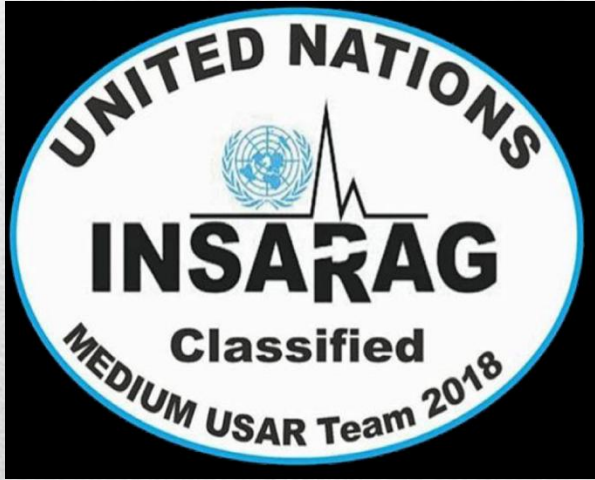


# AKUT SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

## GLOBAL COMPACT

### 2022 - 2023 COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT REPORT





## THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT'S TEN PRINCIPLES

- **Principle 1** - Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights
- **Principle 2** - Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses
- **Principle 3** - Businesses should uphold freedom of association & effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining
- **Principle 4** - The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor
- **Principle 5** - The effective abolition of child labor
- **Principle 6** - Eliminate discrimination in respect of employment and occupation
- **Principle 7** - Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges
- **Principle 8** - Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility
- **Principle 9** - Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies
- **Principle 10** - Businesses should work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery



## AKUT'S MISSION

AKUT is entirely a voluntary, non-governmental organization involved in searching, assisting and rescuing all who require aid within its authority and means, in mountain or other nature-related accidents, natural disasters and all other emergency conditions by means of well-trained, disciplined, high-standard personnel and equipment, passing on knowledge to society with no political affiliation.

### AKUT's Values

- Volunteerism
- Honesty/Integrity
- Trustworthiness/Reliability
- Benevolence
- Respect and value for human life



Dear Madam / Sir,

I am pleased to confirm that AKUT Search and Rescue Society reaffirms its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact. We will continue to take necessary actions to improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our projects and continually inform our volunteers through our communication channels via our mail groups and social media.

Our Mission; as a voluntary, non-governmental organization involved in searching, assisting and rescuing all who require aid within its authority and means, in mountain or other nature-related accidents, natural disasters and all other emergency conditions by means of trained, disciplined, high-standard personnel and equipment, passing on knowledge to society with no political affiliation, to realize all of the above by strictly abiding to our values: volunteerism, integrity, reliability, helpfulness/humanitarianism, and respect for human life. We aim to continuously increase the awareness of the society towards disasters as well as awareness for the environment, increasing their level of understanding and evolve it to an active society for their safe future

We innovate by sharing our know-how and experience via AKUT Institute, increasing the preparedness of companies as well as the families attached to them against disasters, increasing their risk analyzing capabilities, building up their risk management capabilities in addition to their management in case of emergency.

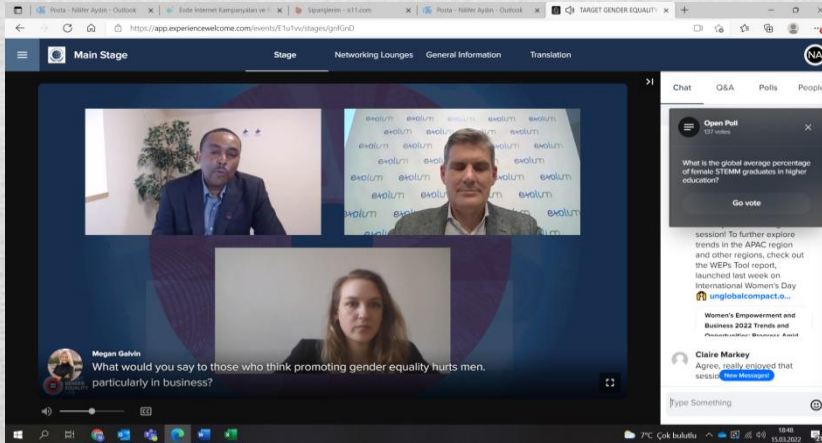
**AKUT Search And Rescue Association Chairman of the Board**

**Zeynep Yosun AKVERDI SEZGINSOY**

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## GLOBAL COMPACT TARGET GENDER EQUALITY LIVE 15.03.2022

The interactive TARGET GENDER EQUALITY LIVE event brought together business representatives from all around the world, the leaders of government, civil society, academia and the United Nations to discuss how the private sector can eliminate bias and increase the leverage of women's leadership, entrepreneurship and innovation to tackle the world's biggest challenges. AKUT participated in online TARGET GENDER EQUALITY event organized by Global Compact on March 15.

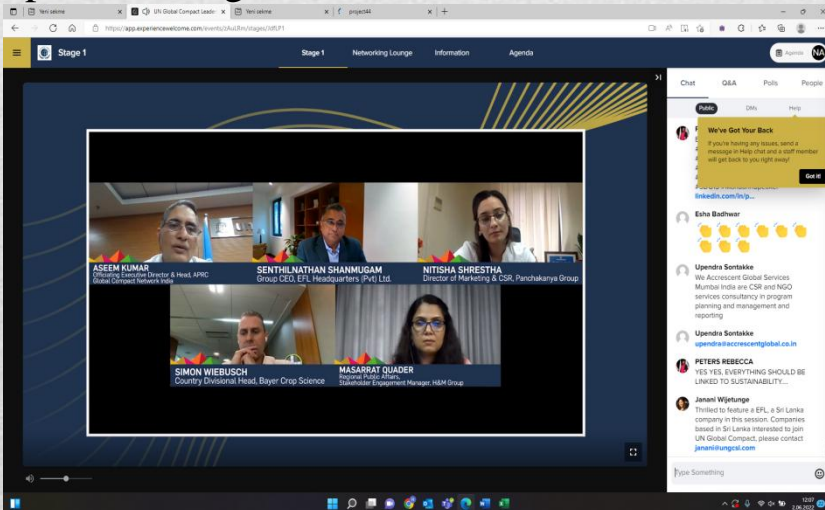




**JUNE 2022**

**GLOBAL COMPACT 01-02 JUNE 2022 - LEADERS SUMMIT (LEADERS SUMMIT)**

The annual Leaders Summit, took place on 1-2 June 2022, is the prominent business event of the UN Global Compact that is creating new business opportunities for multi-stakeholder partnerships, sustainable development goals for the United Nations, Governments, business and civil society, all local network leaders and all their stakeholders while giving innovative examples on to increase the impact on the ground



