

RAISING THE FUTURE: A HUMAN-ORIENTED BREAKTHROUGH FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE EARTHQUAKE ZONE

CEM AVCIOĞLU, SCR

Disaster
Series
No: 6

Being A Doer, A Listener and A Friend

Marcus Aurelius, the last of the Five Good Emperors once famously said “Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one.”. That’s exactly the attitude we need today.

Indeed, I was surmising the urgency of being good, being a “doer” last month while re-visiting Adiyaman, Antakya, Iskenderun, Kahramanmaraş and Gaziantep – these, of course, being parts of the area struck by the severe earthquake of February 6th, 2023.

My first field visit to these cities as an economist came some 8 weeks after the disastrous earthquake hit. Since then, I go and visit every year. You may recall from last year that our Economic Research Department committed to a new research agenda which involved field visits to the immediate earthquake zone, to be followed by a report to be published every year between 2024 and 2026. This year’s field visit was also a part of fulfilling this commitment.

We have seen many examples of hard work on reconstruction proceeding in these cities, while there is still a very long to-do list. Nevertheless, the work I have observed in the field is mainly focused on the physical infrastructure of the cities. Is this enough? Certainly not. Nobel Prize Winner Angus Deaton warns us at this very point about human’s wellbeing. Deaton notes that (economists) “often equate wellbeing to money or consumption, missing much of what matters to people.”¹

His words resonated in my mind as we were driving on the roads in the earthquake region, some of which were still under construction and which suddenly become muddy in places after a short burst of rain. Safe infrastructure, safe and clean cities and decent housing are a sine qua non. We do not discuss the need. We just plan to deliver it as quickly as possible.

We should also remember that the smiles on children’s faces and their right to enjoy their childhood in a secure neighborhood are also among the things we should deliver. Laughter is strength. To be able to laugh again, to live with the hope of a better future, is an undeniable human right, wouldn’t you agree?

Society as a whole has a responsibility to bring this to those who cannot enjoy these basic rights. How can we undertake such a duty as individuals? Many people might think that we do not have the power, yet we disagree. Delivering smiles to children’s faces and hope to their hearts starts with the warmth of family security. I am referring here to a broader definition of family which coincides with social capital. That is indeed the reason why I ask each and every one of you to go and visit the earthquake region. Not to see the infrastructure, but to connect with the people. Alluding to the words of Marcus Aurelius, let’s waste no more time on discussing how we can help. Let’s go there, meet the people, listen to them and then do the job. That’s what being a family means. And this report is devoted to reminding everyone that we are a big family and we should remain so.

Burcu ÜNÜVAR, PhD

Director – Chief Economist

¹ <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2024/03/Symposium-Rethinking-Economics-Angus-Deaton>

Raising the Future

On February 6, 2023, two devastating earthquakes, with their epicenter in Kahramanmaraş, directly impacted 14 million people over across 11 provinces, while leaving an entire nation in shock and mourning. In this great disaster, approximately 54,000 people lost their lives and 107,000 were injured. While early estimates put the total cost of the earthquakes to the Turkish economy at USD 104 billion, approximately USD 75 billion of public spending has already been carried out in the last two years to compensate for the loss and damage caused by the earthquakes and also to reduce disaster risks (Presidency of Strategy and Budget, 2025).

It will take some time for the region to fully recover. Although the reconstruction work is currently being carried out intensively, there are still difficulties regarding housing and shortages of some basic services. It is clear that failures in necessary planning and the implantation implementation of essential measures not only pave the way for the destruction of homes and workplaces when disaster strikes, but also threaten long-term interruption to services such as education and health, which are the basis of the productive power in society. The disaster has also destroyed the historical and cultural textures of cities, damaging the rich tapestry of ties that bind us together and form our collective memory. This destruction has the potential to affect not only our present, socially and economically, but also our future.

The last thing anyone wants in a region already suffering from the great loss of life, combined with other deprivations, is a transgenerational spiral of negativity. With this awareness, our issue should not only be to implement the physical infrastructure and production facilities, but also to take steps which put people at the heart of what we do and can raise society as a whole. Steps to be taken in this area represent - in a sense - "raising the future" through the significant long-term gains they promise. As TSKB Economic Research, we placed the participation of vulnerable groups in employment at the center of our 2025 report and examined its potential contributions to social capital and social transformation.

