

Yazar Bilgileri
Author(s)

Dr.
Gökhan Kavak
Anadolu Ajansı (AA)
ORCID: 0000-0001-9480-9238

Abstract

Although Türkiye's relations with African countries have continued since the Ottoman Empire, the measures taken over the past 20 years have taken an important place in Türkiye's foreign policy. These relations, which cover different areas, were mainly towards the African countries from Türkiye. After the great destruction and loss of life suffered by the earthquakes of 6 February in Kahramanmaraş, assistance and messages of support from African countries to Türkiye highlighted. In this study, the appeal for international assistance after the earthquake in Türkiye and individual aid from African countries as well as official and civil institutions were examined. In the post-earthquake period, what kind of assistance was given to Türkiye from which the African country and the messages of support announced along with messages of condolence were discussed. On the other hand, the assistance of African students studying in Türkiye to the victims of the earthquake after the earthquake was discussed. As a result of this research, the reactions and actions taken by African countries during Türkiye's difficult days have been revealed and evaluated.

Öz

Türkiye'nin Afrika ülkeleriyle kurduğu ilişkiler Osmanlı Devleti'nden bugüne devam etse de özellikle son 20 yılda atılan adımların Türkiye'nin dış politikasında önemli bir yeri bulunmaktadır. Farklı alanları ihtiva eden bu ilişkiler daha çok Türkiye'den Afrika ülkelerine yönelik olmuştur. Kahramanmaraş merkezli 6 Şubat depremleriyle yaşanan büyük bir yıkım ve can kaybı sonrası ise Afrika ülkelerinden Türkiye'ye yapılan yardımlar ve destek mesajları gündeme gelmiştir. Bu çalışmada, Türkiye'nin deprem sonrası yaşadığı zor bir süreçte yapılan uluslararası yardım çağrısıyla Afrika ülkelerinden resmi ve sivil kurumların yanında bireysel olarak yapılan yardımlar incelenmiştir. Deprem sonrası süreçte Türkiye'ye hangi Afrika ülkesinden ne tür yardımlar yapıldığı ve açıklanan destek mesajlarının yanı sıra başsağlığı mesajları araştırılmıştır. Diğer taraftan Türkiye'de eğitim alan Afrikalı öğrencilerin deprem sonrası süreçte depremedelere yönelik yardımları incelenmiştir. Yapılan bu araştırma ile Türkiye'nin zor günlerinde Afrika ülkelerinin gösterdiği tepkiler ve attığı adımlar ortaya koyulmuş ve değerlendirilmiştir.

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1. Introduction

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, fires and droughts occur from time to time in different parts of the world. These natural disasters cause loss of life as well as material and moral damages. In countries where natural disasters occur, countries are adversely affected and in need of assistance, depending on the size of the disaster. With the call for help, humanitarian or financial support is provided to the country where the disaster occurred. Turkey has been among the countries in the first place for aid in natural disasters experienced in different African countries.

In Türkiye's foreign policy, the African continent has been a region of considerable importance in recent years. Türkiye is deepening its contacts with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Turkish Airlines (THY), Yunus Emre Institute (YEE), Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMV), Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), Anadolu Agency (AA), Turkish Red Crescent, Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK), Independent Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD), non-governmental organizations and companies in various fields with African countries and peoples. With the steps taken in the diplomatic field, Türkiye has increased the number of embassies to 44 in the continent where there are 54 countries.

Undoubtedly, studies in the fields of humanitarian aid, development and education have an important place in the steps taken towards African countries and in the relations developed. The steps taken by both official and non-governmental organizations in many parts of the continent are followed not only in Türkiye but also by the international public opinion. With the steps it has taken in this area, Türkiye aims to support African peoples both individually and socially (Kavak, 2020: 499-516). While the humanitarian dimension of the relations established with African countries comes to the fore with these steps, at the current point, it is criticized that Türkiye's steps towards the continent are mostly in a one-sided "helper" position. As a matter of fact, while the steps taken by Türkiye in African countries are widely covered in the media and academia, it is understandable that there are fewer examples of support from African countries, in a period when Türkiye is in a difficult situation such as an earthquake. After the great destruction and loss of life in the two major earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş on February 6, the support and aid efforts of African countries include an important process in terms of displaying the stance of African countries in the face of the steps taken by Türkiye towards the continent. This process is also on the table as an important example in terms of evaluating the relations that Türkiye has established with the continent.

After the earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş, it was determined that; while some African countries have taken steps quickly and supported Türkiye in different areas, some African countries acted later and remained in the background. Although this situation is criticized, it can be explained with reasonable justifications. As a matter of fact, some African countries are negatively affected by natural disasters such as drought and floods and also civil war, political crises or terrorist incidents caused by armed groups. Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger or Chad can be listed among these countries. However, the messages of aid, assistance and support sent immediately after the earthquake, especially from Sudan, where the political crisis continues, and Somalia, where stability has not been achieved for a long time due to drought and Al-Shabaab attacks, are on the table as topics that need attention.

