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TESEV
BRIEFS

**Budgets Allocated
to Disasters and Risk
Reduction by Metropolitan
Municipalities Before and
After February 6
Earthquake**

TESEV Briefs aim to share with the public different opinions and recommendations on issues that are under TESEV's working areas.





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INTRODUCTION

Since 17 August 1999, earthquakes and other disasters that are exacerbated by global warming have been on the agenda in Türkiye. Disaster preparedness and risk reduction are among the duties of local governments as well as the central government.

This study aims to understand the importance given by metropolitan municipalities to disasters before and after the forest fires and floods in the summer of 2021, the floods in 2022, and the great earthquake in February 2023, and to provide concrete information by examining the budgets allocated by them before and after the major disasters that occurred in the last two years.

The methodology of the study aims to examine how much budget is allocated by 30 metropolitan municipalities and their affiliated institutions for risk reduction before disasters and response after disasters. This includes various disaster types such as floods, forest fires, and especially earthquakes. For this reason, the 2022, 2023 and 2024 performance programs² of 30 metropolitan municipalities and their water-sewerage authorities (WASA) were examined one by one and all disaster-related targets in these programs were identified and categorized. Then, the allocated budgets for these targets were added.³

Table 1: DISASTER BUDGET CLASSIFICATION

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND IDENTIFICATION	
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY TRAINING MEETING AND AWARENESS RAISING	DRR.1
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RISK ANALYSIS STUDIES	DRR.1
INTEGRATED DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	DRR.1
GROUND SURVEYS, ANALYSIS AND IDENTIFICATION FOR HIGH-RISK STRUCTURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE RECONSTRUCTIONS	DRR.1
EARLY DISASTER WARNING	DRR.1
FIRE PREVENTION	DRR.1
SECURING FURNITURE	DRR.1
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CONSTRUCTION-EQUIPMENT	
URBAN TRANSFORMATION ACTIVITIES (INCLUDED BECAUSE WE COULD NOT SEPARATE POLITICAL+ECONOMIC AND RENT-SEEKING ACTIVITIES)	DRR.2
EXPROPRIATION FOR URBAN TRANSFORMATION	DRR.2
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FOR URBAN TRANSFORMATION	DRR.2
CITIZEN SHELTER AND RESOURCE SUPPORT IN DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES	DRR.2
STATION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTANENCE	DRR.2
FLOOD AND OVERFLOW CONTROL/ STREAM REHABILITATION	DRR.2
DISASTER RESPONSE AND PREPARATION	
DISASTER VOLUNTEERS ACTIVITIES AND CIVIL DEFENSE SERVICES	DRES.1
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY COORDINATION ACTIVITIES	DRES.1
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES	DRES.1
SEARCH AND RESCUE DRILLS AND TRAINING	DRES.1
GATHERING AREAS AND EARTHQUAKE PARK APPLICATIONS	DRES.1
FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE FIGHTING (TRAINING, INTERNAL TRAINING, VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING, ETC.)	DRES.1
FIRE SAFETY / INSPECTION	DRES.1
DISASTER RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS CONSTRUCTION - EQUIPMENT	
PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE, DISASTER AND EMERGENCY	DRES.2
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF FIRE STATION BUILDINGS AND STATION CONSTRUCTION	DRES.2

In many metropolitan municipalities, the subsidiaries through which municipal services are provided are excluded from the scope of the study for two reasons. Firstly, while these subsidiaries received capital from the municipality when they were established, in the following years their expenditures are based on the revenues they generate. Therefore, it is irrelevant to include them in the allocated public sector budget. Secondly, since these subsidiaries are not public institutions, they do not publish performance programs and annual reports like municipalities and their affiliated institutions.

