



**Fédération Européenne  
des Médecins Salariés**  
European Federation  
of Salaried Doctors

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## **Kıbrıs Türk Tabipleri Birliđi Cyprus Turkish Medical Association**

FEMS General Assembly

Palma de Mallorca, Baleares, 4,5, 6 May-2023

### **COUNTRY REPORT- NORTH CYPRUS**

Economic situation: While the negative economic effects of the pandemic still remain, unfortunately the Ukraine-Russia war has led to huge price increases and high inflation rates on a global scale. Although the official inflation rate announced by the government for the year 2022 was 95% in Northern Cyprus using the Turkish Lira (TL), unofficial figures show that the genuine inflation rate was around 120%.

The health budget has increased by 55% this year, reaching 8.8% of the national budget in total. We have warned the government that the reserved health budget for this year would definitely not be enough for the increasingly demanding healthcare services.

The salary of doctors, which was around 30.000 TL (1650 Euro) in December last year, has increased by 50% in January this year to 45.000 TL (2000 Euro). However, the continued devaluation of the Turkish Lira reflects only a 20% of a real increase in terms of Euro.

In addition, there is a shortage of specialists in branches such as endocrinology, gastroenterology, nephrology, allergy, plastic surgery, anesthesiology and emergency medicine. The number of intensive care units and operating rooms still remain insufficient for the increasing population.

### **COVID PANDEMIC**

Social life continues uninterrupted. Routine scans are no longer performed. Tests continue for diagnostic purposes only. Rather, its economic effects continue.



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### **EARTHQUAKE**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February this year, a devastating earthquake occurred in Turkey that affected a very large area. During this period, our 35-person sports group who were in Turkey for a volleyball tournament died under the rubble.

There is tension within the society due to the increased risk of another earthquake, owing to the increased stress on the fault lines in the Mediterranean region and therefore in Cyprus.

With the demands of our Physicians Union and the Medical Association, the Ministry of Health have worked to evaluate the earthquake resistance of public hospitals.

Although the results were not disclosed in their entirety, it was determined that many hospitals with vital importance were in danger of collapse.

This shows that in the event of an earthquake, we would have difficulty in finding a hospital to take care of any survivors.

We are currently negotiating with government agencies to resolve this issue.

On the other hand, the fact that there are many people coming to Cyprus from our neighbouring country Turkey and demanding healthcare services, has started to create a serious burden on our already limited pharmaceutical stocks and healthcare capacity.

While trying to solve the current problems, we also need to draw the path we should follow in case of an earthquake or any other natural disaster that could occur.

The Medical Association formed a team of 13 volunteered doctors from the first day who flew to Turkey and worked in the earthquake zone for a week. With the aid campaign initiated by the Medical Association, food



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and clothing were immediately gathered and donated to the earthquake zone.

With the aim to express social problems, to raise awareness and to prevent the wrong practices of the government, two years ago we established a common action platform with the Cyprus Turkish Bar Association and the Union of Chambers of Engineers and Architects. We have made positive joint statements in many fields ever since.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to establish a healthy communication with the Ministry of Health so far.

Cyprus Turkish Medical Association

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