**June 2, 2022**

## **AKUT PARTICIPATED IN THE "EARLY WARNING FOR FLOOD DANGER" PRACTICE**

AKUT participated in the "Flood Danger Early Warning Exercise " held in Trabzon within the scope of the Disaster Practice Year.

"Flood Danger Early Warning Exercise", one of the thematic drills within the scope of AFAD 2022 Disaster Practice Year, took place on June 2, 2022, centered in Trabzon / Vakfikebir. AKUT Search and Rescue Association participated in the exercise with 18 volunteers from AKUT Giresun, AKUT Rize and AKUT Trabzon teams.

AKUT teams took part in all search and rescue scenarios in the exercise, which included a total of 262 vehicles, 248 land, 4 air (helicopter, JIKU, UAV) and 10 sea (attack boat, joker boat, fiber boat). In the river scenarios of the drill assignments were made only to AFAD, JÖAK, Coast security and AKUT . AKUT volunteers, who stand out with their experience and training in the Black Sea region, became the only non-governmental organization which is operating in the river with 8 personnel and a rafting boat. All three teams participating in the exercise were held up as examples with their stance and behavior.

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Within the scope of the Turkey Disaster Response Plan (TAMP), 1,200 personnel consisting of 25 disaster working groups, 11 Provincial AFAD Directorates, 36 nationally accredited non-governmental organizations, AFAD Volunteers and Local Support Teams took part in the exercise. The coordination between the working groups in charge was strengthened and aimed to increase their awareness of disaster and emergency meeting areas and temporary shelter centers.





## **AKUT JUNE SEMINARS** **6-14 JUNE 2022**

AKUT Search and Rescue Association continues its awareness-increasing activities with the seminars. "Earthquake Awareness Seminar" was given to 16 teachers and 274 students in June. On June 6, 2022, 135 students and 3 teachers at Kocaeli Başiskele Yeniköy Hayat Primary School, On 06 June 2022, 9 teachers and 65 students at Denizli TOKİ Kindergarten . On June 14, 2022, 4 teachers and 74 students at Denizli Pamukkale Atatürk Primary School are given "Earthquake Awareness Seminar





**JUNE 9, 2022**

in the Sis Mountain area of Trabzon's Şalpazarı district , the owner of the cow called for help from the authorities.

Upon the notice received by the AKUT Trabzon team, 5 volunteers from the team organized an operation to save the cow from the cliff where it was stuck. In the operation performed by using rope techniques, the cow was rescued from where it was stranded and delivered to its owner. (June 9)

## June 11, 2022

A flood occurred in the mountainous area in Aydın's Söke district after heavy rain on June 11. 10 climbers were stranded in the Yamaç Canyon in Söke district due to the flood. The climbers called the authorities and appealed for help.

Upon the call for support from AFAD to the AKUT Kuşadası Team, 10 volunteers from the team organized a joint search and rescue operation with AFAD, UMKE, Coast Guard and gendarmerie teams to save the people stranded in the canyon. Following the evacuation of 6 people by helicopter, 4 people were rescued using joint rope techniques with AFAD and handed over to medical teams.



## **AKUT TEAMS RESPONDED TO MARMARIS WILDFIRES**

### **June 21st-22nd, 2022**

The wildfire, which started at around 20:00 in the red pine forest in the Amazon Bay of Marmaris in the evening of Monday, June 21st, moved towards Otluk Bay with the influence of the wind.

Citizens called AKUT Marmaris Team and reported that there was a fire in Bördübet Yedi Adalar area and that the houses were under threat. First, 8 volunteers from AKUT Marmaris Team organized a fire extinguishing operation to respond to the fire and support the forestry and fire brigade teams.

As of the morning of June 22nd, the fire started to threaten the settlements in Hisarönü District, Değirmenyanı locality and Ahmediye. Volunteers from AKUT Bodrum, AKUT Fethiye, AKUT İzmir, AKUT Kuşadası Teams participated in fire extinguishing efforts to support the AKUT Marmaris Team after the fire broke out in Bördübet, Amazon, Yedi Adalar locations of Marmaris and spread to other regions. During the 4-day operation, a total of 67 AKUT volunteers supported the fire extinguishing and cooling efforts and ensured that 1 citizen and 2 animals were evacuated from the fire area to a safe area. After the fire was taken under control on June 25th, AKUT teams ended the fire extinguishing operation.

SEARCH & RESCUE ASSOCIATION  
**AKUT**  
ARAMA KURTARMA  
DERNEĐİ



## AKUT TEAMS SAVED CITIZENS TRAPPED IN THE FLOOD - JUNE 27th, 2022

As of noon on Monday, June 27th, floods occurred in Bartın, Kastamonu and Zonguldak regions following heavy rain. Overflowing flood waters caused by the heavy rain destroyed two bridges in İnebolu and some places were closed to transportation. Many workplaces and houses were flooded, and citizens were stranded due to heavy rain.