It should be noted that there are many factors that prevent the rapid and comprehensive support of African countries after the earthquakes in Türkiye. As a matter of fact, we can list the reasons such as countries have not enough technical team besides their own internal agendas, the idea that Türkiye is a strong country and therefore will not need help, the death and destruction caused by the earthquake was not fully understood in the first place, and many countries have not encountered a disaster such as an earthquake before.

In addition to the items listed above, it should be noted that the agenda of African countries for Türkiye after the earthquake was less than the approach to countries such as France or England, when events such as the death of Queen Elizabeth were taken into account. However, it has been observed that the Embassy, TMV and Türkiye-based NGOs and business people lead the aid from African countries. One of the issues that should be focused on is that some families, who have been stated to have relations since the Ottoman Empire, have shown the necessary support in the post-earthquake process. Especially, we can show as an example in South Africa the aid from the family of Ebubekir Efendi. Likewise, it is noteworthy that aid of people who need help and stay in a refugee camp in Chad to Türkiye, or that a Kenyan businessman donates a necklace he bought for his wife for earthquake victims in Türkiye.

2. The Purpose of Study

In this study, the official and civil steps taken to support Türkiye in the African continent after the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes and the stance of the continent in a process where Türkiye needs support were tried to be examined. This study, which aims to examine the aid received from Africa to Türkiye and not from Türkiye to Africa in the relations Türkiye has established with African countries, aimed to open a new ground for discussion in this area and to reveal what the fruits of the relations established with these countries are. On the other hand, the steps taken in African countries by institutions such as TİKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency), TMV and YEE (Yunus Emre Institute) are defined as Türkiye's "soft power". At this point, this study examines the objections to the relations established in this field and also serves as an answer to the question "Why does Türkiye help Africans or deepen relations?"

3. Methods

Considering that there are 54 countries on the continent, the contents between February 6 and April 20 reflected in the articles published and shared on social media, the Internet pages of official institutions such as the Embassy and press releases were scanned as a source for this study. In this study, it may be possible that some explanations, news or social media shares could not be detected, but when the sources are examined, it is not thought that this deficiency will not negatively affect the main lines of the study and the arguments it presents. The detected contents were classified into certain headings and examined. While South Africa, Senegal, Sudan, Somalia and Algeria, which stand out in aid, are examined under separate headings, the steps taken by other countries in the continent are under the headings of "Aid from Other African Countries", "Messages of Condolence and Prayers for Türkiye", "Studies of Turkish Graduate Students in the Earthquake Zone". examined.

4. Asistances From The World After The Eartquake

Natural disasters involve an important process in cooperation in interstate relations. Among the motivations that enable states to help each other in these processes are economic expectation, cultural kinship, religious concerns, political and economic relations or military cooperation. Although African countries did not have much of an impact after the 7.4 earthquake of 17 August in 1999, the steps taken by African countries after the 6 February 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes have come to a remarkable point. There is no doubt that Turkey's relations with African countries in the last 20 years have an important role in this. However, it has attracted attention in the political and intellectual transformation experienced in African states and peoples in recent years. As a matter of fact, as seen in the last earthquake, African countries are now displaying an image of "giving" rather than "receiving".

Türkiye follows a policy that emphasizes the humanitarian dimension in its relations with African countries. Not only does it establish political and economic relations with African countries, Turkey deepens relations with both public institutions and non-governmental organizations in different parts of the continent. In this process, besides NGOs, institutions such as TMV, YEE, Turkey Red Crescent or TİKA carry out remarkable studies. These studies are seen in fields such as education, health, humanitarian aid and development. After the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, the historical ties, religion or political relations have an impact on the aid provided to Turkey from African countries, as well as the steps taken by Turkey in the above-mentioned areas in African countries. For example, there is no doubt that the TMV school operating in this country has a significant impact on the aid made to Turkey from Burundi, which has come to the fore with economic crises and poverty. On the other hand, it has been observed that aids in countries with a majority of Muslims such as Senegal, Sudan and Algeria are made with religious motivation as well as established political relations.

On February 6, 2023, two major earthquakes with a magnitude of 7.7 and 7.6, affecting 10 provinces, centered on the Pazarcık and Elbistan districts of Kahramanmaraş. According to official figures, in these earthquakes, as of March 10, nearly 50 thousand people lost their lives and more than 100 thousand people were injured. Earthquakes, which caused destruction and loss of life in Türkiye and Syria, were also felt in Lebanon, Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Egypt and other neighboring countries (AFAD, 2023).

Following the declaration of the fourth level of alert, which includes international aid after the earthquakes in Türkiye, as of February 18, 102 countries have requested assistance to Türkiye (AA, 8.2.2023). In addition to the assistance of governments and institutions such as NATO and the EU, Türkiye's foreign missions, Turkish citizens abroad and foreign citizens who want to send aid to Türkiye have organized aid campaigns. On the other hand, messages of condolence and support were sent from all over the world. According to the data of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 88 countries participated in the field search and rescue efforts in Türkiye until February 18, and sent field hospitals or medical teams (AA, 18.2.2023).