Within the scope of this study, the titles of the disaster targets of metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities are classified

as shown in Table 1. In order to categorise the disaster related objectives, two main headings have been formed. The first one is risk reduction and the second one is response preparedness. Both risk reduction and response preparedness are divided into sub-headings as construction- equipment and other.⁴

1. SHARE OF DISASTER BUDGETS IN TOTAL BUDGETS OF METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES

One of the initial steps of the study was to analyse the ratio of disaster-related budgets to the total budgets of metropolitan municipalities and their water-sewerage authorities. Disaster budgets and total budgets of all municipalities and water-sewerage authorities were compared separately.

Among the 30 metropolitan municipalities, we were able to disaggregate the budgets of 29 cities, except Van.⁵ Although the classification was not limited to earthquakes, as detailed in the third section, it was observed that the most important expenditure within the scope of disasters and earthquakes was related to urban renewal. However, since issues such as river flooding and urban fires are also among the disaster-related targets, metropolitans with no/very low earthquake risk were also included in the analysis.

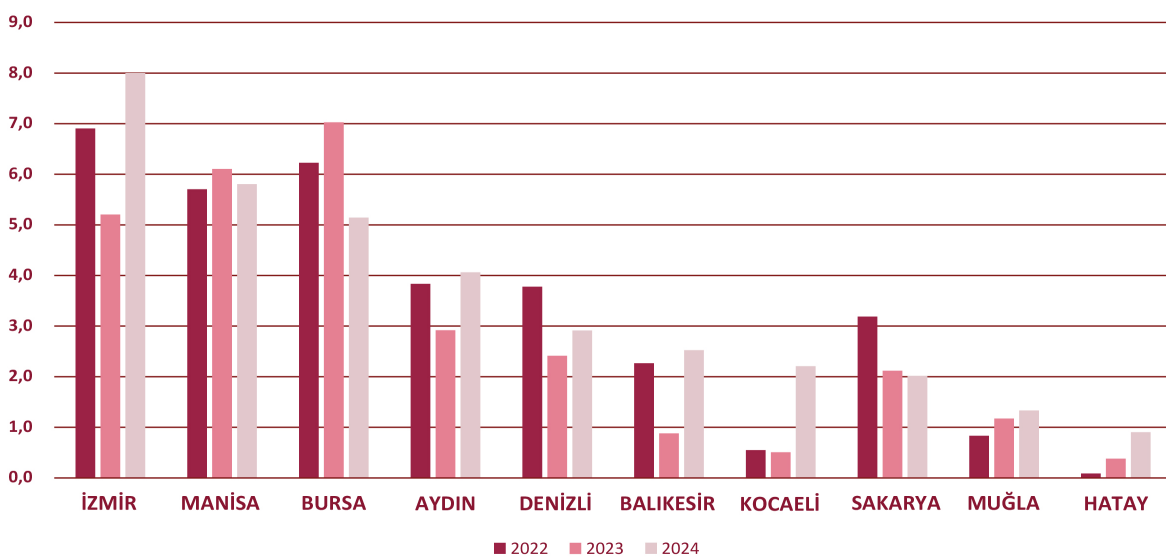
Since the data of 29 metropolitan municipalities cannot be visualized in the same graph, the distinction in the earthquake risk maps of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) was used to produce meaningful images. According to this distinction, metropolitan cities can be categorized as i) 1st-degree earthquake zone, ii) 2nd and 3rd degree earthquake zone and iii)

cities with low or no earthquake risk.

Among the cities in the 1st-degree earthquake zone, shown in Image 1.1, İzmir has the largest share allocated to disaster within its total budget. İzmir (metropolitan municipality and its water-sewerage authority) has the highest disaster budget ratio in 2022 and 2024. Moreover, with 8% disaster allocated budget in 2024, İzmir reached a higher share in 2024 than all metropolitan cities that are not only in the 1st- but also in the 2nd- and 3rd- degree earthquake zones (Image 1.2). When compared to the other 28 metropolitan cities with no/low earthquake risk, İzmir has the highest share of disaster budget in its total budget (Image 1.3).