Upon support request from AFAD, AKUT Ankara Team organized an operation to rescue the citizens stranded due to heavy rain in the İnebolu district of Kastamonu. A total of 28 volunteers from our AKUT Ankara, AKUT Bursa, AKUT Eskişehir and AKUT Kocaeli Teams and 1 boat were mobilized to the region affected by the heavy rain. During their operation, they helped evacuate 3 of our citizens and 1 dog to a safe area. On June 28th, the teams terminated the operation after the rain subsided.





## **AKUT TEAMS RESPONDED TO WILDFIRES - JULY 2022**

At noon on July 13th, a fire broke out in the forest area in Mesudiye's KocadaĐ area in MuĐla's DatĐa district. The fire quickly spread towards residential areas due to the wind. Gendarmerie decided to evacuate the region after the fire spread to Hayıtbükü and Kabaklarlı Beach. DatĐa-Mesudiye highway was temporarily closed to traffic due to fire.

Upon the call for support from the General Directorate of Forestry to AKUT Marmaris Team, 12 volunteers from the team participated in the fire extinguishing operation with 2 vehicles. As the fire in DatĐa progressed very sporadically and the extinguished areas flared up again due to lack of cooling, 4 volunteers from AKUT Fethiye Team and 7 volunteers from Kuşadası Team participated in the fire extinguishing and cooling efforts. After the fire in DatĐa was taken under control in the evening hours of July 14th, AKUT Fethiye, AKUT Kuşadası and AKUT Marmaris Teams completed the cooling works and ended the operation.

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On July 13th, 2022, another fire broke out in the forest in the Zeytineli village of Urla. In order to respond to the fire, 5 volunteers from the AKUT Peninsula team participated in the fire extinguishing operation. After Urla/Çeşme wildfire reached the settlements in Ovacık region, the sites in this region were evacuated. As of 22.21, 10 volunteers from İzmir Team joined the teams responding to the fire. After extinguishing the fire in Zeytineli region, AKUT Peninsula and İzmir Teams went to Çeşme Ovacık region upon the request of the GDF and evacuated the people living in Özpamir Site. Then, they moved to the fire area in the east of Ovacık region and provided extinguishing support to GDF personnel, and the fire extinguishing operation was terminated at 05.00.





## AKUT MERSIN RESCUED A GOAT STRANDED ON THE ROCKS - JULY 2022

3 goats were stranded in a rocky area in the countryside of Insu neighborhood in Yenişehir district of Mersin.

A person who called AKUT Mersin team reported that his 2 baby goats were stranded in a rocky area and asked for help. During the 3-hour operation, the goats were rescued using rope techniques and delivered to their owner. (22 July)



## BASIC CAMPING TRAINING - JULY 2022

On 4-5 July, 8 volunteers from AKUT Kaş Kalkan team, on 16-17 July, 22 volunteers from AKUT Manisa team, 8 volunteers from AKUT Izmir and AKUT Yarımada teams were given Basic Camping Trainings.

In the Basic Camping Training, which is one of the first training that AKUT volunteers should receive, volunteers were given practical training on camping materials, accommodation in nature, nutrition, safety and walking techniques.



## BASIC DEBRIS TRAINING - JULY 2022



AKUT continues its training in order to provide and develop operational competences for its volunteers. In July, 130 volunteers from different teams received Basic Camping, Navigation, Basic Debris trainings and 204 volunteers received online theory training.

Basic Debris Training was given to 10 volunteers from Bursa team on 23-24 July, 30 volunteers from AKUT Izmir, AKUT Selçuk, AKUT Yarımada teams on 30-31 July and 10 volunteers from AKUT Bursa team on the same dates.

Basic Debris Training aims to train operational personnel capable of responding to earthquake-related collapses and demolitions. The trainings includes the use of rescue equipment, approaching the wreckage and wreckage safety and basic level rescue techniques.

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## JULY SEMINARS OF AKUT TEAMS 2022

In addition to search and rescue operations and internal trainings, AKUT, whose main aim is to raise awareness of the society and create a disaster-resistant Turkey, also organised 'Basic Disaster Awareness Seminars' in July. AKUT Eskişehir team gave 'Earthquake Awareness Seminar' to 130 students at Eskişehir TEGV campus on 01 July 2022. The young participants who attended the seminar showed how conscious they were and listened to this important information very carefully.

With the slogan 'AWARENESS SAVES LIFE', AKUT teams give 'BASIC DISASTER AWARENESS SEMINARS' to 100,000 citizens in an average of 2,000 free sessions every year all over the country.





**AKUT KOCAELI TEAM 17  
AUGUST MARMARA  
EARTHQUAKE  
COMMEMORATION EVENT-17  
AUGUST 2022**

Divers from AKUT Istanbul and AKUT Kocaeli teams made a commemorative dive to the sunken neighbourhood in Gölçük as part of the 17 August Marmara Earthquake commemoration activities. AKUT Chairman Zeynep Yosun Akverdi and Board Member Tugay Yılmazberk also participated in the event.



## **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - AUGUST 2022**

We also supported the reforestation of our forests affected by the fires in the Aegean and Mediterranean. A total of 228 kilograms of larch and red pine seeds were collected with 26 volunteers from different teams.

The seeds were delivered to Yılanlı and Bodrum General Directorate of Forestry Management Directorate and contributed to the reforestation of 100 hectares of land.

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## ADVANCED DEBRIS TRAINING IN KOCAELI AND ALANYA -13- 14 AUGUST 2022

‘Advanced Debris Training’ was given to 23 volunteers from Ankara, Bozöyük, Bursa, Kocaeli and Istanbul Teams on 13-14 August in Kocaeli and 19 volunteers from Alanya Team on 13-14 August in Alanya. In the training aimed at training operational personnel who can intervene at an advanced level in collapses and collapses that may occur due to earthquakes, techniques for reaching the victim in the wreckage according to collapse formations and technical methods to be applied for evacuation from the wreckage were applied.



