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ANNUAL REPORT 2025 SOLIDARITY KITCHEN NL

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**IBAN: NL32INGB0102731950**

**KVK: 90492447**

**RSIN: 865335114**

**Solidarity Kitchen NL has ANBI status**

## 2025 Annual Report Solidarity Kitchen NL

### Looking Back on 2025

It is now three years since the devastating disaster struck south-eastern Turkey and northern Syria. An event that has changed the lives of many residents forever. The grief is still profound, and the scars of the earthquake are visible everywhere. The need in the earthquake-affected area remains acute. That is why, despite the loss and the challenges, we also want to convey a positive message with this annual report.

In Turkey, the province of Hatay has been hardest hit. In recent years, Solidarity Kitchen NL has been working to make a small but meaningful difference to the lives of children and students in the earthquake-affected area of Hatay. Although the grief has not lessened, we continue to believe in the power of education and support, and we are proud of the steps we have taken together to offer a glimmer of hope and progress. We are grateful for the commitment of our donors, partners and volunteers and remain dedicated to our work in 2026.

### News from the Board

Although the earthquakes have not been forgotten, media coverage of their aftermath has waned. Consequently, there are now fewer volunteers available to raise funds through campaigns and activities for the projects supported by Solidarity Kitchen NL.

To discuss these capacity issues, two team days were organised in 2025 (2 March and 1 June 2025). The team days were led by team coach Duygu Kiroğlu.

The key insights and outcomes of these team days were:

- It is important to have a clear division of tasks, so that each team member fully understands their responsibilities and can carry them out effectively.
- To achieve the goals for 2025, it is essential to organise regular meetings and collect donations that contribute to realising these objectives.
- Strengthening team cohesion is crucial; by improving communication and increasing the sense of connection within the team, collaboration can run more smoothly.
- Boosting motivation among volunteers is necessary to ensure they continue to contribute actively and enthusiastically to the work.

In October 2025, we underwent significant organisational changes, which were necessary to address the capacity issues we were facing. As a result, we decided to discontinue the working group structure. The working groups are therefore no longer operational in practice, and the board members of Solidarity Kitchen NL, together with the members of the Advisory Board, remain responsible for all tasks in practice. These changes were crucial to ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of our work as a board and as an Advisory Board.

In addition, a change in the board took place in November 2025.

**Eda Bener Akşam** has joined the foundation's board. Eda is the new chair and replaces Müzeyyen. **Seda Sözügeçer** has joined the foundation's board. Seda has been appointed as the new treasurer, replacing Beril.

**Aysel Sabahoğlu** remains as the foundation's secretary.

This board is registered with the Chamber of Commerce and is legally responsible for the governance and financial management of the foundation.

We also have an Advisory Board comprising the original members and founders of Solidarity Kitchen NL:

- **Hatice Görgülüoğlu Kiriş**
- **Zeynep Kaşlı**
- **Müzeyyen Güldaş**
- **Beril Kaba Nayman**

**Fatih Akdan** has joined the Advisory Board and is primarily supporting the campaign activities of Solidarity Kitchen NL.

**Ece Kallemoğlu** has joined the Advisory Board and is supporting the foundation, particularly in the areas of social media channels and website management.

**Hatice Görgülüoğlu Kiriş** was and remains responsible for liaising with organisations in Turkey. She facilitates the exchange of information and the progress of the projects.

## **Activities and Results 2025**

### **Introduction**

As we are a small core team, our capacity is limited. Nevertheless, we have chosen to utilise three fixed dates each year to actively raise funds for the earthquake survivors. These events take place annually and are always linked to a fundraising campaign, ensuring that our activities not only have an impact at the time, but also provide continuity for our followers.

In addition, in 2025 we simplified our website to make information and donation options more accessible to everyone.

### **Statement**

SK NL is a humanitarian organisation. As people with roots in Turkey, we stand in solidarity with those affected by the violence and suffering in our region, and we have expressed our views as follows. On 26 March 2025, we published the following statement on our website.