Focus: TSKB Economic Research's Body of Work on Disasters

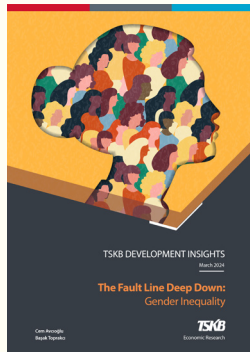
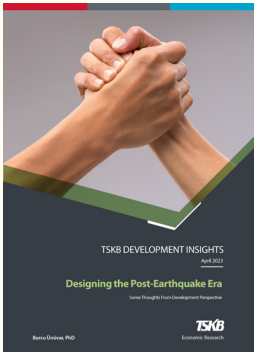


Due to the far-reaching effects of disasters, disaster resilience is at the heart of many other development themes discussed in our work and has been incorporated into our 2024-2026 research program. In the wake of the 2023 earthquakes, it was clear that the issue should be on the agenda of all economic actors. As the need to recognize, assess and understand the risks arising from natural disasters grows, TSKB Economic Research is committed to the following during the period in question:

- i) To monitor the recovery process in the earthquake zone and publish annual reports,
- ii) To consider disaster risk in macroeconomic evaluations and projections,
- iii) Re-evaluating our development themes in terms of disaster risk,
- iv) To contribute to constructive dialogue on the issue, involve stakeholders and raise awareness.

Building on the understanding that a disaster year is not confined to a single year, with the commitments we have made we aim to:

- keep the multidimensional planning of the reconstruction of the provinces affected by the earthquakes in 2023 within a development framework on the agenda of economic actors,
- direct the international development financing sources, which are expected to accelerate for 3 to 5 years following disasters, towards areas that will produce concrete results in line with needs and based on the right justifications:
- stress the fact that earthquakes are not the only disasters and that Türkiye's resilience should be enhanced against both geological and non-geological hazards,
- associate increasing disaster resilience not only with improving physical conditions but also with restoring the ecosystem and strengthening social integration,
- contribute to strengthening a constructive discussion environment regarding the disaster management process.



Why should we talk about the social transformation?

With the report we published last year under the title "Comma: An Earthquake Year Is Not a Single Year", we emphasized that the recovery that can be achieved in the disaster area can be accelerated by directing the production range to "environmental products" and determining the region as a "green economic area". In this respect, we have offered some indication of the role that a transformation focused on low-carbon, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable development can play in the recovery (Tur, 2024).

Ahead of this year's report, we visited the region. We met business people, representatives from NGOs and academia, listened to their ideas and observations and monitored the physical situation in the region. We understood that just as the degree of physical destruction in the different regions we visited varied, so did the needs. What we understood to be omnipresent was the desire for people to be able to dream about the future again. The sense of solidarity formed in the container cities after the disaster was an element that transformed and strengthened social capital with the intense presence and support of civil society in the region.

When it comes to disasters, social capital becomes even more important. Indeed, post-disaster recovery depends less on the extent of the damage or the amount of aid received, and more on social capital, which represents the strength of societal bonds (Ünüvar, 2023). Strengthening social capital is not only a guarantee for a strong, lasting, and swift recovery, but also a key component of disaster resilience. With many housing projects on the cusp of completion and as NGOs gradually withdraw from the field, the needs beyond housing have come to the forefront, such as individuals trying to establish new social ties in new living spaces. As a matter of fact, dreams are about being able to become participating and productive individuals while returning to normal life - that is, to reach their personal potential.

Today, the deepening ecosystem crisis, increasing geopolitical tensions and sharp political choices that change the course of international trade have all exacerbated uncertainties over global growth. With a rapidly aging world population and the social problems that will come with it, countries are endeavouring to work together to bring about the transformation driven by ecosystem crisis and technological transformation. It is now more widely accepted that this effort must be complemented by a third type of transformation: the social transformation.

It is clear that infrastructure and superstructure investments and production patterns in the country's economy should be harmonized with the transformations required by the current era. However, these efforts can only be successful with the policies to create a strong and well-educated workforce with access to decent work for all, especially women, young people and people with disabilities. At this point, positive changes in existing cultural norms and gender roles would pave the way for vulnerable segments to participate in social life through productive employment.

Social capital, which refers to the structure and quality of social relations from which individuals, social groups and society are able to benefit, are is primarily formed in the family and later in the neighbourhood and at work. Today, with the work carried out in the earthquake zone, families have moved to the living spaces they need, while basic services such as health and education and infrastructure are strengthened and the environment is being rebuilt. However, workplaces are one of the areas where interpersonal relations develop, with a common sense of identity, understanding and values being forged, and trust and

cooperation are developed. Social bonds, which first formed in the container cities and were then re-established in new living spaces, can be raised to a higher level with common goals and learning dimensions in the workplace. Therefore, revitalizing economic activity in the region and creating new employment opportunities should be one of the main objectives.

