



# VILLAGES & VOYAGES

HOW YOU ARE CHANGING THE WORLD

YOUR RESPONSE IN SYRIA AND TÜRKIYE

## The Walls Crumbled

How you are helping survivors of the deadly earthquake.





You are feeding people in Syria and Türkiye.

*Mariam and Sham:*

Young Survivors Thank You for Your Help



You provided support for earthquake survivors in several cities throughout Syria and Türkiye.



The bed was shaking, but Mariam didn't fully awaken until her mother shouted that they had to get out of the house.

She heard the walls crack as she rushed to help her disabled mother from bed.

They found shelter at the local mosque along with 25 other families. They spent two days crammed into a large room with more than a hundred people. Then her mother insisted they return home to privacy.

Even though the walls were riddled with large spidery cracks, they moved back into their home.

**On March 20 another earthquake hit the city.**

"I watched the same scene repeating. But this time with more fear, because we knew our house was already cracked," remembers Mariam.

Her father carried her mother out, while Mariam and her two sisters ran down the stairs to escape.

From the street they watched the whole building collapse in front of their eyes. Everyone in the building, and many other buildings, lost their homes in that instant. Many lost their lives.

"At that moment we all knew we would never return home," says Mariam sadly.

The whole family had run out barefoot. No one had shoes or hair coverings. Not to mention valuables, documents, or supplies.

**But YOU responded.**

In Mariam's time of need, you prayerfully gave to help the people of Syria.

**Your generous gifts provided Mariam and her family with hygiene kits and hot meals.**

You also remodeled the barely functioning bathrooms at the school where Mariam is staying with her sisters. You provided solar-

**"At that moment we all knew we would never return home."**

**—Mariam**

continued on next page

powered hot water, lights, and a much cleaner environment.

Thank you for restoring dignity for people like Mariam in this difficult situation.

Mariam is just one of the many people you have helped.

**Sham is a 26-year-old Syrian woman with two special-needs children.** Her 3-year-old daughter was born deaf. And her young son is often sick.

Sham lost her home and all their possessions. Without food, clothing, blankets, and shelter, how could she take care of her children?

You comforted Sham and her family by

providing ready-to-eat food. Without a kitchen, Sham can't cook like she used to do. But you made sure she has what she needs to feed her children.

Your generous gifts made life easier for Sham. You provided soap, toothbrushes, towels, shampoo, anti-lice treatment, hand sanitizer, and more.

This is a traumatic and deeply uncomfortable time for Sham, Mariam, and so many others. But you've shown these women and their families that someone cares.

"It is comforting to receive the food baskets from ADRA," Sham says. **"Thank you for giving us dignity."** ■

A FAMILY WITHOUT FOOD

*Hungry in Kenya*



**There's no food, no water, and very little hope in Regina's home.**

Will you help?

After three years of drought, the children are stick thin.

**Her grandchildren are sent home from school when she can't pay the tuition. And she can't even feed them.**

"I had two cows, but they died from lack of food," she says.

Without the cows, tilling her hardened landscape seems impossible. The last two years she planted crops, but the seeds never sprouted from the dry earth.



Now her goats are dying too. **She is powerless.**

"Rain would solve all my problems. But I have to just wait on God."

You can answer Regina's prayers. **You can provide food to help families survive until the rain returns.** ■

Please provide food for families in desperate need. Use the envelope included, or give online at **ADRA.org/SendFood**

Teachers—Join Us in Phoenix

Are you an educator who is passionate about making a positive impact in your community?

Look for us at the North American Division's Educators' Convention August 7–10, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Teachers like you play a vital role in shaping the future of our world.

**Visit our booth to claim helpful giveaways:**

learning activity sheets, videos, books, classroom tools, and more.

Impact your students for good! Let's work together to create a brighter future.



WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP?

You can put compassion into action and make a global impact. No experience necessary!

