



T.C.  
MERSİN  
**YENİŞEHİR BELEDİYESİ BAŞKANLIĞI**

**Subject:** Yenisehir Housing Project for Earthquake Survivors

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Madame/Sir;

We are writing to draw your attention to the significant challenges that have arisen in the aftermath of the earthquakes that struck 10 cities in Turkey on February 6th, 2023. As the Municipality of Yenisehir, located in the central district of Mersin, we have been carefully reflecting on how to address this ongoing and complex crisis.

In terms of immediate needs, we have opened all of our public halls to provide shelter for survivors and have begun distributing food and clothing. However, we recognize that these measures are temporary in nature. We firmly believe that the most effective long-term solution is to provide secure and sustainable accommodation for those in need.

To this end, we have identified a suitable urban forest area located approximately 15 km from the city, which can be accessed within 15 minutes by transportation. This area encompasses a total of 1.2 million square meters, of which half can be reserved for housing. We estimate that we can develop approximately 1,000 housing units, complete with all the essential social infrastructure. The approximate budget of the project is estimated to be 25M€.

Once the immediate need for emergency shelter has been met, this site can be used for various recreational, educational, and social purposes, in line with the municipality's ongoing objectives. We have already allocated resources towards addressing urgent needs and are now seeking external financial support to realize this ambitious project.

We believe that this project offers a long-term solution for earthquake survivors, and we hope that you will be able to support us in our efforts. Our aim is to jointly design a model community with our stakeholders, that will help address a number of needs from housing to education to trauma counseling going forward. If you would like to further discuss our initial concept or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Abdullah Özyiğit

Mayor of Yenisehir

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### The Project

Our goal is to build 1000 houses in the specified area to create a community of about 4000 people.

We will strive to meet a wide range of needs such as housing, education, healthcare, sports facilities, children's play areas, social centers, recreational areas, and workspaces.

These villages will be designed as a sustainable community that will go beyond meeting basic human needs. From environmental design to accessibility and technological infrastructure, they will be designed in detail to heal the wounds in a positive and constructive manner, and not cause any sense of victimization.

### The Structure

The housing units will consist of dwellings with enough living space for a family of four, including a kitchen and a bathroom, in order to provide dignified and self-sufficient living conditions.

To address the energy needs of the Life Villages, a combination of renewable energy sources such as solar panels, as well as portable power generators, could be utilized. This would provide a reliable and sustainable source of electricity, while also ensuring that there is a backup power supply in case of emergency.

**The proposed housing development is intended for individuals and families who meet the following eligibility criteria:**

- Directly affected by the earthquake
- Families with children
- Having workforce potential
- Having lost their job and income due to the earthquake

### Proposed Facilities and Services

- **Education Facilities:** Education center that can be connected with remote education
- **Common Workspaces:** To support remote work and freelance format
- **Training:** Vocational courses for people who will make a fresh start
- **Health Center:** With staff that will provide voluntary support (mobile or fixed)
- **Psycho-Social Center:** Supported by relevant NGOs for trauma healing
- **Communal Kitchen**

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- **Multi-purpose meeting room:** for socialization and coordination
- **Children's Playground:** designed to facilitate the adjustment of children to a new environment.
- **Communal Laundry Services:** to meet hygiene needs
- **Landscape Design:** to be resilient to harsh weather conditions
- **Security Services:** to ensure the safety and well-being of residents

Please find below satellite images of the proposed site for your reference.



Figure 1- Satelite of the site



Figure 2- Details of the site

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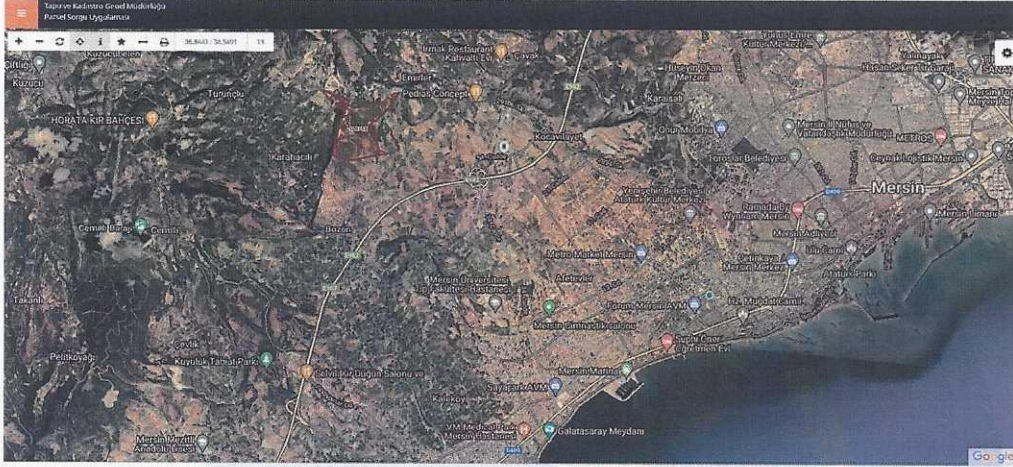
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Figure 3- Location of the site



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