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Disaster Training Application and Research Center

e - Newsletter

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> written and edited by Serhat YILMAZ translated into English by Zehra DERİN









DISASTER TRAINING APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER



Basic Disaster Awareness Trainings Continue in 2021

As Istanbul Aydın University Disaster Training Application and Research Center (AFAM), we continue our Basic Disaster Awareness Trainings in 2021, which contributes significantly to the development of social capacity for disasters.

Within the scope of our trainings, which we consider as a necessity of our corporate social responsibility, we consider the acquisition of disaster awareness, especially at an early age, as one of our primary objectives.

In line with this goal, in January 2021, we carried out Basic Disaster Awareness Trainings on-line with the students of Doruk College and Fatih Okyanus College.

We have reached over 20,000 individuals so far in our trainings on how to prepare individually for different age groups before, during and after disasters.







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Disaster Preparedness Studies for Teachers

Informing individuals plays a key role in developing social capacity for disasters. In scientific researches, there is a lot of data that the knowledge learned in the trainings carried out for the transfer of this information, especially at an early age, turns into more behavior. Schools provide very important advantages in providing information and awareness raising activities for disasters to individuals at an early age. Therefore, as AFAM, the studies of informing teachers about disasters constitute one of the areas that we attach importance to in the development of social capacity. With these studies carried out for teachers, it is aimed to increase the level of knowledge and awareness of the students who continue in their education and training life. In line with this goal, we carry out numerous training activities aimed at raising disaster awareness for teachers working within the Ministry of National Education in both private and public schools. The last of these studies was carried out on January 20, 2021 in cooperation with Diyarbakir Bending District Directorate of National Education. Nearly a hundred teachers participated in this awareness study within the body of the District National Education Directorate.



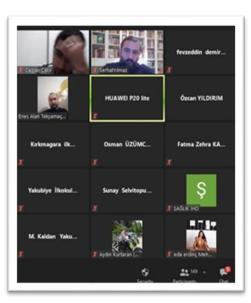




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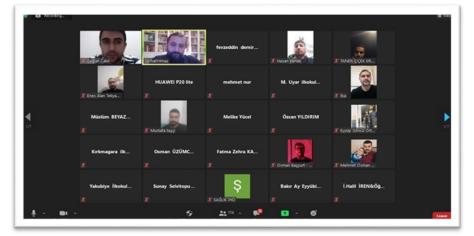
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Capacity Building Trainings to Combat Today's Problems

In the last two hundred years, the lifestyle of today's world, which is the result of the modernization process that has developed exponentially over time, has led to the formation of a life intertwined with risks. As Istanbul Aydın University Disaster Training Application and Research Center, we carry out many studies aimed at increasing the level of individual knowledge and awareness in order to minimize the harms caused by these risks. However, major deficiencies are observed in the ability of the transmitted information to be transformed into behavior. In the studies carried out, it has been observed that there are many findings that prevent the desire to act on individuals at the root of these deficiencies. It has been observed that the capacity building approach can provide very important advantages in our research on how to overcome these biases as a center. In this context, the need to adapt the capacity building approach based on the practices of international fund institutions to combat the individual problems brought about by today's lifestyle has been revealed. As a result of a meticulous study carried out in line with this requirement, "Capacity Building Methods Training Programin Combating Today's Problems" was prepared. This training program is delivered to all segments of society in a fiction that also supports Basic Disaster Awareness Trainings. In cooperation with Sanliurfa Evyubiye District Directorate of National Education, the training work we carried out for the teachers working in the district on March 18, 2021 was carried out within this scope.





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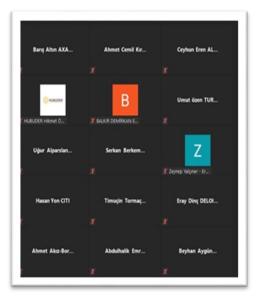
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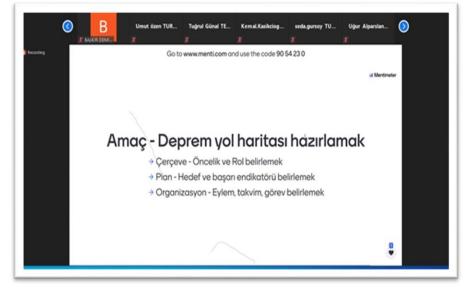
TUSIAD Earthquake Task Force Workshops

The Earthquake Task Force Workshops initiated by the Board of Directors of the Turkish Industrialists and Business People's Association (TUSIAD) under the Development Policies Roundtable in order to keep the issue of earthquakes on the agenda continuously and to raise awareness about the earthquake preparedness of the private sector, to create good examples and to share them were completed with 3 studies.

As Istanbul Aydın University Disaster Training Application and Research Center of the three studies we contributed;

First:	Under the heading Determination of Current Capacity and on 24 February 2021,
Secondly:	Plus Value ve Determination of Targets and on March 5, 2021,
Thirdly:	Under the title Of Creating the Roadmap and was carried out on March 12, 2021.