**ADRA Connections is ADRA's short-term volunteer program.** This is your chance to physically help a community abroad, connect with new people, and have an amazing time. It's a life-changing experience!

This year students can apply for participation scholarships of up to 50%!

Visit **ADRAconnections.org** to join!





Your Partner in Service



Miriam is your partner to manage and distribute your donations in Syria. After the quake, you provided water, food, blankets, and other supplies to survivors.



## Miriam Delivers Your Donations to Earthquake Survivors

Miriam Watt lives and works for ADRA in Syria. Within hours of the quake she was on her way to the epicenter in Aleppo.

“Hearing the reports is not the same as seeing the devastation for yourself,” says Miriam somberly.

“Their whole life savings—completely gone in a day. Some lost family members. Many people were sleeping under trees in the cold—right next to the house that they worked their whole lives to build.”

Miriam works to get funding, manage aid

projects, and report on how your gifts are meeting needs.

**Thanks to you, Miriam and the ADRA team provided immediate support during the crisis.** Meals, mattresses, blankets, and toothbrushes helped survivors through those first weeks.

Thank you for responding with empathy.

Emergency response is winding down. Now Miriam looks forward to helping people rebuild their homes, careers, and lives.

**Thank you for your help. ■**

## Join us in a City Near You!

You are invited to join ADRA for a very special event. Town Hall meetings are an immersive experience. You'll hear stories from ADRA staff and gain a better understanding of how your gifts are implemented around the world.

Join us to learn how you are a part of bringing justice, compassion, and love to a hurting world. Plan now to attend this unforgettable program where you can taste, see, listen, learn, and share. For more details on time and place, and information on how to register, please visit the URLs listed.



Town Hall Meetings are planned in the following locations for 2023:

- ▶ Friday, August 4: Kansas City, Missouri  
*(During the ASI Convention)*  
[ADRA.org/Kansas-City-Townhall](https://ADRA.org/Kansas-City-Townhall)
- ▶ Saturday, October 7: Silver Spring, Maryland  
[ADRA.org/Silver-Spring-Townhall](https://ADRA.org/Silver-Spring-Townhall)
- ▶ Saturday, October 14: Loma Linda, California  
[ADRA.org/Loma-Linda-Townhall](https://ADRA.org/Loma-Linda-Townhall)
- ▶ Saturday, November 4: Chattanooga, Tennessee  
[ADRA.org/Chattanooga-Townhall](https://ADRA.org/Chattanooga-Townhall)

For more information, call 1.800.424.ADRA (2372)



### ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE



### Donate Stocks? A Great Idea!

You might be able to maximize your tax benefits by gifting stocks, bonds, or mutual funds to ADRA!

Our experts can discuss your most beneficial ways to donate. For additional information and to get started today, visit [ADRA.org/gift-of-stock](https://ADRA.org/gift-of-stock) or email our friendly team at [GiftOfStock@ADRA.org](mailto:GiftOfStock@ADRA.org). We are here to support you.

# Ali's Life Transformed

*—because of You!*



Ali used to work on an onion farm. But his hard labor did not meet his family's needs. He worried every day about how to take care of his seven children.

That's when you stepped in.

Ali applied for food Aid from ADRA. The family began receiving food assistance.

Finally! Ali stopped stressing about providing food for his children.

**Ali and his family decided to save his salary.** They watched their nest egg grow

until it reached 100,000 Yemeni riyals (about \$400). **They used those funds to open a store!**

Ali now sells snacks and cooking staples.

His store earns about \$20 per day. It has stabilized the family.

“Our life began to settle down and things returned to normal after suffering for a long time,” says Ali.

**Ali's family needed a chance. You stepped in to help. Thank you! ■**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*A Smile Inspired by YOU*

I hope that Ali's smile (photo above) warms your heart! As a loving father to seven children, he is now able to provide for them.

He has moved from working hard and barely feeding the family to owning his own business! All because you helped!

You are giving life and hope! Thank you so much.

Michael Kruger  
*President, ADRA International*