Although the strengthening of social capital has the potential to provide an important input to social transformation, policy design is one of the key elements of recovery, and the private sector needs to adapt to these policies. The integration of women, young people and people with disabilities - which can be listed as vulnerable groups - into employment markets can ensure that the new social ties established in the earthquake-affected region are permanent and inclusive, while minimizing the risk of erosion to social capital brought about by the disaster. At this point, it is critical to deploy international development financing resources that can be provided by promoting the participation of vulnerable segments of the population in economic life.

It is in line with these goals that we, at TSKB Economic Research, have chosen to focus on what can be done in our 2025 report on the axis of the social transformation and social capital, while recovery efforts are still ongoing on the ground. However, before going into the detail here, we will share the impressions we gained during the visit in light of the official data.

Where are we after more than 2 years?

The recovery in employment has taken hold among the affected provinces

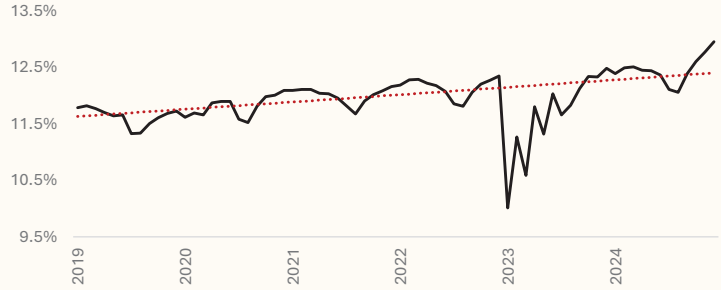
Data provided by the Social Security Institution (SGK) indicates the significant recovery in employment in the 11 provinces directly affected by the February 6 earthquakes. Although the number of employees, which reached 3.32 million in the provinces of the region at the end of 2024, remains 2% lower than the level indicated in the 2019-2022 trend, it is significant that the share of the region's employment in Türkiye's total has reached 13% (Graph 1). The recent acceleration in job

creation in provinces such as Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya, which lagged behind until the third quarter of 2024, drove an improvement in the region as a whole. These three provinces are where reconstruction activity has been at its most intense, and will account for approximately 68% of the construction to be completed by the end of 2025.²

According to the report published by the Presidency of Strategy and Budget last February, a total of 776,000 homes and commercial places of business were either moderately or severely damaged, or destroyed in the earthquakes (Presidency of Strategy and Budget, 2025). According to the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, 169,000 homes and workplaces have been delivered over the past two years, with an additional 422,000 expected to be completed by the end of 2025.² This has not only contributed to the spatial transformation needed by the people living in the region, but has also been vital in bringing back citizens who had temporarily left these cities. In addition, the real sector companies which that we contacted during the course of our visit highlighted that they were able to operate their facilities at their desired level of capacity, but emphasized that they had continued to experience difficulty accessing qualified employment after the earthquake. Although the improvement in the field of housing does not provide a solution to the root cause of this problem, it may contribute to alleviating it.

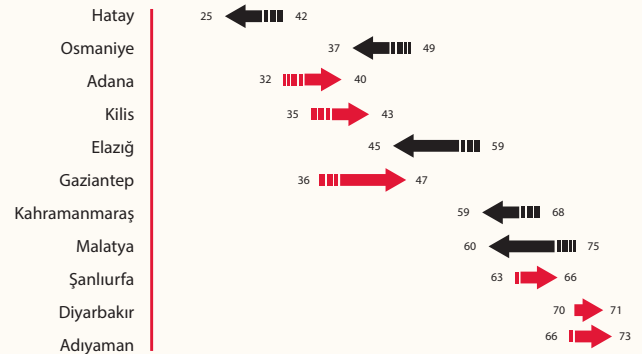
The change in average daily earnings in the region in the last two years was close to the national average; however, a divergence between provinces is apparent. In this period, five of the directly affected provinces (Hatay, Osmaniye, Elazığ, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya) saw some of the highest increases in wages among Türkiye's 81 provinces. For example, average earnings in Hatay have increased by 260% over the last two years, elevating the province to the 25th highest earning province (2022: 42nd) (Graph 2). During this period, six provinces saw their rankings fall.

