-average June temperatures with positive temperature anomalies below 1 °C and ample rainfall, however, this did not impede the fires in Kaş, Tarsus, and Marmaris on 26 and 27 June. Much stronger heat followed in the second half of July, as some regions reached positive temperature anomalies of up to 12 °C, and a temperature reading of 36 °C was recorded as far north as Istanbul, where seasonal daytime temperatures would have been around 27 °C. Furthermore



As Caritas, we helped those children by paying for their rent for a while. Then, as the landlord didn't want them to stay in his house anymore, the director of the school that they were attending has let them stay in one of the rooms in the school. Afterward, their father, who has been found not guilty has been released from prison. We have rented a house for them, purchased some furniture, and found a job for the father. Meanwhile, the mother stayed in Iran and has divorced her husband. One of the children has finished high school and is working in a café. The other one will start to go to the university this year, with the financial support of our office.