In Türkiye until February 22, under the coordination of foreign representatives, 22 field hospitals were established, 90 thousand tents, 999 hygiene units, 1 million 300 thousand blankets, 196 thousand sleeping bags, 26 thousand generators, 5.5 tons of food materials were sent by 19 countries (TR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 22.02.2023). 75 countries worked with search and rescue teams in the earthquake zone, and nearly 10 thousand foreign personnel worked in Türkiye (TR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 12.02.2023). Condolences have been sent from many people, including UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (TR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 16.02.2023).

5. Assitances From Africa

After the earthquakes in Türkiye, many African countries have taken action to contribute to both search and rescue and humanitarian aid efforts since the first day. While some of the 54 African countries contributed to the debris search with search and rescue teams, many countries supported Türkiye by sending humanitarian aid materials. On the other hand, condolence visits and condolence messages were conveyed by both official and civilian persons from African countries.

When the aid from the continent is examined, the countries that stand out are the Republic of South Africa, Somalia, Senegal, Sudan, Algeria and Burundi. Among the reasons why these countries come to the fore compared to other African countries are the intense humanitarian aid activities since the first day of the earthquake, as well as their support to Türkiye with search and rescue teams.

5.1 South Africa Republic

After the Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquakes in Türkiye, one of the prominent countries in aid from African countries was South Africa Republic In the country, where aid campaigns were launched right after the earthquake, both the Embassy of Pretoria and non-governmental organizations, politicians and religious leaders conveyed their condolences to the Turkish authorities. With the campaign launched by the embassy on February 8, the funds were collected until February 10. In the announcements made on the embassy website and via social media, it was announced that tents, blankets, thermos flasks, flashlights, baby food, food parcels and cleaning supplies, as well as winter clothing were needed (Turkish Emb Pretoria, 8.02.2023).

After the announcement made by the embassy, relief materials from South Africans were collected at the Turkish Consulate General in Cape Town, the Johannesburg Yunus Emre Institute (YEE) Turkish Cultural Center, the Pretoria office of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the facilities of the white goods company Arçelik/DEFY in Durban. The relief materials included tents, heaters, sleeping bags, blankets, generators, medical supplies, winter clothes, and various necessities and were regularly transported to Türkiye by Turkish Airlines (THY). It is noteworthy that South Africans personally participated in the aid activities and supported them (Yesildag, 27.02.2023).

Among those doing charity work in South Africa are the Zeenatul Islamic Mosque in Cape Town, Jamiatul Ulama South Africa and the Al-Imdaad Foundation. 180 tons of material consisting of tents, generators, sleeping bags and food packages were sent to Türkiye by these organizations. On the other hand, two doctors from South Africa came to Türkiye to support the treatment of earthquake victims (Turkish Emb Pretoria, 21.02.2023).

650 tents, over 100 generators, 1150 sleeping bags, 6 thousand blankets and 4.5 tons of winter clothes were sent from South Africa to Türkiye until February 15 (Güvendik, 15.02.2023). As of March 3, South African non-governmental organizations provided in-kind aid amounting to approximately 1.2 million dollars. (Yenisafak, 03.03.2023). In addition to in-kind aid, approximately 110 thousand dollars in cash aid was sent to the official bank account opened as a result of the announcement made by the Embassy on February 11 as part of the earthquake relief campaign (Anadolu Agency, 13.2.2023).

The South Africa Republic was among the countries that sent search and rescue teams to the earthquake area. South African non-governmental organizations Gift of Givers and South African Search and Rescue (SARZA) worked in the earthquake area with a 33-person health and search and rescue team on 8 February. In addition, on February 9, a second team of 54 doctors in the Gift of Givers organization and the other medical team of 20 people on February 9 were sent to Türkiye (AA, 8.2.2023. Turkish Emb Pretoria, 7.02.2023).

As part of its support to Türkiye, the South African government has sent 10 tons of medical supplies, as well as 5 K-9 dogs and 6-person search and rescue team of the South African Police Service to Türkiye (Yenişafak, 3.3.2023). In addition, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, in a statement on February 6, issued a message of condolences for those who lost their lives in the earthquake (The Presidency, 6.3.2023). A

condolence book was opened at the Embassy and Cape Town Consulate General in South Africa for those who lost their lives in the earthquake , and the book was signed by diplomats, NGO representatives, academics and South African citizens as well as state officials (TR. Cape Town Başkonsolosluğu, 23.02.2023. Turkish Emb Pretoria, 9.02.2023). Among the signatories are Beverley Schafer, Deputy Speaker of the Western Cape Assembly, Eddie Andrews, Deputy Mayor of Cape Town, Sheikh Irafaan Abrahams, President of the Muslim Roof Organization MJC, and Abdul Khaliq Ebrahim, Vice President of MJC (T.R. Cape Town Consulate General, 24.02.2023).