Graph 1: Share of Earthquake Zone in Total Employment (vs. 2019-2022 trend)



Source: SGK, TSKB Economic Research

Graph 2: Change in Provinces' Wage Rankings (between 2022 and 2024)



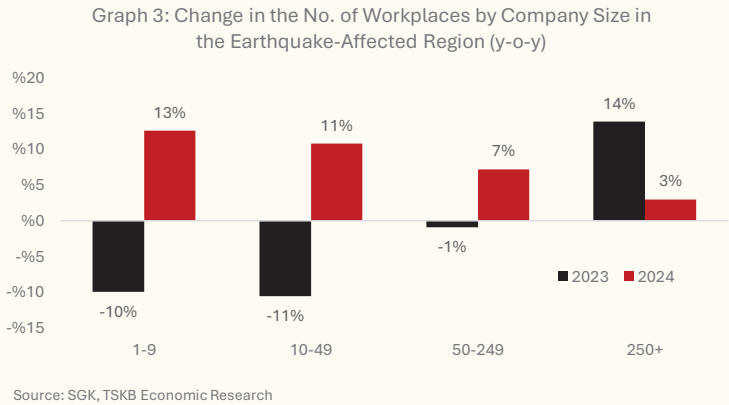
Source: SGK, TSKB Economic Research

² <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/deprem-bolgesindeki-konut-ve-is-yerleri-yil-sonuna-kadar-hak-sahiplerine-teslim-edilecek-/3470163>

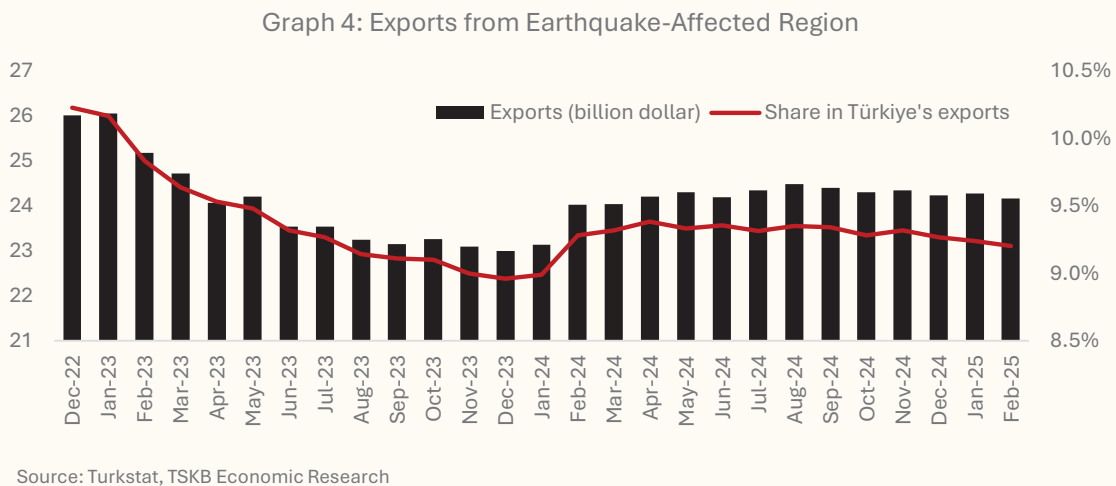
SMEs are gaining momentum, but exports remain far short of their previous levels

During 2023, the year of the disaster, there were double-digit falls in the number of companies with less than 50 employees, while very strong increases in the number of companies with 250 or more employees. During 2024, the number of micro, small and medium-sized companies increased back to their pre-disaster levels (Graph 3). These companies, which account for more than 97% of the total pool of companies, contributed to the recovery in employment. At this point, the Ministry of Treasury and Finance's extension of the force majeure situation for small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the provinces in the earthquake zone at the beginning of 2025 may support the continued recovery in the region.

In contrast with the recovery in employment, the export performance of the directly affected provinces paints a somewhat different picture. The region's exports, which stood at USD 26 billion in 2022, decreased to USD 23 billion in 2023. This decline was, of course, a reflection of the compromised energy and transport infrastructure in the aftermath of the disaster. However, exports realized in the last year remain far short of their



pre-earthquake levels, at approximately USD 24 billion dollars (Graph 4). The stagnation in the textile and ready-to-wear sector, which has a significant share in the region's industry, is partially to blame for this decline. In light of these developments, the region's share in Turkey's Türkiye's exports decreased by 1 percentage point, from 10.2% in December 2022 to 9.2% as of early 2025.



People must be at the heart of the restructuring

The need for social transformation is growing

Studies on the transformation of social structures has have remained far behind the studies on the transformation caused by the ecosystem crisis and the technological transformation. The structure of social transformation is based on local dynamics, requiring a wide variety of concepts and criteria, and the longer-term perspective needed renders the subject a challenging field of study. However, this in no way diminishes the need for the transformation. In fact, the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda underlines the importance of equality, justice, peace and inclusive growth for sustainable development (UN, 2015). It represents an environment where access to basic needs, health and education gains, a sense of belonging and security, decent work opportunities and political participation are possible for all. From this point of view, sustainable development needs the transformation of social structures and relations which that have condemned people to disadvantaged positions (UNRISD, 2015).