## ÇANAKKALE TEAM 17 AUGUST EVENT 2022

On Wednesday, August 17, 2022, starting at 11:00 AM, a photo exhibition and a portable AKUT stand were set up at the Çanakkale Central Pier Square as part of the anniversary of the "17 August İzmit Earthquake." Throughout the day, citizens who visited our stand were informed about building a disaster-ready society and increasing awareness about disasters. On the same day, at 7:30 PM, our photo exhibition and stand materials were collected, and the event concluded.





## **AKUT ISTANBUL TEAM RESCUES PERSON TRAPPED UNDER RETAINING WALL – 15 AUGUST 2022**

On August 15, following heavy rainfall in Istanbul, many workplaces on the Anatolian side were flooded. In the Beykoz district, a person was trapped under rubble due to the collapse of a restaurant's retaining wall. Upon receiving a support call, a team of 7 volunteers from the AKUT Istanbul team, along with AFAD, Istanbul Fire Department, and IHH, organized a joint operation to rescue the casualty. After approximately 4 hours of operation, the casualty was rescued from the rubble and handed over to medical teams.



## AKUT AFYONKARAHİSAR TEAM RESCUES SHEEP FALLEN INTO A PIT – AUGUST 2022

In the town of Dişli in Bolvadin district, Afyonkarahisar, a sheep fell into a pit. Following a support request from AFAD to the AKUT Afyonkarahisar team, a team of 6 volunteers conducted an operation to rescue the sheep from the pit. Using rope techniques, the sheep was successfully extracted from the pit and handed over to its owner.



## AKUT DENİZLİ TEAM ADVANCED RUBBLE TRAINING – SEPTEMBER 2022

On September 3-4, Advanced Rubble Training was given to 29 volunteers from our Denizli, İzmir, Selçuk, and Yarımada teams in Denizli. The training aimed to develop operational personnel capable of advanced interventions in collapses and demolitions caused by earthquakes. Techniques for reaching casualties in rubble formations and their evacuation from the debris were practiced during the training.



## AKUT ISTANBUL TEAM DISASTER AWARENESS SEMINAR FOR SCOUT LEADERS – 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

On September 8, the Istanbul team held a "Disaster Awareness Seminar" for Scout Leaders at a special area allocated by the Scouting Federation in Beylikdüzü.

In addition to search and rescue operations and internal training, AKUT, whose primary goal is to raise public awareness and create a disaster-resilient Turkey, continued its "Basic Disaster Awareness Seminars" as part of its social responsibility efforts throughout the country in September. AKUT teams, under the slogan "AWARENESS SAVES LIVES," provide these seminars free of charge to citizens across the nation every year.





**SEPTEMBER 2022**

**A FIRST FOR OUR ASSOCIATION: SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP – 15-18 SEPTEMBER 2022**

From September 15-18, 2022, the "26th Search and Rescue Dogs World Championship" was held in Romania with the participation of over 100 dogs from 38 clubs across 3 continents. At this event, AKUT Ankara Team's Canine Search Group volunteer Serdar Arslan and his dog Blessed Borders Kass scored a total of 254 points in area search, placing 19th and earning the right to participate in next year's world championship in Austria. Thus, our association made history as the first team from Turkey to qualify for the competition.

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## AKUT ISTANBUL TEAM EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS SEMINAR FOR ESER HOTELS – 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

On September 8, the Istanbul team conducted an "Earthquake Awareness Seminar" for the staff of Eser Hotels.

In addition to search and rescue operations and internal training, AKUT, whose primary goal is to raise public awareness and create a disaster-resilient Turkey, continued its "Basic Disaster Awareness Seminars" as part of its social responsibility efforts throughout the country in September. AKUT teams, under the slogan "AWARENESS SAVES LIVES," provide these seminars free of charge to citizens across the nation every year.



## **AKUT ESKİŐEHİR TEAM RESPONDED TO FOREST FIRE – SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2022**

On September 17, around noon, a fire broke out in the forest in Akhisar neighborhood of Han district of EskiŐehir. Citizens who saw heavy smoke and flames in the forest notified the Regional Directorate of Forestry. EskiŐehir Regional Directorate of Forestry dispatched many teams to the region.

Upon the request for support from AFAD, 13 volunteers from AKUT EskiŐehir team participated in the fire extinguishing works to intervene in the forest fire. AKUT Eskisehir team, which applied first aid to a forestry worker who had an eye problem during the fire extinguishing works, ended the operation after the completion of the extinguishing and cooling works together with the forestry and fire brigade teams.



## AKUT ISTANBUL TEAM RESCUED AN OWL TRAPPED IN AN APARTMENT CAVITY – SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

An owlet was trapped in the apartment cavity of a building in Eyüp district of Istanbul. The Wildlife Protection Association called AKUT Istanbul team for help in rescuing the owlet. Upon the call, 3 volunteers from the team organized an operation to rescue the owlet. The owlet was rescued from the apartment cavity and handed over to the Wildlife Protection Association authorities.





## **AKUT KAŞ-KALKAN TEAM RESPONDED TO FOREST FIRE – SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2022**

A fire broke out in the forest area in Çaykenarı locality of Ova Neighborhood in Kaş district of Antalya for an undetermined reason. Upon the call for support to AKUT Kaş-Kalkan team from the Kaş Forestry Directorate, 4 volunteers from the team participated in the fire extinguishing works. The AKUT team provided logistical and medical support to forestry teams and civilians in the region. When a firefighter was stung by a scorpion during the fire, first aid emergency intervention was carried out and firefighter was transferred to the hospital. The operation was terminated after the fire was brought under control and cooling works started.



## **COP27- Uniting Business Africa – NOVEMBER, 2022**

The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly known as COP 27, was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt between November 6-18, 2022 with the participation of 194 countries with the aim of reducing global warming and greenhouse gas emission rates. AKUT also participated in the events online on November 9 and 10, and followed the developments closely. In the meetings where it was emphasized that development is not possible unless there is improvement in the green sustainable supply chain, it was underlined that it is very important to take consensus and common steps.