*Turkey: The arrest and imprisonment of the Mayor of Istanbul*

*We are deeply concerned by the arrest and imprisonment of the Mayor of Istanbul, a development that undermines democracy and the will of the people of Istanbul. Since the last local elections on 31 March 2024, 13 elected mayors from two opposition parties have been removed from office. The use of judicial measures to suppress political opposition and silence elected officials poses a threat to the foundations of democratic governance. We call for a fair trial, respect for political pluralism and the immediate release of political prisoners.*

*Palestine: Genocide by Israel*

*We strongly condemn the ongoing genocide being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people. More than 70,000 civilians have been killed, including over 20,000 children. We have expressed our solidarity and joined the Red Line Actions in the Netherlands against the genocide in Gaza and Israel's violence in the West Bank.*

*Violence against Lebanon and Syria by Israel*

*We are also deeply concerned about Israel's military actions against Lebanon and Syria which have resulted in civilian casualties and widespread suffering. We urge the international community to take decisive action to prevent further escalation, hold those responsible to account, and work towards a just and sustainable peace in the region.*

*Human rights violations by armed groups in Syria*

*The ongoing conflict in Syria continues to take a heavy toll on civilians. Armed groups have committed human rights violations, including abductions, torture and killings. These actions not only violate international law, but also cause immense suffering and instability in the region. We call for accountability, the protection of civilians and increased humanitarian aid for those most severely affected.*

### **Memorial Gathering and Support for Earthquake Victims**

In 2025, Solidarity Kitchen NL, in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and Meltem Halaceli, organised the second memorial gathering in memory of the victims of the devastating earthquake. The gathering took place on Saturday 9 February 2025 in the Doelenzaal at the University of Amsterdam. This gathering was a moment of reflection and solidarity, during which we paused together to reflect on the loss, but also launched hopeful initiatives.

The programme featured various elements. First, a minute's silence was observed in memory of the victims of the earthquakes. This was followed by a muwaal, an Arabic lament, performed by Funda Yilmaz of the Göksel Yilmaz Ensemble. Funda and Göksel's roots lie in the devastated city of Antakya. This was followed by an open mic session with recitals by young people from TAAKB, who read out letters from young people living in Hatay. The programme concluded with a panel discussion on the current situation in Hatay, featuring Emine Yilmaz from Oxfam Novib and Aysel Sabahoğlu from Solidarity Kitchen NL.

As part of the commemoration, funds were raised via GoFundMe for two special schools that were severely affected by the earthquake.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/kwetsbarekinderenhelpeaardbevingsgebied>

The Silk Road School (**İpek Yolu Çok Programlı Okul**), which provides special education for children with disabilities, urgently needs teaching materials and resources to continue its lessons. Solidarity Kitchen NL has stepped in to provide the necessary resources and ensure that educational activities for this vulnerable group of children can continue.

More information about this school can be found on this website: <https://ipekyolucpl.meb.k12.tr/>

We also raised money for the **Didem Koban Dance School**, which helps children aged between 9 and 16 to process trauma through therapeutic dance projects. Dance offers these children a way to process their experiences and improve their mental health in the aftermath of the tragedy.

Further information about the Didem Koban Dance School can be found on this website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifvHNZFsouw>

The Jeugdjournaal featured the commemorations, showcasing the children from the Didem Koban Dance School and highlighting their experiences.

<https://jeugdjournaal.nl/artikel/2554783-masal-denkt-terug-aan-aardbeving-van-2-jaar-geleden>

Didem Koban (the school's founder) was also interviewed in the Tubantia newspaper:

<https://www.1twente.nl/artikel/4854899/didem-koban-laat-kinderen-dansen-tussen-de-puinopen-van-antiochie-wij-genezen-samen>

The funds raised during the memorial service have been distributed by Solidarity Kitchen NL between these two worthy initiatives.



### **Solidarity Kitchen Steps for Hatay Solidarity Run on 18 May 2025 and Bake Sale during the Amsterdam Anneleri picknickevenement**

<https://supp.to/solidaritykitchen-nl-may-run-event-2025/blog/raised-our-target>

On Sunday 18 May 2025, Solidarity Kitchen NL organised its second running event in the Amsterdamse Bos.