We have now reached a turning point on the journey of global development. Although the share of the world's population living in extreme poverty has been declining steadily for many years, this decline has slowed over the last 10 years, with the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing geopolitical tensions presenting a significant stumbling block to this recovery, especially in low-and middle-income countries. (Avcıoğlu, 2024). The policies and developments brought about by an ageing population and the need for transformation have led to negative social consequences, even in developed economies today. Developing countries, on the other hand, have had to prioritize social transformation, which is complementary to the twin transformation in order to prevent possible destruction of employment markets and keep their exports competitive.

On the other hand, when it comes to the disaster zone, it should be borne in mind that major disasters pose new challenges to development. While socially and economically disadvantaged households struggle to recover from the effects of disasters, vulnerable groups including women, children and young people may face increasing inequality long after the disaster occurs. The situation of these segments deserves special attention in a development journey where we “leave no one behind”.

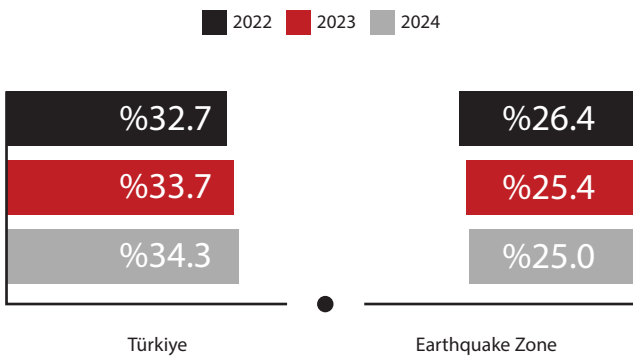
The alarming state of women's employment in the region

According to the 2024 results of the Global Gender Gap Index published annually by the World Economic Forum, Turkey Türkiye ranks 127th among the 146 countries evaluated (WEF, 2024). The assessment conducted under four main headings - economic participation and opportunity, educational gain, health and survival, and political empowerment - reveals the need for improvement in Türkiye. Women, who undertake more housework and caring responsibilities than men due to social norms, also lack access to production resources, finance, information and technology, and face barriers when it comes to taking part in decision-making processes, leaving them more vulnerable to disasters. Moreover, disasters exacerbate existing inequalities with the destruction they cause in living spaces and conditions (Avcıoğlu & Toprakçı, 2024).

Most of the provinces directly affected by the earthquakes in February 2023 had felt the need to make progress in the field of gender equality, even before the disaster. According to Türkiye's Gender Equality Scorecard in 81 Provinces, prepared under the leadership of TOBB and TSKB in cooperation with TEPAV, six provinces in the region languish with lower gender equality performance than Turkey's Türkiye's average, while 11 provinces are, on average, performing 53% below the full equality benchmark (TEPAV, 2020). Although provinces such as Osmaniye and Adana - which were relatively unaffected by the earthquake - raised the region's average score, the region lags 12% behind the average of the 10 provinces to gain the highest scores. In the provinces directly affected by the earthquake, as in Turkey Türkiye as a whole, the sub-heading of women's participation in education remains relatively strong. However, results in the sub-headings of representation in politics and the economy and participation in productive activities were very weak.

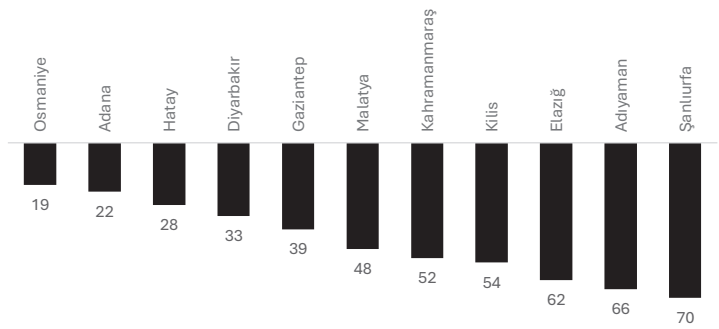
To build a strong society, the talents and experience of all individuals need to be used in economic life, as well as in the social and political field. In a conjuncture where societies are ageing, the participation of segments which could not be included in the labor market before becomes even more necessary to sustain economic growth. Human capital accounts for about two-thirds of global wealth, while half of human capital accumulation is derived from work experience (McKinsey Global Institute, 2022). A World Bank study using data from 145 countries between 1990 and 2016 reveals that work experience accounts for one-third of the income gap between developed and developing countries— a share equal to that of education (Jedwab, Romer, Islam, & Samaniego, 2021).

