

# 15.03.2023 - Great support from Turkmenistan to earthquake victims

Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan, Arkadag Gurbanguli Berdimuhamedov, expressed his great sadness about the earthquake in Türkiye and emphasized that Turkmenistan sent aid aircraft carrying doctors, rescue teams and aid materials in the first hours of the disaster. On March 15, mawlid and prayers were recited and Arkadag Berdimuhamedov gave a mawlid lunch at the Ömer Mosque in commemoration of those who lost their lives in the earthquake that occurred in Kahramanmaraş and affected 11 provinces, stating that Turkmenistan will stand by Türkiye and the earthquake victims.

On the same day, Çalık Holding's subsidiary Gap İnşaat, which realizes projects that add value to human life in every geography it operates, laid the foundations of the International Oncology Center, International Paediatrics Center and Stomatology Center, which will be built on a turnkey basis in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. The ground-breaking ceremonies were held with the participation of Turkmenistan People's Council Chairman Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Highlighting the priority of hospital investments in Turkmenistan's health policy, Turkmenistan People's Council Chairman Arkadag, Gurbanguli Berdimuhamedov, stated: "Today, we are laying the foundation of the three modern medical institutions at the same time here in my country: international oncology, pediatrics, and dental health centers. Investment in human health is an important pillar of our state's health policy. The greatest value of our society and state is human health. We continue our investments in this field with the principle that a healthy society is the foundation of a healthy state. The establishment of modern diagnosis and treatment centers will contribute to the development of our health system. Along with the establishment of these institutions, we give importance to raising health personnel and doctors who will work there. These breakthroughs we have made in the field of health will improve the life quality of the Turkmen people and increase their life span. We will also cooperate with international institutions to ensure the realization of reforms in the field of health in our country and the development of our health system. We will bring modern diagnosis and treatment opportunities from abroad to our country. In addition, we will mobilize all our resources to develop professional skills and train qualified health personnel who will serve our country for many years. We will continue our public health activities effectively. In the near future, we will build oncology hospitals, virology centers, and medical vocational schools in our different provinces. Now, we would like to thank Ahmet Çalık, Chairman of Çalık Holding, who has been working in our country for a long time and has accomplished important works in sectors such as energy, textile, and construction."

In his speech, Berdimuhamedov stated that Türkiye was the first country to recognize Turkmenistan when it declared its independence and emphasized that when Turkmenistan's neutrality status was approved by the United Nations, Türkiye was the first country to support it. Underlining the fact that Turkmenistan is among the few countries of the world with hydrocarbon wealth; Berdimuhamedov stated: "As Turkmenistan, our aim is to share this hydrocarbon wealth with the big Turkish family and to deliver it to the hearth of every Turkish family."

Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremonies held in Ashgabat, Çalık Holding Chairman Ahmet Çalık pointed out that modern health centers, multi-purpose hospitals, modern scientific-clinical centers, and sanatoriums have been built in Turkmenistan and said: "The protection of human health is one of the priority aspects of state policy in Turkmenistan. Large-scale investments have been made in the field of health, as in all sectors of the national economy in Turkmenistan in recent years. Great achievements are being made in the field of health. Factories that can produce pharmaceuticals and health products are being established. Consequently, good results are obtained in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases, in bringing quality to medical services, and in the implementation of advanced methods and innovative medicine. Transforming the health and pharmaceutical industry system of Turkmenistan completely, these significant works changed the health status of the population dramatically and increased the average life span.

Based on Turkmenistan's President Serdar Berdimuhamedov's principle "The homeland is a homeland only with its people! The state is only a state with its people!", new targets are set for further development and modernization of the national health system. Turkmenistan is taking firm steps forward to develop its health system further. The construction of the international oncology clinic center with 500 beds, the international pediatric health center with 160 beds, and the dental center, whose foundation we laid here today, is an important proof of this. We are very pleased to be a contractor in Turkmenistan and to contribute to the development of the health sector."

Equipped with cutting-edge technology, the International Oncology Center (Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Center) with a capacity of 500 beds, the International Paediatrics Center with a capacity of 160 beds, and the Stomatology Center (Oral and Dental Diseases Center) will be delivered as turnkey projects to the Ministry of Health of Turkmenistan in 2026.