Solidarity Kitchen's aim was to provide 20 students with the educational resources they needed. The aim was to raise €10,000. Thanks in part to the attention we received through influencer Su, we exceeded our target. No fewer than 44 participants took the initiative to start their own fundraising campaigns, and a total of 583 donations were made, each an expression of hope and compassion. At the main event in the Amsterdamse Bos, more than 55 people, ranging from children to senior citizens, joined us to run and walk together – a powerful symbolic act of solidarity. The additional funds have been spent on other resources for students – such as sports and technical equipment

In October, we organised an online meeting with our scholarship students from the Alikev Foundation to hear their feedback. It was particularly valuable to hear directly how our support is making a difference to their lives and their future prospects.

On the same day, the Amsterdam Mothers organised a picnic with a bake sale. The proceeds from the bake sale were donated to SK NL.

### **Back to School Campaign (September 2025)**

Between 6 and 10 September, Solidarity Kitchen NL organised an online campaign to raise funds for schoolchildren affected by earthquakes. The aim was to provide school kits for 25 pupils, at a total cost of €20 per kit. Thanks to donations from our online followers, this target was comfortably exceeded. Our partner organisation was Deprem Dayanışma Derneği. Netwerk- en overige supportactiviteiten 2025

On 29 October, Solidarity Kitchen NL took part in a panel discussion at a conference organised by the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Centre for Governance of Migration and Diversity (LDE GMD) to mark its tenth anniversary. LDE GMD is an interdisciplinary research centre focusing on the governance of migration and diversity.

The topic concerned the role of the diaspora in times of crisis.

<https://www.gmdcentre.nl/gmd-conference-2025>

### **Sponsorship from Corendon**

Following an initiative from Enschede, a performance has been organised by the students of the Didem Koban Dance School at De Krakeling in Amsterdam. The dance performance 'Belek' (memory) is a piece focusing on hope in the wake of the earthquake that struck Turkey on 6 February 2023. The performance tells the story of the city's layered structure and culture, the chaos, migration, settlement and a new beginning — from the past to the present. The performance is based on the text 'The Gates of the City', written by Rahmi Ögdül in 2022 and adapted by project coordinator Süleyman Demirkol. The choreography was by Didem Koban and the music by Mercan Dede.

SK NL secured sponsorship from Corendon to cover the travel costs of the students from Koban Dance School in Hatay. This enabled them to present their moving performances about the earthquake here in the Netherlands, in Enschede and Amsterdam.

<https://krakeling.nl/programma/bellek-herinnering>

<https://www.1twente.nl/artikel/5569722/kinderen-uit-antakya-vertellen-in-twente-hun-aangrijpende-verhaal-door-te-dansen-eeen-vorm-van-traumaverwerking>

### **Financial Report 2026**

A separate financial report detailing the results for 2026 has been drawn up by an independent accountant.

In summary, the results for 2025 were as follows.

Memorial gathering on 9 February 2025

Purpose: funding for Didem Koban Dance School and for İpek Yolu Çok Programlı School

Total donations received €2,759

Donations from Solidarity Kitchen NL to these two schools:

- Didem Koban Dance School €2,119.29
- Bütün Çocuklar Bizim €2,119.29

Solidarity Kitchen Run 18 May 2025

Goal: funding for 20 pupils via the Alikev Foundation

Total donations received: €16,869

Sale of cakes during the AA picnic event €1,978

- Donations to the Alikev Foundation (in accordance with a previous agreement with the Alikev Foundation): €8,845.20

The remaining amount has been set aside for the 2026/2027 academic year.

SK NL support for Didem Koban Dance School 1–14 July 2025

Earmarked donation received from Corendon: €5,000

Donation from Solidarity Kitchen to Didem Koban Dansokulu: €5,000

SK NL donation for school supplies for children: 5 September 2025

- Donations to Hatay Deprem Dayanisma Derneği: €470

**Looking Ahead to 2026**

In 2026, we will continue to support the victims of the earthquakes. Through a memorial service, a running event and an online campaign, we aim to support school and university students and make a difference in their lives.

**Thank you to everyone who has supported the victims of the earthquakes. Thank you to our donors. Thank you to our project partners in Hatay.**