Graph 6: Share of Women in Employment in Türkiye and Earthquake - Affected Region



Source: SGK, TSKB Economic Research

Graph 5: Gender Equality Rankings of Provinces in Earthquake-Affected Region (among 81 provinces)



Source: Turkey's Gender Equality Scorecard in 81 Provinces, TSKB Economic Research

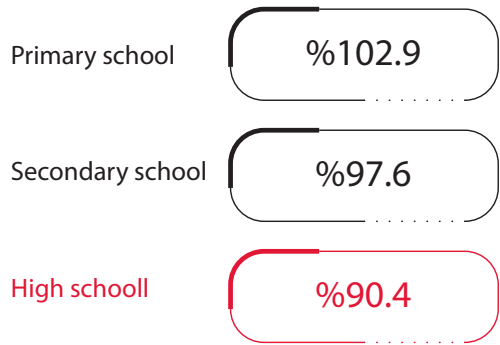
In light of these figures, the implementation of policies and investments that will boost women's participation in economic life in the earthquake zone is a priority. In fact, figures provided by the Social Security Institution (SGK) on registered women's employment paint a worrying picture in this area. Women's employment declined in the 11 provinces directly affected by the earthquakes, contrary to the trend in Turkey Türkiye as a whole. At the end of 2024, the share of women in total employment in the region remained at 25%, some 1.4 percentage points below the pre-earthquake level (Graph 6). This rate points to a significant difference of 9.3 percentage points compared to the national average. The figures, combined with the findings that 52% of women were working informally in 11 provinces before the disaster, highlight the need to step up investments to increase employment opportunities in the region and take action to promote gender equality.

Due to social norms, the burden of unpaid housework and care duties often falls on women. This, combined with other risks posed by informality and gender pay inequality, has long-term negative consequences for women and households. At this point, the expansion and accessibility of early childhood education and elderly care services stand out as key areas of transformation that can trigger and facilitate cultural change. Improvement in these areas will establish a fairer environment for access to the new employment opportunities that will arise in the region.

Indicators on education and employment of young people and people with disabilities deserve attention

Statistics on education, which is another important component in the accumulation of human capital, offer us various insights. Figures published by the Ministry of National Education (MEB) indicate that there was no negative shift in the share of female students of various levels of education among total students after the disaster – a valuable indicator for the region, given that adverse living conditions brought about by major disasters are known to bring an end of the educational life of students, predominantly women, widening the gender gap. Nevertheless, monitoring the change in the total number of students compared to the pre-disaster period appears to be important.

Graph 7: Ratio of the No. of Students to the Pre-Disaster Level
(academic year 2023/24 vs. 2021/22)

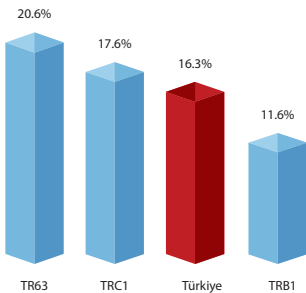


Source: MEB, TSKB Economic Research

The earthquake-affected region, which was home to 21% of Turkey's Türkiye's child population (ages 0–17) before the disaster, presents a significant picture in terms of youth employment. The youth unemployment rates observed in the TR63 (Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Osmaniye) and TRC1 (Gaziantep, Adiyaman and Kilis) regions—both heavily affected by the earthquake and home to relatively large populations—were 4.3 and 1.3 percentage points higher, respectively, than the national average by the end of 2024 (Graph 8a). In these regions, the share of young people not participating in the labor force also remains above the national average, while the TRB1 region—which includes Malatya and Elazığ—stands 10 percentage points higher than the national level in this indicator (Graph 8b).

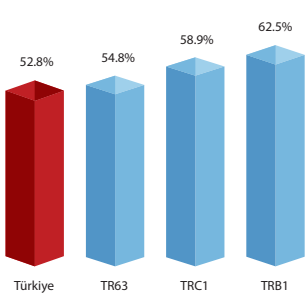
A striking aspect of the MEB data is the change in high school enrollment when compared to previous years. The figures for the 2023/2024 school year indicate a decrease of around 10% in the number of students (Graph 7) with the sharpest falls in Hatay (18.5%), Adiyaman (20.1%) and Malatya (24.1%). Due to the loss of livelihoods among households in the disaster area, especially elderly older children can break away from education and start working. Official data does not provide an explanation for the decline in the number of enrolled students at the high school level; however, the figures warrant close monitoring as they may signal early school leaving and entry into the labor force among children.