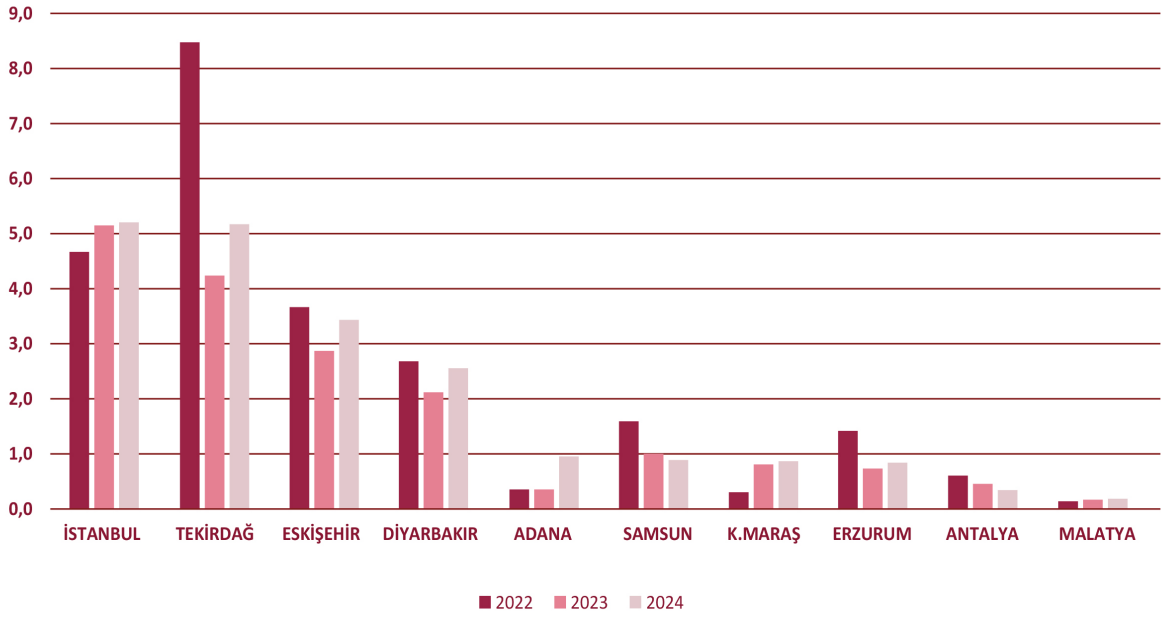
Among the metropolitan cities in the 1st-degree earthquake zone, the share of disaster budget in the total budget is above 5% in Manisa and Bursa, while the same ratio is above 4% only in Aydın. In other cities such as Balıkesir, Kocaeli,

Image 1.1: MM and WASA (1st degree earthquake zone) DISASTER TARGETS BUDGET / MM and WASA TOTAL BUDGET %



Source: Performance Programs of Metropolitan Municipalities and Water-Sewerage Authorities

Image 1.2: MM and WASA (2nd and 3rd degree earthquake zone) DISASTER TARGETS BUDGET / MM and WASA TOTAL BUDGET %



Source: Performance Programs of Metropolitan Municipalities and Water-Sewerage Authorities

Sakarya, Muğla and Hatay, this ratio is even below 3%.

Compared to 2022 and 2023, the share of the disaster budget is decreased in Bursa, Denizli and Sakarya that are in the 1st-degree earthquake zone, where we expect the ratio of the disaster budget to the total budget to increase in 2024. While the share of disaster budget of Hatay Metropolitan Municipality was 0.1% in 2023, it increased to 0.9% in 2024.