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Public Information Studies through the Press about Recent Disaster and Emergencies

As AFAM, we continue our efforts to inform the public in 2021 both through national media organizations for the cause of disasters and emergencies in the world and in our country, as well as for our individual and institutional responsibilities before disasters and emergencies. In this context, in January, February and March 2021, in the following headings;

- Istanbul and Drought,
- The earthquake that occurred on January 10, 2021 in Kalecik, Ankara,
- World Water Day and Effective Use of Water
- Infrastructure Installation in Construction Energy and Transportation Triangle
- Turkey and Eartquake Reality

we conducted interviews, participated in open sessions and made written statements through printed and visual news channels that broadcast at the national level to inform the public.







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Main Problems in Disaster Management Approaches in Turkey

As Istanbul Aydın University Disaster Training Application and Research Center (AFAM), we implement many studies simultaneously to improve our social capacity against events that may cause disasters and emergencies in our country. During these studies, we have the opportunity to observe the problems that form the basis of our vulnerability to disasters as a society.

We have created the "Main Problems in Disaster Management Approaches in Turkey" section in our e-bulletin that we will publish regularly in order to benefit from the experiences gained in the field by all our partners working in this field for the solution of these problems we encounter. In this section, where a different problem and solution offers will be evaluated in each issue, we will also submit the solution offers of all our partners involved in the field of disaster preparedness for appraisal, if they share them.

In this section of the series we published under the title "Main Problems in Disaster Management Approaches in Turkey", it is evaluated why individual preparations are not sufficiently made despite the participation rates in the trainings carried out for disaster preparedness.

Overcoming Biases and Capacity Building in Individual Preparation for Disasters

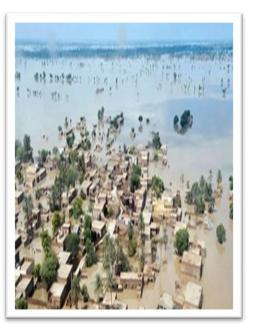
Those who work on the history of disasters accept the history of disasters and human history as a common reality. This reality means more deeply than the *"impact of an event caused by nature, human or technology on human life"* from the definition of disaster.

Known history shows us that the oldest human societies or civilizations that form the basis of today's complex urban structure have always been subjected to the devastating effects of disasters at various times. For those who study disasters that sometimes occur as a result of a volcano eruption, sometimes an earthquake, sometimes as a result of floods or droughts or wars, these events offer new information and lessons every time. Thanks to this information, the answer to the question of how the structures that form the basis of social life and the systems that make up the whole of these structures should be tried to be determined.





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The answer to this question is largely accepted as determined in the period up to the age we live in. Because today, it is considered a necessity to carry out studies including a number of risk calculations such as ground research and environmental impact assessment research before the realization of investments in housing, workplace structures such as housing, workplaces or equipment areas such as schools, hospitals, parks or infrastructure systems such as transportation, communication and energy. In the formation of this obligation, the experiences gained from the disasters that occurred throughout human history are decisive.

Today, the same obligation is decisive in the trainings carried out to encourage the preparations of individuals for disasters. Because although the same obligations determine how structures should behave in case of a possible disaster or emergency, they also require that people determine how they should behave before, during and after such situations. For this reason, training programs are carried out in countries that face various degrees of disaster risks today, even in different systems, to explain how individuals can prepare for disasters. However, when we evaluate these training programs in Turkey, it is observed that there are major problems in the transformation of the information transmitted in the trainings carried out for disasters into behavior.

One of these problems, which we evaluated in our previous e-bulletins on different dimensions such as educational standards, continuity and sustainability, is the inability to instill individual biases. In addition to the problems arising from education standards, the failure to ensure continuity and sustainability of trainings, and problems arising from individual biases, the existence of other problems arising from individual and systemic deficiencies or defects is seen in different studies. However, it is thought that the studies to be carried out to overcome individual biases will also contribute to the elimination of the sources of other problems. It is seen that the events that occur very rarely, such as disasters, but cause many years of trauma in the communities it affects, are evaluated with a fatalistic approach for a long time in human history. As a result of this approach, which is at the heart of individual prejudices, the formation of a judgment dominated by a sense of helplessness that the effect of disasters on human beings cannot be eliminated can be considered as a natural cause-and-effect relationship. However, the capacity building approach based on the fact that protection mechanisms can be developed against the dangers caused by risks provides a strong basis for defeating this sense of helplessness.



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The capacity building approach, which allows the relationship between the risks that can cause disasters through a scientific reality, the dangers posed by these risks and the harms that these hazards can cause, to be examined in the context of cause and effect, turns major events that can result in disasters into facts that can be overcome and fought against them.

However, although the individual is at the heart of this struggle, for the success of the capacity building approach, the entire structure that constitutes the society must act in the same direction. Therefore, the more individuals who adopt the capacity building approach within the understanding of the "risk society" fed by the complex structure formed as a result of today's lifestyle, the more likely it will be for the whole social structure to develop in this direction.

Serhat Yılmaz Coordinator of AFAM