Graph 8a: Unemployment Rate Among Youth (aged 15-25, 2024)



Source: Turkstat, TSKB Economic Research

Graph 8b: Labor Force Nonparticipation Among Youth (aged 15-25, 2024)



Source: Turkstat, TSKB Economic Research

During our field visit this year, we observed that companies operating in the textile sector, which is an important driver of the region's economy, have turned to productivity-enhancing investments that reduce the need for manpower and increase productivity as they seek to maintain their competitiveness in export markets in the face of cost pressure. These investments have led to a shift in the skill sets needed by companies, increasing the need for a qualified workforce. In this respect, it is vital to continue the programs related to gaining technical and digital skills in the region, with a focus on women, young people and people with disabilities. Carrying out these efforts under the coordination of different structures such as the private sector, chambers of industry and commerce, regional development agencies and non-governmental organizations would scale up these activities. In addition, collaborations such as internship programs that can be established between educational institutions, universities and companies may also add momentum to the improvement to be achieved.

Employment of people with disabilities should be considered as an important area. We cannot see the whole picture, as the İŞKUR data, which is the only up-to-date source of information regarding employment of disabled individuals, only covers those working in workplaces that are obliged to employ disabled people and those employed in disabled positions in public institutions. However, we are able to ascertain two important points, indicating the need to take steps in this area: i) a significant proportion of those with disabilities live in low-income households (OECD, 2022), and ii) the February 2023 earthquakes caused more than 107,000 injuries in the directly affected provinces, and although the official number has not been published, many of those people continue to suffer from disabilities. We know that people with disabilities face difficulty participating in social and economic life in almost every part of the world. The barriers to inclusion of people with disabilities in employment exacerbate the difficulties faced by them and their families. Meanwhile, employees with disabilities are more likely to experience talent mismatch in the labour labor market than in other segments, with the negative impact of mismatch on earnings particularly evident for this group (Jones & Sloane, 2010). Naturally, when we refer to a 'recovery for all', people with disabilities have to be at the heart of this effort.

On the other hand, Türkiye stands out as the country with the widest regional digital divide in the OECD (Avcioğlu, 2021). In certain regions, more than 40% of individuals do not use the internet or have a computer. Strengthening the digital infrastructure in the earthquake zone and adapting human capital to technological developments could increase the capability of a region to innovate and enable innovative companies to be established in the region to benefit from the local workforce. In fact, new investments are being undertaken in areas such as defence defense and civil aviation in the provinces directly affected by the earthquake.³ These investments may also prove valuable in the transformation of human capital, enabling the young people who have developed themselves to stay in their hometowns, and play a role in the repair of social networks.

³ <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/bilim-teknoloji/kahramanmarasta-kurulan-savunma-sanayi-sirketine-ortaklik-icin-168-basvuru-yapildi/3211049>

Focus: TSKB Continues to Support Education and Development in the Earthquake-Affected Region



With the “11 Libraries in 11 Provinces” project launched to support education following the Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquakes in 2023, TSKB is contributing to the strengthening of the educational infrastructure in the region. The project, which began in September 2023 in Gölbaşı, Adıyaman, has led to the opening of 11 libraries within two years—fulfilling its commitment with libraries established in Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Adana, Osmaniye, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya, and most recently in Elazığ’s Karşıyaka Secondary School on the occasion of TSKB’s 75th anniversary.

TSKB continues its socially beneficial, impact-driven projects that contribute to equal opportunities in education with the “TSKB 75th Anniversary Preschool Classroom” project, launched to support early childhood education, which plays a critical role in children’s cognitive and emotional development. The first classroom under the project opened on February 14, 2025, at Kilis Öncüpınar Primary School. Following Kilis, preschool classrooms were opened at Malatya Söğüt Primary School and Elazığ Muratçık and Yenice Primary School. These classrooms include special learning areas such as science, music, and math corners. Throughout its 75th anniversary year, TSKB aims to expand its contribution in this area by opening preschool classrooms in various provinces in need.

TSKB Centennial of the Republic Libraries:

- 1 - Adıyaman, Gölbaşı / Mehmet Akif Ersoy İlkokulu
- 2 - Gaziantep, Nurdağı / Terken İlkokulu/Ortaokulu
- 3 - Kahramanmaraş, Pazarcık / Çimko İlkokulu
- 4 - Adana, Yüreğir / Yahya Kemal Beyatlı 100. Yıl İlkokulu
- 5 - Osmaniye, Merkez / Gazi Mustafa Kemal Ortaokulu
- 6 - Şanlıurfa, Siverek / 15 Temmuz Şehitleri İlk ve Ortaokulu
- 7 - Diyarbakır, Dicle / Dicle Kuru Köyü Hacı Ali Kaya İlkokulu ve Kuru Ortaokulu
- 8 - Hatay, Günyazı / Hatay Anadolu Lisesi
- 9 - Kilis, Polateli / Kilis Çok Programlı Anadolu Lisesi
- 10 - Malatya, Yeşilyurt / Şehit Feyzullah Taşkınsoy Ortaokulu
- 11 - Elâzığ, Merkez / Karşıyaka Ortaokulu