## **TAIWAN AMBASSADOR AND TAIWAN RESCUE TEAM VISIT TO AKUT – FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

Taiwan Ambassador to Ankara Chih-Yang HUANG and the Taiwan USAR Team of the Taiwan National Fire Brigade visited the Esentepe headquarters of AKUT Search and Rescue Association on February 13, 2023. Ambassador Chih-Yang HUANG, Private Secretary Jung-Huei DONG and a rescue team of 7 members from Taiwan USAR Team participated in the visit, which was held to support the rescue operations after the February 6, 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes. While the Taiwan team stated that they never forgot the support of AKUT after the earthquake in Taiwan in 1999, they donated all the search and rescue materials they brought with them to AKUT.



## **AKUT WAS ALSO ON DUTY IN KAHRAMANMARAŐ EARTHQUAKES – FEBRUARY 2023**

AKUT Search and Rescue Association established its Emergency Management Center in Istanbul headquarters in the 45th minute after the first earthquake at dawn on February 6, 2023 and quickly dispatched its teams to the field. In Kahramanmaraő earthquakes, AKUT participated in the operations with its 30 teams, more than 1100 volunteers, including more than 800 in the field and more than 300 at the desk, 59 vehicles and 4 dogs.

AKUT continued its operations uninterruptedly in the earthquake zone with its teams Afyonkarahisar, Alanya, Ankara, Antalya, Bingöl, Bitlis, Bodrum, Bozüyük, Bursa, Çanakkale, Denizli, Eskiőehir, Fethiye, Giresun, İstanbul, İzmir, Kaő-Kalkan, Kocaeli, Kuőadası, Manisa, Marmaris, Mersin, NiĐde, Rize, Selçuk, TekirdaĐ, Trabzon, Peninsula, and with its teams Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraő despite being victims of disaster. AKUT also carried out successful operations with search and rescue teams from all over the world due to its international experience.

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AKUT teams who intensified their operations in Adıyaman, Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Malatya, Hatay (İskenderun, Antakya), Osmaniye and Adana, evacuated 229 live victims, 12 animals and 254 people who lost their lives from the rubble.



## AKUT CONTINUED ITS SEMINARS IN FEBRUARY TO CREATE DISASTER AWARENESS IN THE SOCIETY - FEBRUARY 2023

AKUT Search and Rescue continued its seminars on "Disaster Awareness for Individuals and Families" last month. A total of 1,243 people in Ankara, Bodrum, Bozüyük, Eskişehir, Mersin, Mersin and Istanbul received disaster awareness training in February.

We would like to thank the institutions and citizens who showed the necessary interest in being prepared for disasters and participated in the trainings, as well as AKUT volunteers who worked for public awareness with their efforts in this process.



## AKUT CONTINUED ITS SEMINARS IN MARCH - MARCH 2023

AKUT Search and Rescue continued its seminars on "Disaster Awareness for Individuals and Families" last month.

In March, disaster awareness training was provided to a total of 16,642 people in 107 institutions during the seminar activities carried out by 14 teams.

Ankara Team 10 Seminars  
Bodrum Team 2 Seminar  
Bozüyük Team 1 Seminar  
Bursa Team 5 Seminar  
Canakkale Team 6 Seminars  
Denizli Team 9 Seminars  
Eskisehir Team 3 Seminar  
Istanbul Team 21 Seminar  
Izmir Team 10 Seminars



Kocaeli Team 10 Seminars  
Kusadasi Team 6 Seminars  
Manisa Team 7 Seminars  
Mersin Team 17 Seminar  
Trabzon Team 1 Seminar  
We would like to thank the institutions and citizens who showed the necessary interest in being prepared for disasters and participated in the trainings, as well as AKUT volunteers who worked for public awareness with their efforts in this process.





## AKUT OPENED STAND ON 1-7 MARCH 2023 EARTHQUAKE WEEK AT ÇANAKKALE AVM AND AFYON PARK AVM

After the great earthquake disaster we experienced as a nation, AKUT continued its earthquake awareness activities while trying to heal the wounds in unity and solidarity.

AKUT Search and Rescue Association came together with children to raise earthquake awareness in Afyon Park Shopping Mall and Çanakkale Shopping Mall at March 1-7 on occasion of Earthquake Week. The animated movie "Güven Ailesi" was screened for children. While the visitors were told about the procedure of becoming an AKUT volunteer, they were also informed about the "AKUT Güvendeyim" application.



## **AKUT TEAMS IN FLOOD OPERATION (MARCH 15-17, 2023)**

On March 15, 2023, following the heavy downpour that hit the Southeast region, floods occurred in Adıyaman and Şanlıurfa, which were among the 11 provinces affected by the earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş, overflowing streams, flooding many streets, roads, houses and workplaces. After the devastating impact of the earthquake, Adıyaman and Şanlıurfa also had to deal with floods. In Adıyaman, the rain flooded tents in tent cities where earthquake victims were living. In Şanlıurfa, hundreds of houses and vehicles were submerged under flood waters due to torrential rains. 43 volunteers from Bursa, Giresun, Istanbul, Kocaeli and Rize teams went on an operation to help the flood victims upon the request for support from AFAD. On March 16, 19 volunteers participated in the evacuation works at the underpass at the Abide Junction in Şanlıurfa and evacuated one person by reaching his lifeless body. 16 volunteers participated in the search for a person who was lost in the flood waters in Yalçıntaş Village of Bozova District near Atatürk Dam. In the evening, both teams participated in the evacuation of a citizen in the minus levels of Piazza Shopping Mall.

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On March 17, 19 volunteers from AKUT Rize and AKUT Kocaeli teams continued the search and rescue operation in Őanlıurfa and Mardin Kızıltepe. The team was stationed in Mardin against any negativity that might occur after the expected downpour the next day. At noon on March 18, the last team in the region ended the operation and returned after no negativity occurred.