5.2 Somalia

It is seen that Somalia, an East African country, came to the fore in the financial and moral support provided to Türkiye after the earthquake. Somalia has become a prominent country in Türkiye's African policy, especially after the official visit of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to this country in 2011. In Somalia, which has been going through a troubled process for many years due to drought and conflict, a donation of 4 million dollars was collected for the earthquake victims in Türkiye between 16 and 17 February (Mohamed, 17.02.2023). For these aids, an aid committee was established on February 15 under the chairmanship of Minister of Justice Hasan Mahmud (Sonna, 15.2.2023). 1 million dollars of the aid was collected by the government (Somali Strategic Thinking & Cultural Research Center, 16.02.2023), and 3 million dollars by the citizens. On the other hand, Somalian parliamenters, contributed 20 percent of their monthly salaries to the aid campaign launched for earthquake victims in Türkiye on February 18. (AA, 17.2.2023). The government of the Southwest Province of Somalia also donated 100 thousand dollars for earthquake victims on 20 February (TRT, 22.2.2023). By March 8, the total amount of aid from Somalia reached 5 million dollars.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mahmud and Defense Minister Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur in Turkish, Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre in English shared a message of condolence and support on February 6 (Mohamud, 6.02.2023. Nur, 6.02.2023. Barre, 9.02.2023). On the other hand, Prime Minister Barre and the accompanying Ministerial delegation paid a condolence visit to the Mogadishu Embassy of Türkiye on February 9 (Somalia Strategic Thinking & Cultural Research Center, 9.02.2023). In the predominantly Muslim country, a commemoration ceremony was held by the Mogadishu Municipality on February 9, and after the Friday prayer on February 10, prayers were offered by people and students in mosques and Mogadishu University (AA, 9.2.2023).

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5.3 Senegal

Senegal, one of the West African countries, has been among the prominent countries with its post-earthquake search and rescue, in-kind and cash aids and its support to Türkiye. A search and rescue team of 30 people from Senegal left for Türkiye to support disaster efforts on 13 February and returned to Senegal on 24 February (AA, 15.2.2023).

Unlike other countries, Türkiye's Embassy in Dakar and Dakar Yunus Emre Enstitüsü (YEE), organized a "Solidarity with Türkiye" night on February 24 for the benefit of earthquake victims in Türkiye, and on this night painters, football players, fashion designers and photographers were donated approximately 51 works for the benefit of those affected by the earthquake. During the night, many objects were auctioned, including the costume of the world-famous Senegalese composer and artist Youssou Ndour, and the signed jersey worn by former Senegalese national football player El Hadji Diouf in the quarter-finals of the 2002 World Cup against Türkiye. All of the works offered for sale on the night when Senegalese and Turkish businessmen showed interest found buyers and 1.5 million Turkish liras were collected. In addition, President Macky Sall announced that he would donate 1 million dollars, and one of Senegal's most important sects, Sheikh Serigne Mountakha Mbacké, one of the most important sects of Senegal, also donated 165,000 dollars (seneweb, 19.2.2023). Along with these amounts, 300 thousand dollars were collected in the donation account opened in the name of the Embassy (AA, 3.3.2023).

Senegalese Türkiye Alumni Association and Türkiye-Senegal Business Council donated \$8,000 in cash on 10 February through the Turkish Embassy in Dakar. (TRT, 10.2.2023). On the other hand, the students of the Path of Compassion Association, who continue their activities in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, collected their pocket money to send to the earthquake victims on 13 February after the earthquake (TRT, 13.2.2023). An example of student aid was also seen at the African University of Science and Technology (EMIA), and its Managing Director, Mr. Aliou Sall, and some students provided cash aid for people affected by the earthquake (Ambassade de Türkiye à Dakar, 3.03.2023).

In addition to collecting 3 tons of in-kind relief materials, mostly blankets, for earthquake victims in Senegal until February 17 (TRT, 17.2.2023), Senegalese composer and artist Youssou Ndour signed the book of condolence opened by the Dakar Embassy.

5.4 Sudan

Sudan, which has been experiencing political instability and economic crisis for a long time due to internal conflicts and coups since 2018, was among the first countries to extend a helping hand to Türkiye. Sudan, which sent humanitarian aid materials to Türkiye in addition to search and rescue teams, has been on Türkiye's side both with the government and the people.

The search and rescue team of 40 people, 7 of them medical personnel, affiliated to the Civil Defense Forces within the Security Organization from Sudan, departed for Türkiye on February 10 and returned to their country on February 20 (Ulgen, 20.2.2023). In addition to the rescue team, the civilian plane carrying 1000 blankets, 250 tents and food supplies was sent to Türkiye from Khartoum International Airport (AA, 10.2.2023).

