



Every  
Shelter



## WHEN THE GROUND GIVES WAY

Providing Stability in Catastrophe with Emergency Floor

Earthquake Türkiye-Syria February 2023



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# 90 SECONDS

## THE GROUND GAVE WAY

It is hard to imagine what it was like, how it felt, how it sounded, how it smelled, on February 6th 2023 at 4:17am when millions of people sleeping peacefully, woke to the earth giving way for 90 seconds. The feel of waking up to your bed sliding from one side of the room to the other, the sound of small children screaming for help, the sound of the wounded crying out in pain, your feet walking on broken glass trying to escape on stairs that no longer exist, getting wet from the pouring rain inside your house, the smell of dust from the rubble, the unknown of whether your friends and family even woke up, and seeing things you should have never seen. And there you are, having made it to the street, standing outside under the rain in the cold of a dark winter's night. Every part of you: overwhelmed. Unimaginable.

*"We had everything, and in 90 seconds we lost everything."*











# OVERVIEW

## **SITUATION IN TÜRKIYE**

Two earthquakes of immense strength struck south-eastern Türkiye and the northern war-torn region of Syria. Both the 7.8 and 7.6 magnitude earthquakes were successively followed by two further earthquakes and thousands of aftershocks, causing massive destruction in both countries. More than 9.1 million people in Türkiye were directly affected– 1.7 million of whom are Syrian refugees, and another 5.6 million people were affected within Syria. The earthquakes hit at the peak of winter, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without access to basic needs.\*

\*According to OCHA, June 2023





PEOPLE DIRECTLY AFFECTED

**9.1 M**



PEOPLE KILLED

**+50K**



PEOPLE INJURED

**107K**



PEOPLE RELOCATED

**3M**



BUILDINGS DESTROYED

**298K**















# STORY

## ADA AND HER FAMILY

Ada is from Syria and she is a mother of six. Displaced years prior from the war in Syria, she and her husband found a new home in Antakya, Türkiye for the safety of their family. The earthquake caused her apartment complex to completely collapse and she found herself under the rubble separated from her husband and children. Stuck under the rubble with one of her little girls, she recalls the screaming of all her other children crying out for help. She couldn't get to them—all she could do was wait. As time passed, she told us she stopped hearing her children. She could only hear her little daughter sheltering beneath her saying she was cold.

Ada was stuck in the rubble for three days until she was rescued.

When she was rescued, all she could say to the rescue team was, *“please don't save me, save my children.”* Only two of her precious children survived. When we met Ada, she was living in a tent surrounded by Syrian neighbors in other self-made tents, all with their own stories of pain and loss. There she was, with her two little girls and a newly adopted son who had lost his parents in the earthquake, grieving the unimaginable losses with nothing besides a few blankets, a wet rug, and a small tent.

We couldn't stop thinking, *“how can we even start to help in a situation like hers?”*













# IMPACT

## **IT'S MORE THAN A FLOOR**

Most of what is lost can't just be replaced, but often one small intervention can mean so much. Ada was able to benefit from our Emergency Floors, and was thankful to not be sleeping directly on the cold ground while she recovered from back surgery. What felt like a small help in her tragic situation, turned out to be much more meaningful.

Beyond the benefit of the floor, Ada was impacted by the sympathy shown through this generous donation. As we distributed the floors in each shelter of Ada's community, we were struck by the overwhelming gratitude of each family. What is a simple floor is more: it is a means of compassion in a desperate time of need. It's not just a floor, it is a tangible expression of love.









# EMERGENCY FLOOR

## **PRODUCT DETAIL**

Emergency Floor is a quickly deployable, lightweight, insulated flooring system. It is intuitive to install and requires no tools. In most settings, first-time installers can complete an entire install in fewer than 10 minutes. It can be installed on the ground, concrete slabs, and even on shipping pallets or sandbags. Each tile weighs approximately 0.6 kg (~1 lb) and covers ~10 square feet each, meaning they are easily handled and great for logistically challenging camp settings.







## **COMPATIBLE WITH EXISTING SHELTERS**

Emergency Floor tiles may easily be cut with a utility knife to dodge any impediment and create a custom fit in any shelter on the market.

## **NON-PERMANENT SHELTER IMPROVEMENT**

Many host countries insist that improvements made are non-permanent. Though Emergency Floor will last through years of abuse, it installs and uninstalls in minutes. It can be moved easily if a camp needs to relocate.

## **REDUCES HEATING FUEL EXPENSE BY UP TO 20 %**

Made from a durable insulating material primarily found in the automotive industry, Emergency Floor provides an R4 insulative value where you need it most. Our floors can pay for themselves in less than two years.

## **REDUCES MEDICAL NEEDS AND EXPENSES**

Initial research indicates that replacing dirt floors with Emergency Floor could improve cognitive development in children and reduce parasitic infections by 78%, instances of diarrhea by 49%, and anemia by 81%.

## **PROMOTES HIGHER MORALE IN CAMP SETTINGS**

Comfortable and easily cleaned, Emergency Floor brings a much higher level of dignity to families than a standard dirt floor.









# STORY

## A SYRIAN COMMUNITY

Resources are always scarce in a crisis. When a destructive event like an earthquake or other natural disaster hits, host country citizens often receive priority from their governments. Refugees in the host country are often last-in-line to get the help they need.

We met another Syrian community of 12 families who live in the town of Reyhanli in Türkiye right on the border of Syria - the majority having the hope of returning to Syria when things get better there. Reyhanli was not affected by the earthquake, but due to the influx of Turkish citizens needing housing because their homes were destroyed, rent prices effectively evicted cash-less Syrian refugees onto the street. All these Syrian families had been living in Türkiye for around 10 years and are now going through another forced displacement. We've heard many say that experiencing the earthquake and its consequences has been worse than fleeing the Syrian war.

In February and March 2023, the majority of displaced people didn't have anything for flooring and slept directly on the ground. We met this little Syrian community, right after heavy rain, the first rain since the earthquakes. Their thin carpets covering the ground were completely wet. Their sleeping area, their kitchen, their living space—all of it was wet.

By creating a dry thermal break between the ground and the home, and by elevating families off the wet dirt, Emergency Floor provides a level of basic dignity, warmth, and health to families who have lost all semblance of safety and place.



FLOORS SUPPLIED  
**1,500**



PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED EMERGENCY FLOORS  
**8,394**



TILES DISTRIBUTED  
**30,000**

*\* 1,500 floors distributed to families with an average of 5.6 members*







# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Every Shelter was only able to deploy the Emergency Floor tiles because of generous benefactors, donors, and friends, who saw the need and responded with overflowing generosity.

Together, we have been able to respond to an urgent need helping as many citizens and refugees as possible create home after tragedy and tribulation. Months after the disaster, there are still 2.3 million people\* living in tents in Türkiye due to the earthquakes. The Emergency Floors are still needed and being distributed to those living in those tents.

We remain committed to this work for the long haul. And we are grateful for partners and donors like you willing to help with us.

On behalf of every recipient of Emergency Floor: Thank you.

Until everyone creates home.

\*According to The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, April 2023



Read more about our Emergency Floor and Türkiye response here.

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