## **AKUT CONTINUED ITS SEMINARS IN APRIL - APRIL 2023**

AKUT Search and Rescue Association continued its “Disaster Awareness for Individuals and Families” seminars. In April, ten teams gave seminars to 4,261 people in 49 institutions. AKUT local teams continued their efforts to raise disaster awareness in society through various seminars across the country, including the Ankara team six, the Antalya team three, the Bodrum team one, the Çanakkale team seven, the Denizli team four, the Eskişehir team two, the İstanbul team seven, the İzmir team ten, the Kocaeli team five, and the Mersin team three seminars. We want to thank the institutions and citizens who showed the necessary interest in disaster preparedness and participated in pieces of training, as well as AKUT volunteers who worked for public awareness with their efforts in this process.

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## **AKUT ANKARA TEAM RESCUED A STRANDED DOG - APRIL 2023**

A dog, afraid of the lights on the highway, was stranded at the connection point of the highway bridge over the flood embankment with the stream in Etimesgut, Ankara. Upon a call to the AKUT Ankara team, 8 AKUT volunteers went on an operation to rescue the stranded dog. After rescuing the dog, the AKUT Ankara Team transferred the dog to a safe area. (April 5, 2023)



## **AKUT DENIZLI TEAM RESCUED STRANDED KITTEN - APRIL 24 2023**

A kitten got stuck in the drain pipe of an apartment building in the Yenişehir neighborhood of Denizli. The AKUT Denizli team operated with three volunteers to rescue the kitten. They rescued the kitten by breaking the drain pipe. Then, they delivered the kitten to a veterinarian for health checks. (April 24)

## AKUT CONTINUED ITS SEMINARS IN MAY, JUNE AND JULY - MAY 2023

AKUT Search and Rescue Association continued its seminars on “Disaster Awareness for Individuals and Families” to share with the public the correct actions to be taken before, during, and after disasters, especially earthquakes, which are common in Turkey. In May, local AKUT teams gave seminars to a total of 2081 people in 25 institutions to raise disaster awareness in the society, including Ankara team (5), Antalya team (2), Bursa team (2), Denizli team (2), Istanbul team (8), Izmir team (3), Kocaeli team (1), Kuşadası team (1), and Mersin team (1). In June, four teams gave seminars to 102 people in five different institutions, with the Antalya team one seminar, the Çanakkale team one seminar, the Istanbul team one seminar, and the Kocaeli team two seminars. In July, three teams organized seminars in 10 institutions for 826 people to increase disaster awareness in society, with the Ankara team two seminars, the Istanbul team two seminars, and the Izmir team six seminars.

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SEARCH & RESCUE ASSOCIATION  
**AKUT** DERNEĞİ  
ARAMA KURTARMA





## AKUT ISTANBUL TEAM OPENED A STAND AT THE 3RD ISTANBUL CARAVAN FESTIVAL - MAY 2023

AKUT Istanbul Team participated in the 3rd Istanbul Caravan Festival by opening a stand on May 19-20-21. In the festival program, Önder Turan gave a talk on Disaster Preparedness, while Bozkurt Işıklı, Kubilay Kakaş, and Baran Kahrıman organized a knot workshop for hundreds of participants.



**AKUT SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION CONTINUES ITS TRAINING TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE COMPETENCIES OF ITS OPERATIONAL VOLUNTEERS IN CASE OF POSSIBLE DISASTERS AND NEEDS. MAY - JUNE - JULY 2023**

AKUT Search and Rescue Association continues its training to increase and improve its operational volunteers' competencies in case of possible disasters and in case of need. Various trainings were organized in different teams of AKUT Search and Rescue Association between May and July 2023:

Navigation Application Training and Basic Camping Application Training **in May**,  
Navigation Application Training, Basic Camping Application Training, Basic Fire Theoretical Training, Basic Fire Application Training, Forest Fire Intervention Training, Urban Search and Rescue Training, and Search in Nature Training **in June**,  
Basic Camping Application Training, Rope Rescue 1st and 2nd Level Training, Urban Search and Rescue Fortification Training, Navigation Application Training, and Initial News Receiving Training **in July**.

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## **BASIC FIRE TRAINING - JUNE 2023**

On June 9th in Fethiye, with 17 volunteers, and on June 11th in Istanbul, with 18 volunteers, we conducted theoretical and practical Basic Fire Training, where our volunteers learned simple intervention techniques for fires that may occur during operations or in the campsite.

After the training, we informed our volunteers about the risks they may encounter at the scene of a fire, the precautions they can take in areas where there is a risk of fire, the course of action to be followed in case of fire detection, extinguishing strategy, situation assessment and approaching the fire scene and intervention techniques.

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## **FOREST FIRE RESPONSE TRAINING - JUNE 2023**

As a result of support requests from the fire brigade and AFAD and notifications received by our organization, we intervene in forest fires with our volunteers who have completed their training, which can occur especially in the summer months. Our trainings continue in order to increase the number and competencies of our volunteers who can intervene in forest fires. On June 15, with the participation of 20 volunteers, our Forest Fire Response Training was held in Fethiye.

In the Forest Fire Intervention Training, information on preventing possible forest fires, gaining the right behaviors in case of fire, fire fighting, extinguishing and rescue skills were conveyed.

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**ISTANBUL TEAM OPENED A  
BOOTH AT KADIKÖY  
MUNICIPALITY ENVIRONMENT  
FESTIVAL-2-3-4 JUNE 2023**

AKUT Istanbul Team opened a booth at the Kadıköy Municipality Environmental Festival on June 2-3-4. In the festival program, Önder Turan made a presentation on “The Social Place of Civil Organizations Before and After Disasters” under the title of “Volunteering and Organizing” determined by the organization and informed the participants.