³ <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/bilim-teknoloji/kahramanmaraşta-kurulan-savunma-sanayi-sirketine-ortaklik-icin-168-basvuru-yapildi/3211049>

We are only at the beginning of the struggle

The earthquake zone is still a scene of intense reconstruction activity. This process will continue for some considerable time to come. Life is gradually moving from the container cities to newly completed housing. While this is important for the morale of local people who are in dire need of a spatial change, it is also extremely valuable in bringing the citizens who temporarily migrated to other provinces back to their hometowns, and therefore ensuring the return of a qualified workforce.

While infrastructure and housing are indeed urgent needs, they are only a small part of the big picture. Double or triple training⁴ continues to this day in many provinces directly affected by the earthquake. Crowded classrooms, combined with the adverse environmental conditions brought about by physical destruction in school environments has have reduced the quality of education and compromised its restorative and protective effect. However, schools – which are one of the most important contact points in strengthening social networks – can support the well-being of students, their families and educators, allowing large segments of society to look to the future with hope. Whether education life in the region, which was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic just a few years ago, will absorb the second challenge brought by the earthquake depends on the effectiveness of the work to be done in this area. A large number of children and young people whose learning processes have been adversely affected by these two events now require support with additional programs.

Women's participation in working life stands out as an issue that needs to be scrutinized as well as the course of youth employment in the region. In the two years since the disaster, there has been a deterioration in the indicators in this area. Understanding the differentiating needs of women and people with disabilities and drawing up future plans in consideration of these needs becomes a much greater necessity after the earthquake. Closing the gender gap will require a change in social norms with the help of social policies, ensuring more equitable distribution of responsibilities within the family. Here, of course, we are talking about an effort that will bear fruit in the long run. On the other hand, policies that redistribute caregiving responsibilities between government, employers and employees can speed up the process. Government can be an important agent in the new balance by increasing the accessibility of daycare centers and aged care centers. Options such as flexible working, part-time working and remote working, which are becoming more prevalent around the world, not only benefit the vulnerable segments of the population as we have mentioned, but also all employees to a certain extent. By creating jobs that can offer new work options without sacrificing fundamental rights such as fair pay, decent working conditions, personal development and promotion opportunities, and with companies in the region continuing to embrace change and accelerate their cultural transformation, the region stands to rise more strongly than before.

Physical reconstruction in the earthquake zone remains the top priority. However, the coming period necessitates economic activity to be carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner, supported by technological opportunities. The success of a structural transformation in the economy depends on enabling all segments of society to participate in production through decent jobs and ensuring that everyone benefits from the resulting increase in productivity. The use of national and international financing resources in the right areas and by economic actors that support the social transformation after the earthquakes will ensure that the affected region can be carried more soundly to the coming decades.

⁴ Aynı öğrenci gruplarıyla günün farklı zaman dilimlerinde yapılan eğitim.

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Economic Research
ekonomikarastirmalar@tskb.com.tr

Meclisi Mebusan Caddesi No. 81
Fındıklı İstanbul 34427, Türkiye
T: +90 (212) 334 50 41 F: +90 (212) 334 52 34

In order to access TSKB Economic Research products please use the QR code below:



Dr. Burcu Ünüvar, SCR

Director
Chief Economist

unuvarb@tskb.com.tr

Dr. Feridun Tur, SCR

Head of Economic Research

turf@tskb.com.tr

Can Hakyemez

Team Leader
Energy and Resources Research

hakyemez@tskb.com.tr

Fatma Şenay Akyıldız

Senior Manager
Development Economics

akyildiz@tskb.com.tr

Dr. Buket Alkan

Manager
Development Economics

alkanb@tskb.com.tr

Cem Avcıoğlu, SCR

Manager
Development Economics

avciogluc@tskb.com.tr

Dr. Emre Aylar

Manager
Macroeconomics and Financial Markets

aylare@tskb.com.tr

Dr. Barış Güven

Assistant Manager
Development Economics

guvenb@tskb.com.tr

Başak Toprakçı, SCR

Associate
Development Economics

toprakcib@tskb.com.tr

Ezgi İpek

Junior Associate
Energy and Resources Research

ipeke@tskb.com.tr



Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası
www.tskb.com.tr

T: +90 212 334 50 50 F: +90 212 334 52 34

E: info@tskb.com.tr

