



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación  
Bildungsinternationale

**Head Office**  
15, Boulevard Bischoffsheim  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel +32 2 224 06 11  
headoffice@ei-ie.org  
www.ei-ie.org

**President**  
Susan Hopgood  
**General Secretary**  
David Edwards

Brussels, 9 February 2023

**TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

## **URGENT ACTION APPEAL: Earthquake in Turkey and Syria**

Dear Colleagues,

Education International has been contacted by its member organisations in Turkey and Syria on 6 February regarding the emergency crisis following the devastation of a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. This, the most severe earthquake Turkey had experienced in almost 100 years, also sent shockwaves across northern Syria and parts of Lebanon. EI commits to supporting member organisations in the affected areas.

As rescue missions were underway, hundreds of strong aftershocks followed. At the time of writing, over 20,000 people are reported dead. Hundreds of thousands of people were directly impacted and have lost their homes, including many teachers. Our Syrian member organization reported that 28 schools have been destroyed as well as five of their branch union offices. Many teachers have lost their homes. Humanitarian needs in the region, which hosts many people displaced by the 12-year conflict in Syria, were already high before these earthquakes deepened the existing crisis.

EI stands in solidarity with our members affected by this catastrophe. An initial EI financial contribution has been earmarked. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the families of those who have tragically passed, are recovering from injuries or have lost their home.

The Turkish unions have set up emergency crisis desks in the affected zones. They are also coordinating efforts with their local union platforms. In the regions affected by the earthquakes, their branch buildings have collapsed, and there are members of the union and relatives who are under the rubble. However, much more is needed to help teacher union members and students. Temperatures are below zero, leaving hundreds of thousands exposed to further danger. We therefore invite member organisations to support their sister organisations in Syria and Turkey by contributing to the EI Solidarity Fund at:

We thank you in anticipation for your support and generosity. As a Turkish union leader told us: "Solidarity is the only way to alleviate the suffering of the earthquake!"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Edwards'.

David Edwards  
General Secretary