**ANTALYA TEAM LED YOUNG STUDENTS ON  
TREKKING WITH THE THEME OF CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY - JUNE 2023**

With the participation of 3 volunteers from AKUT Antalya Team, a trekking activity with the theme of Climate Change and Biodiversity was organized for kindergarten students and their parents on Saturday, June 3.



## **URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING-10-11 JUNE 2023**

On June 10-11, with the participation of 10 volunteers, basic and advanced level Urban Search and Rescue training was held in Ankara. On June 17-18, basic level Urban Search and Rescue training was held in Eskişehir with the participation of 8 volunteers and advanced level training was held with the participation of 6 volunteers. In these trainings, basic and advanced level trainings on the use of materials and personal protective equipment used in urban search and rescue, safety and evacuation procedures, opening clean hatches and opening passages in concrete with breakers and drills were applied. It is shown practically how search and rescue operations should be carried out in possible earthquakes and disasters. Urban Search and Rescue Training is one of our most important trainings in order to respond to possible earthquakes and disasters in cities in our country, which is on the North Anatolian Fault line. Volunteers who have completed Basic Communication, Personal Protective Equipment, Basic Fire, Basic Camping and Navigation trainings can participate in this training. Urban Search and Rescue Training consists of 4 levels. Each level includes online theoretical training, online theoretical exam and face-to-face practical training.

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## **KUMLUCA MUNICIPALITY AND ANTALYA TEAM ORGANIZED A JOINT COHESION AND DEVELOPMENT CAMP - JUNE 2023**

On June 17-18, AKUT Antalya team and Antalya Kumluca Municipality KUMAFET Coordination Center held a joint cohesion and development camp at Mavikent- Kazanova beach.

In the event, Kumluca Municipality KUMAFET employees were given technical material and knot techniques training and an earthquake awareness seminar.





## **AKUT CONTINUED ITS SEMINARS IN AUGUST - AUGUST 2023**

AKUT Search and Rescue Association continued its seminars on “Disaster Awareness for Individuals and Families” in August.

A total of 404 people were given seminars in August in 13 institutions with 5 teams.

Antalya team gave 1 seminar, Bozüyük team gave 1, Çanakkale team gave 1, Istanbul team gave 4 and Izmir team gave 6 seminars to raise disaster awareness in the society.

We would like to thank the institutions and citizens who showed the necessary interest in disaster preparedness and participated in the trainings, as well as AKUT volunteers who worked for public awareness with great effort in this process.





**AKUT BURSA TEAM  
COMMEMORATES  
AUGUST 17TH  
MARMARA  
EARTHQUAKE**

As part of the August 17 Marmara Earthquake commemoration activities, our Bursa team opened a photo exhibition at Podium Park Shopping Mall.

## AKUT ISTANBUL TEAM - FOREST DELICACIES CAMP

At the Forest Delicacies Camp held at Kilyos Outdoor School on August 19 with the participation of 700 people, AKUT Training Department organized an Earthquake Awareness Seminar, Güven Family cartoon show and knot workshop.





## **AKUT ANKARA TEAM RESCUED STRANDED BAT - AUGUST 2023**

A bat entered a house in Yapracık Neighborhood of Etimesgut District of Ankara and got trapped in the house. Upon a call to AKUT Ankara team, 4 volunteers from the team organized an operation for the bat trapped in the house. The bat was rescued and delivered to Ankara University Veterinary Faculty Animal Hospital. (August 4)



## **AKUT TEAMS RESPONDED TO FOREST FIRES - AUGUST 22, 2023**

On August 22, forest fires broke out in Çanakkale and Bursa.

On August 22nd, at noon, a fire broke out around Kayadere Village in Çanakkale and spread to forest areas and other residential areas with the effect of the wind.

The fire that broke out in Osmaneli district of Bilecik grew with the effect of the wind and expanded towards Yenişehir district of Bursa.

129 volunteers from AKUT Bursa, AKUT Çanakkale, AKUT İstanbul, AKUT İzmir, AKUT Kocaeli, AKUT Kuşadası, AKUT Selçuk, AKUT Tekirdađ and AKUT Peninsula teams worked together with the fire brigade and forest management teams to extinguish the fires and evacuate people and animals in order to support the efforts to fight the forest fires in Bursa and Çanakkale.

On August 23 and 24, 4 volunteers from AKUT Bingöl team, 6 volunteers from AKUT Eskişehir team and 2 volunteers from AKUT Peninsula team supported the extinguishing and cooling efforts of forest fires in Sancak town of Bingöl, Seyitgazi district of Eskişehir and Ovacık neighborhood of Urla district of İzmir. After the fires were extinguished and cooling works were completed, the operations were terminated.

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SEARCH & RESCUE ASSOCIATION  
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DERNEĐİ





## **AKUT AUGUST TRAININGS-2023**

AKUT Search and Rescue Association continues its training to increase and develop the competencies of its operational volunteers in the event of possible disasters and needs. In August, various teams of the AKUT Search and Rescue Association conducted Basic Fire Application Training, Initial Information Reception Training, Forest Fire Intervention Training, Basic Camping Application Training, Basic Fire Application Training, Urban Search and Rescue Basic Level Training, Nature Search Application Training, Rope Rescue Level 1 Training, and USAR 2 Practical Training. A total of 203 volunteers participated in the trainings. Additionally, a performance test was conducted with the participation of 37 volunteers.

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**AKUT BURSA TEAM  
INTERVENED IN FIRE  
(SEPTEMBER 2, 2023)**

On September 2, a forest fire broke out in the Göynüklü Neighborhood of Mudanya district in Bursa. The AKUT Bursa team went into operation with 14 volunteers to support the firefighters. After the fire was extinguished and the cooling works were completed, the operation was terminated.