The international non-governmental organization named "Doctors World Wide Organization" organized a support and solidarity event for the earthquake victims in Türkiye and Syria under the auspices of the Sudanese Ministry of Social Development on February 16. Türkiye's Ambassador to Khartoum, Ismail Cobanoğlu, representatives of Sudanese non-governmental organizations and Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as Undersecretary of the Ministry Ahmed Ali Galam, representing the Sudanese Ministry of Social Development, attended this event (TRT, 16.2.2023).

It has been seen that the assistance in Sudan has also been provided by civil initiatives. As a matter of fact, an in-kind and cash aid campaign was launched in the city of Nyala by the descendants of the Sultan of Darfur Ali Dinar and the people of Nyala, and the aid was sent to Türkiye accompanied by a delegation. On the other hand, donations were made to the in-kind and cash aid campaign initiated by the Khartoum Embassy of Türkiye (AA, 12.2.2023).

2 Thousand tents and 20 thousand blankets gathered for earthquake survivors in Sudan were sent to Türkiye on February 19 with a ceremony held with the participation of Deputy Chairman of the Sovereignty Council and Commander of the Rapid Support Forces Gen. Muhammad Hamdan Dagalu, Turkish Ambassador to Khartoum Ismail Çobanoğlu, Minister of Social Development Ahmed Adem Bahit, undersecretaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development (TRT, 19.2.2023).

Hundreds of students of the Qur'an course in Sudan prayed for those who lost their lives and the injured in the earthquakes. At the event of the local Tadamun Association for Cooperation and Development and the African Gate Association were read the Qoran and prayers were said for Türkiye on February 7 at the Hamishkoreyb Quran Course, located in the city of Nyala in the Darfur region (AA, 7.2.2023). The condolences of the Sudanese government and people were conveyed with the condolence telegram sent by the Chairman of the Sudan Sovereignty Council and the Commander of the Army, General Abdulfettah al-Burhan, to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (AA, 7.2.2023).

5.5 Algeria

From the first day of the earthquake, Algeria, one of the North African countries, has been among the countries that stand out with both search and rescue efforts and aid. In a statement made by the Algerian Prime Minister's Office on February 10, it was announced that a decision was made to provide financial assistance of \$ 30 million to Türkiye and \$ 15 million to Syria on the instructions of President Abdelmecid Tebbun (AA, 10.2.2023). During this process, under the leadership of the Algerian Red Crescent a medical delegation with 95 tons of relief materials consisting of blankets, food, tents, medicines and medicines collected by Algerians in the presence of Ministries, official institutions, companies, businessmen and the public was sent to the earthquake zone in Türkiye (AA, 10.2.2023).

A search-and-rescue and medical team of 89 people from Algeria to Türkiye was sent on the first day of the earthquake, and many people were rescued from the rubble, especially in the works carried out in Adıyaman. (Ambassade de Türkiye à Dakar, 3.03.2023) Algerian President Tebbun called President Recep Tayyip Erdogan by phone on February 6 after the earthquake and sent a message of solidarity (AA, 10.2.2023). In addition, the President of the Algerian National Council, Mr. Salah Goudjil, visited the Embassy and offered his condolences on behalf of Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and the Algerian people (Ambassade de Türkiye à Alger, 9.02.2023).

5.6 Burundi

The steps taken by Burundi, which is one of the economically poorest countries of the continent and which has come up with economic problems in Africa, have attracted attention after the earthquake. As a matter of fact, the Burundi government, which sent a search and rescue team in the earthquake area, maintained close relations with the Turkish authorities during this process and announced their support in different fields. Burundi has been among the countries that have sent search and rescue teams to the earthquake area. The natural disaster response and search and rescue team consisting of 10 officers under the command of Colonel Gervais Niyibizi at the Burundi General Directorate of Security arrived in Türkiye on February 11 and participated in the work in the earthquake zone until February 18 (MAECD, 18.02.2023).

After the earthquake, the Turkish Embassy in Burundi launched an in-kind aid campaign and the relief material consisting of tents and blankets provided with the contributions of the embassy staff, the Burundi staff of the Turkish Maarif Foundation and the Burundi Country Representative of the Association of Diversity was shipped to Istanbul via Kigali with the support of Turkish Airlines on February 18 Jul (Ambassade de la République de Türkiye à Bujumbura, 16.02.2023). Albert Shingiro, Burundi's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, also signed the book of condolence opened at the Embassy building for the people who lost their lives in the earthquake (Ambassade de la République de Türkiye à Bujumbura, 14.02.2023).

6. Aid from Other African Countries

Campaigns have been organized in many countries in Africa, apart from the countries listed above, regarding aid to Türkiye. In addition to the aid reflected to the public, many aids sent personally or not reflected to the public have been sent. An example of this is the small amount of aid sent by an unidentified person in Cameroon and reported via social media (Faruk Aktaş, 9.02.2023).