## AKUT TEAMS ASSISTED THOSE STRANDED IN THE FLOOD (SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2023)

On September 5, after heavy rain in the Thrace region, the DeĐirmen Creek in the Demirköy district of Kırklareli overflowed, and the collapsed highway was closed to traffic. The bungalow hotels in the Misty Valley of İĐneada were flooded, and citizens were stranded. AKUT, with 27 volunteers from its Istanbul, Bursa, and Kocaeli teams, launched an operation to assist citizens stranded in the flood and to conduct water search and rescue operations. The operation was terminated after the evacuation of citizens and animals affected by the flood.



## AKUT TEAM IN LIBYA FOR FLOOD OPERATION (SEPTEMBER 11-22, 2023)

On September 10, the Storm Daniel, which hit the east of Libya and was effective in the Central Mediterranean, caused flooding in the cities of Benghazi, Bayda, Marj, Susa, and Derna. After the flood, the port city of Derna was submerged, and with the collapse of two dams due to the pressure of the heavy rains triggered by the storm, thousands of people and houses were swept into the sea. Upon a call from AFAD, 11 volunteers from AKUT's Bursa, Izmir, Peninsula, Kaş-Kalkan, Kocaeli, and Mersin teams participated in the operation conducted in Libya to support the search and rescue efforts in the region. The AKUT team, which stayed in the disaster area for 8 days, terminated the operation and returned to Turkey after completing the search and rescue operations in Derna.





**AKUT FETHIYE TEAM RESCUED A CAT STRANDED IN A REED FIELD  
(SEPTEMBER 20, 2023)**

A cat was stranded in the reed field of the Mut Creek in Fethiye. A citizen who contacted the AKUT Fethiye team reported that his cat was stranded in the reed field. A team of 6 volunteers conducted an operation to rescue the cat. The cat was rescued from the stranded area and delivered to its owner.

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## **AKUT ANKARA TEAM RESCUED A STRANDED DOG - SEPTEMBER 2023**



Upon receiving a report of a stranded dog in the Etimesgut district of Ankara, our AKUT Ankara team went into operation with 8 volunteers. The dog, which was last seen about 400 meters from the last point of sight, hid in a sewer pipe out of fear of lights. Food was left for the dog after descending from a suitable point. The stranded dog was seen to have a docile and friendly disposition towards humans. Our rescuer embraced the dog and brought it to a safe area. The dog was fed and dried by the team. It was learned from the guards in the nearby park that the dog lived there; after leaving the dog in the park, the team returned, and the operation was terminated



**AKUT ANKARA  
TEAM LAUNCHED  
AN OPERATION FOR  
A STRANDED CAT -  
SEPTEMBER 2023**

Our AKUT Ankara team launched an operation with a team of 5 for a stranded cat in the Keçiören district of Ankara. The team rescued the cat from the place where it was stuck and delivered it to its owner, thus ending the operation.



## DECEMBER 2023

A goodwill agreement was signed between AKUT Search and Rescue Association and Serbia's search and rescue association Organization for Search and Rescue (OTIS). Within the scope of the cooperation, as of 2024, AKUT experts will provide trainings to OTIS team members in the fields of Flood Search and Rescue, Urban Search and Rescue (earthquake) and Rope Rescue. With this cooperation, AKUT will contribute to the growth of an NGO's capacity for search and rescue activities abroad. AKUT Search and Rescue Association, Turkey's first search and rescue NGO, has signed a Goodwill Agreement with Organization for Search and Rescue (OTIS), Serbia's search and rescue NGO. Starting with the February 6 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake, the cooperation and friendship between the two NGOs has now reached an official level.



Commenting on the cooperation, Esra Üstünkaya, 2nd Chairman of the Board of Directors of AKUT Search and Rescue Association, said: “OTIS is a search and rescue non-governmental organization in Serbia, consisting mainly of medical students. During the February 6 Kahramanmaraş earthquake, they worked in close contact with our AKUT Bursa team. Under these challenging conditions, a meaningful and beautiful friendship was formed between the two NGOs. Afterwards, the OTIS team hosted AKUT in Serbia and a productive meeting and exchange of information was held with the participation of both the administrators of the university where they are located and the officials of the Serbian Ministry of Defense. Now we are signing a goodwill agreement between AKUT and OTIS in Istanbul. In this context, we aimed to organize mutual trainings and seminars in order to improve the capacity and capabilities of both teams in the field of search and rescue.”



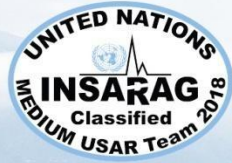
Sharing the information that the trainings that will start in 2024 will be held in the fields of Flood Search and Rescue, Urban Search and Rescue (earthquake) and Rope Rescue, Esra Üstünkaya said, "Serbia is not on an active fault line that can produce large earthquakes like our country, but it is a country that can experience flood disasters and they want to improve their search and rescue capacities in this direction. The process they experienced in the Kahramanmaraş earthquake also affected them a lot. Therefore, they plan to carry their activities and related trainings forward in this direction. Rope rescue training is a must for both urban search and rescue and flood search and rescue. Our AKUT branch experts will provide trainings to OTIS volunteers in Serbia on specified topics, especially rope rescue." Esra Üstünkaya also explained that with this cooperation, AKUT will transfer its expertise to an NGO abroad and support the organization to increase its capacity for search and rescue activities.





On February 6, the friendship that started on February 6 became official Dragan Bjelic, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Organization for Search and Rescue (OTIS), who stated that they had the opportunity to work one-on-one with AKUT team during the Kahramanmaraş earthquake, said: “We have formed a very good friendship and learned a lot from them. We think that AKUT is a very good example for us to grow and develop with the experience it has accumulated. The reason why we signed a Goodwill Agreement is to take our friendship, which started with the February 6 earthquake, to a concrete stage in an institutional sense and to benefit from AKUT's experiences. Especially what we saw and the experiences we gained in the Kahramanmaraş earthquake enabled us to adopt a more professional perspective in this field and to create new goals. We believe that we will achieve this together with AKUT.”





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