Since the first days of the earthquake, not only NGOs or individuals, but also members of the African press have contributed to the relief efforts. The media organization Muslim News, which operates in Nigeria and closely follows Türkiye, aimed to reach more people by sharing the aid efforts initiated by the Abuja Embassy after the earthquake on its social media accounts (Muslim News Nigeria, 9.02.2023).

Aid organization arrangements of Muslim groups or communities from different parts of Africa and carrying out workings in their countries for Türkiye were among the steps taken. For example, a delegation called Jamia Mosque paid a condolence visit to the Nairobi Embassy and launched a charity campaign in Kenya (HorizonTV Kenya, 02/10/2023). Another aid step in this country has been a rare and perhaps the only example. A Kenyan businessman donated a necklace he bought for his wife to earthquake victims in Türkiye. The necklace worth \$3,745, which was delivered to the Religious Affairs Consultancy, which operates within the Turkish Embassy in Nairobi, was considered a step that should be noted, even if it is small (Office Of Religious Affairs, 24.02.2023).

In Djibouti, one of the East African countries, 120 tents gathered with the contributions of some business people and citizens, as well as food and hygiene materials, 10 generators, 6 industrial projectors, 113 blankets, 100 sweaters and 35 thermal clothes were sent to earthquake victims in Türkiye (AA, 16.2.2023. Ambassade de Türkiye à Djibouti, 16.2.2023). In addition, Djibouti's Ambassador to Ankara, Aden H. Abdillahi, on behalf of the Djibouti Government, delivered 1 million dollars to AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) in solidarity with Türkiye (Abdullahi, 15.02.2023). Printing special stamps in Djibouti for the victims of the earthquake in Kahramanmaraş-based on February 6 and donating their income to Türkiye were among the different steps taken in aid. Minister of Communication of Djibouti Ridvan Abdillahi Bahdon shared the information that the income received from the sale of the stamp will be transferred to the account opened by Türkiye for earthquake victims. (AA, 8.5.2023). In another East African country, Tanzania, 1 million dollars was collected for those affected by the earthquakes and delivered to AFAD (The Citizen, 24.3.2023).

It has been determined that young people, especially students, contribute to aid in Africa. Ugandan Muslim students donating 10 thousand dollars for earthquake victims is one of the examples of this. Aid campaigns were organized in some schools in the country. In the statements of the students, it is noteworthy that Türkiye has helped them many times and now they want to help (AA, 20.2.2023). In addition, it was recorded that 13 tons of aid materials were sent from Uganda to Türkiye (AA, 5.3.2023).

About 17 tons of in-kind aid was sent from Ghana, a West African country, for those affected by the earthquakes, and about 4 tons of relief materials were also collected by Turkish citizens and Ghanaian companies and individuals in Ghana. The materials sent include blankets, sleeping bags, clothes, sanitation materials, solar lighting, generators and hammer drill (AA, 20.2.2023).

In another West African country, Nigeria, President Mohammed Buhari's wife, Aisha Buhari, donated 10,000 blankets for those affected by the earthquakes. The blankets were delivered to the earthquake zone by a military plane belonging to Nigeria (AA, 17.2.2023). In addition, the campaign carried out by the Abuja Embassy and the aid sent from Nigeria to Türkiye include materials such as beds, blankets, hygiene products and clothing (Turkish Embassy Abuja, 25.02.2023).

In Ethiopia, where Türkiye opened its first embassy on the African continent, 3.5 million liras were collected in the aid campaign launched for those affected by earthquakes. Despite various difficulties, such as the civil war and drought that lasted for about 2 years, Ethiopians, with the contribution of the Ethiopia-based Turkish Alumni Association, paid condolence visits to all Turkish representatives such as the Addis Ababa Embassy, especially TIKA, Religious Affairs Consultancy, Commercial Consultancy, and performed funeral prayers in absentia in mosques (Polat, 28.02.2023).

Due to the earthquake disaster, an aid campaign was started by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mauritania and the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity for earthquake victims in Türkiye and Syria on February 28, 2023, and on March 3, 8 tons of clothing with 300 boxes were delivered to earthquake victims in Türkiye (T.C. Antananarivo BE, 28.02.2023). However, one of the most remarkable images in the aid made for earthquake victims from the African continent was recorded in Chad. Those who took refuge in Chad's Gaoui/Gavi Camp collected aid for earthquake victims in Türkiye, even though they actually needed it themselves (Kavas, 5.3.2023).

7. Messages of Condolences And Prayers For Türkiye

After the earthquakes in Türkiye, messages of condolence have been received successively in African countries, especially in the The African Union (AU). AU Commission President Musa Faki Mahamat announced in his social media post on 6 February that Africa is in solidarity with Türkiye and Syria after the earthquakes (Faki, 6.02.2023). In addition to the AfB, Congo, Uganda, Cameroon, Mozambique, Chad, Burkina Faso, South Sudan and Nigeria were among the countries that issued condolence messages.

The President of the Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou N'Guesso, expressed his deep sorrow for the earthquake in his written statement on February 7 and stated that both his government and the people of Congo stand by the Turkish people (Présidence de la République, 7.02.2023). On 13 February, Guy Nestor Itoua, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo to Kigali, visited his Turkish counterpart, Aslan Alper Yüksel, Türkiye's Ambassador to Kigali, and conveyed his condolences (Turkish Embassy Kigali, 13.02.2023).

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni expressed his sorrow for the loss of life and destruction in the earthquake in his social media post on February 7, and issued a condolence message on behalf of himself and all Ugandans (Museveni, 7.02.2023). On February 9, Izabelle Housna Kassire, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, signed the condolence book opened at the Turkish Embassy in Encemine (T.R. Encemine Embassy 9.02.2023).

Mozambican Foreign Minister Veronica Macamo visited the Turkish Embassy in Maputo on February 10 and signed the condolence book opened at the Embassy for the earthquake disaster (TurkishEmbassyMaputo 10.02.2023). Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa also signed the book of condolences opened at the Turkish Embassy in Harare on the same day (TurkishEmbassyHarare 10.02.2023).

Prime Minister of Ivory Coast Patrick Achi and Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Kandia Camara personally visited the Turkish Embassy on 14 February and conveyed President Alassane Ouattara's message of condolence and solidarity for the earthquake disaster (Barim, 14.02.2023). The Transitional Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, Appollinaire Joachim Kyelem de Tambela, visited the Vagadugu Embassy on February 16 and expressed condolences on behalf of his government and people for those who lost their lives in the earthquakes (T.R. Vagadugu Embassy, 16.02.2023).

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed called President Erdoğan on February 17 and conveyed his condolences for the loss of life and destruction in the earthquake. During the meeting, he stated that Ethiopia has always committed to helping and sending supplies and rescue teams (Ali, 17.02.2023). Condolence messages in Ethiopia did not only remain at the diplomatic level, but also condolence visits were made by Ethiopians to offices such as TIKA and YTB (Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities) (Polat, 8.02.2023).

After the earthquakes Kahramanmaraş-based in Türkiye, humanitarian aid, contribution to search and rescue efforts and condolence messages from African countries, as well as prayers were made from different points of the continent. In countries where Muslims are the majority and have a historical past with Türkiye, such as Nigeria and Tanzania, prayers were made by different segments and messages of support to Türkiye were posted.

After the Friday prays, prayers were made for Türkiye and the victims of the earthquake by Sokoto Sultan Saad Ebubekir III in Sokoto State, located in northwest Nigeria and where the Sokoto Sultanate ruled in the past. In addition, Sultan Abu Bakr III made a call for help for Türkiye (Daily Trust, 15.2.2023). On the other hand, Prayers were made in many countries, including Uganda, South Sudan, (US Muslims, 8.2.2023) Nigeria, (Karabulut, 9.02.2023) Tanzania (Mehmet, 10.02.2023) and Zanzibar (Hello Africa, 13.02.2023).

8. Efforts Of Turkish Graduate Students In The Earthquake Zone

In addition to institutional, social and individual aid from African countries and peoples, it has been observed that African students studying in Türkiye voluntarily made great efforts in the fields of logistics, translation and humanitarian aid since the first days of the earthquake (Neziroglu, 10.02.2023).

One of the most popular names among African students is Moustapha Ndiaye from Senegal. Ndiaye, who uses his Twitter account named “Musti Kusti”, said, “I did everything that can be done remotely, but it is not enough. I searched everyone I know but couldn't find a solution. I speak English, French, Arabic. I greet the incoming foreign teams and act as translators. If necessary, I carry parcels and pack them. I need to do something. I have African friends, we are all ready to go to the region and do our best. Just show the way. We have filled out the forms but no response has been received yet.” He explained that not only he but also the African students around her were ready to help in different fields by sharing the information (Kusti, 7.02.2023).

During the earthquake, Kusti also reacted to the news in the foreign press against Türkiye (Kusti, 7.02.2023), guided the earthquake area (Kusti, 8.02.2023) and returned to Istanbul on 22 February (Kusti, 23.02.2023). Underlining that he had been cycling in Türkiye for 4 years and that he received a lot of support from the Turkish people, Kusti said, “I traveled around Türkiye for nothing. I have made families in each of the earthquake-affected cities. They parted their cozy mattresses, looked after them like their own children. That's why you can't stop. I owe a lot to this country and its people. I ate your bread for 10 years.” He used his expression (Kusti, 12.02.2023).

Musti Kusti has been one of the most prominent African students because he uses social media extensively. However, there are many African students in the earthquake zone who help those in need in different areas. Ömer A. Jimale from Somali is one of them. Jimale shared on February 8, “I am eternally grateful to beautiful Türkiye and its kind people who gave me my master's and doctorate degrees at a time of need. Today I am with my Turkish brothers, loading trucks for earthquake victims. I give back as little as I can.” He shared the knowledge that he contributed to the relief efforts by sharing (Jimale, 8.02.2023).

Ethiopian Sadik Kadir is among the African students who contributed to the relief efforts. As a matter of fact, he shared on February 9, “As Ethiopians, we started a mobilization in both directions as much as we could in the fight against the bitter reality Türkiye is now... Both materially and spiritually... Our representative delivered 1000 blankets for earthquake victims in the Hatay region...More importantly, we have read the Whole of Qur'an for victims as a pray. ..” explained (Sadik, 9.02.2022).

In addition to individual efforts, African students gathered under the roof of non-governmental organizations tried to support the earthquake area. As an example, within the Lighthouse Association, a student group including Ethiopian Salih Muhammed and Ghanaian Yusuf Mustafa packed food parcels and participated in distribution activities in rural neighborhoods (AA, 11.4.2023). In addition, the TADD (Association of Friends of All Africa) has announced that African students and associations want to go to the earthquake zone both to provide back-up services and to provide interpreting services (TADDAfrika 11.02.2023).

9. Conclusion and Recommendations

In this study, the results of the relations Türkiye has established with African countries in recent years, especially the reactions of both official authorities and civil society and individuals in African countries during the disaster process such as an earthquake and in an environment where Türkiye needs assistance, have been examined. In this sense, it was aimed to look at the relations established between Türkiye and African countries from a different perspective and tried to reveal the aid and support that came from Africa to Türkiye, not from Türkiye to Africa, during the earthquake process

After the Kahramanmaraş-based earthquakes on February 6, both government and civilian institutions and individuals carried out relief efforts in many African countries, and messages of support were given to the Turkish authorities with visits and prayers. In this process, it was seen that the South Africa Republic, Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, Senegal and Algeria, which are African countries, came to the fore in aid and support for earthquake victims. In addition to these countries, Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Djibouti, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Chad, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and the Republic of Congo, as well as the The African Union (AU) carried out relief efforts for earthquake victims and messages of support were given to Türkiye.

As a result of the studies conducted in this study, it was determined that in the post-earthquake process, 20 of 54 African countries sent condolence messages to Türkiye through official authorities, aid was collected for earthquake victims in 16 countries and prayers were offered by Muslims in the country, and 5 countries sent search and rescue teams to Türkiye.

In Turkish foreign policy, despite the fact that the African continent has been one of the most prominent regions in recent years and has developed relations with the continent through many institutions and organizations, the fact that only 16 of the continental countries have sent aid for earthquake victims is on the table as a noteworthy topic. Undoubtedly, the political, economic and security problems of African countries have an important role in this. On the other hand, it is seen that steps were taken as a result of the efforts of official-civil institutions based in Türkiye in a significant part of the countries that sent aid to the earthquake victims.

The remarkable effects of the steps taken individually, as well as the official authorities, in the aid made to Türkiye from African countries after the earthquake disaster were also determined. Among the prominent examples are the people who are staying in Chad's Gaoui/Gavi Refugee Camp and need help collecting aid for Türkiye and the Kenyan businessman donating the necklace he bought for his wife to earthquake victims. On the other hand, the support of countries such as Burundi and Somalia, which actually have economic, security and food problems, to help Türkiye is among the significant data. At this point, it should also be noted that the steps taken and established relations in that country, both diplomatic and civil society and commercial, have a great impact on the proportion of aid received in Türkiye. This situation is also a response to the negative criticisms made by some segments in the domestic public opinion, which shows how important the official, civil or economic steps taken in the relations with African countries are. Another issue identified in this study is that some families in South Africa and Nigeria, with whom relations have continued since the Ottoman Empire, showed support during the earthquake process. As a matter of fact, the descendants of Abu Bakr Efendi who are living today in South Africa, who have recently been granted citizenship, have supported Türkiye during the earthquake process.

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Ekler /Attachments

Attachment -1: Steps Taken by African Countries for Earthquake Victims

Steps Taken by African Countries for Earthquake Victims

	Country	Search Rescue	Aids	Prayer	Condolence
1.	Sudan	X	X	X	X
2.	Algeria	X	X	X	X
3.	South Africa	X	X	X	X
4.	Senegal	X	X	X	X
5.	Burundi	X	X	X	X
6.	Somalia		X	X	X
7.	Cameron		X	X	X
8.	Nigeria		X	X	X
9.	Kenya		X	X	X
10.	Cibuti		X	X	X
11.	Tanzania		X	X	X
12.	Uganda		X	X	X
13.	Ghana		X	X	X
14.	Ethiopia		X	X	X
15.	Mauritius		X	X	X
16.	Chad		X	X	X
17.	Mozambique				X
18.	Ivory Coast				X
19.	Burkina Faso				X
20.	Congo Rep.				X
21.	The African Union (AU)				X