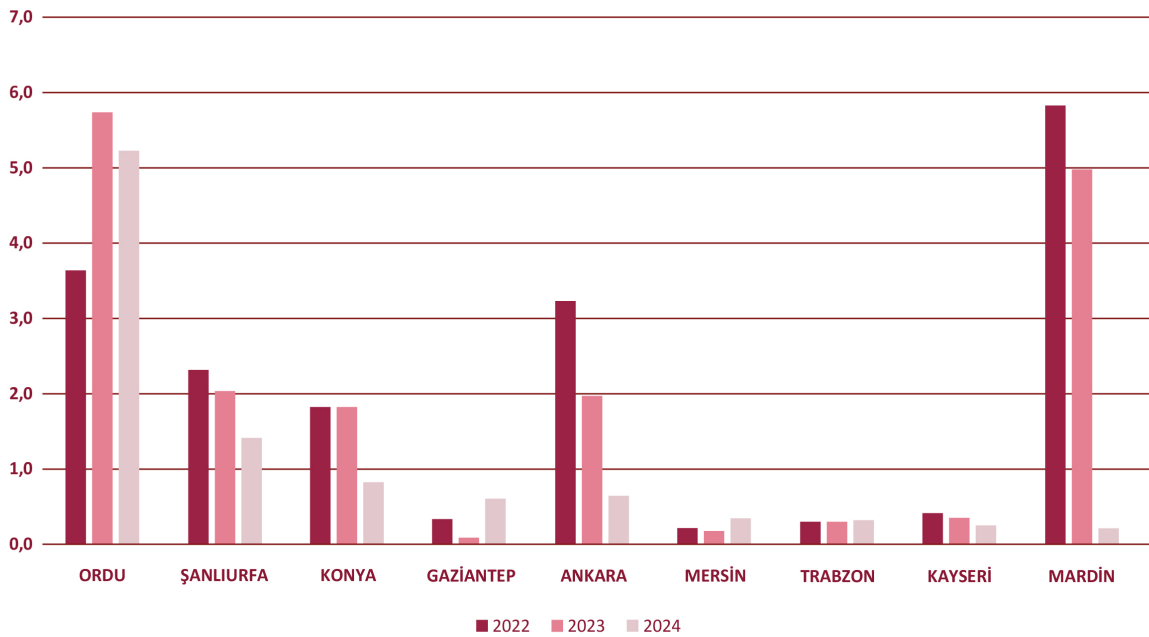
When metropolitan cities in 2nd- and 3rd-degree earthquake zones are analysed in terms of the budget allocated to disaster in their total budget, we can observe the importance given to the issue by Istanbul and Tekirdağ as of 2024. In both cities (metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities), the share in 2024 has increased compared to 2023 and is 5.24% in İstanbul and 5.22% in Tekirdağ (Image 1.2).

In Erzurum, Antalya, Malatya and Samsun, the share of the budget allocated for disaster that is below 1% is even decreasing between 2022 and 2024. In Eskişehir, Diyarbakır, the share

of the disaster budget in the 2024 budget increases compared to 2023, while in both cities it is below 4% (Image 1.2). In Adana and Kahramanmaraş, the disaster budget also increased in 2024, but its share in their total budgets remained even below 1%. It should be emphasised that the share of the resources allocated from the budget of Kahramanmaraş in 2024 is very low, as it is the case for Hatay in Image 1.1 and for Kahramanmaraş in Image 1.2.

Among the metropolitans and water-sewerage authorities in the 3rd group, Ordu is the metropolitan city that allocates the highest budget share for disaster in 2024. It allocates 5.3% of its budget, even though the share is actually decreased in 2024. Şanlıurfa's 2024 share is 1.4%, while it is below 1% in all other metropolitan cities. When the disaster budget of Mardin is examined with the information from their Performance Programs, we understand that the rapid decline in 2024 is due to the fact that no resources were allocated for urban renewal.

Image 1.3: MM and WASA (NON-Earthquake ZONE) DISASTER TARGETS BUDGET / MM and WASA TOTAL BUDGET %



Source: Performance Programs of Metropolitan Municipalities and Water-Sewerage Authorities

When 29 metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities are evaluated as a total, it is necessary to emphasize that they allocated only 3.42% of their total budgets to disaster-related targets in 2022, 3.10% in 2023, and 3.22% in 2024, which is lower than 2022. Taking the earthquakes and disasters experienced in recent years into account, the 2024 rates can be considered as very low numbers.

2. DISASTER BUDGETS OF METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES IN TURKISH LIRA

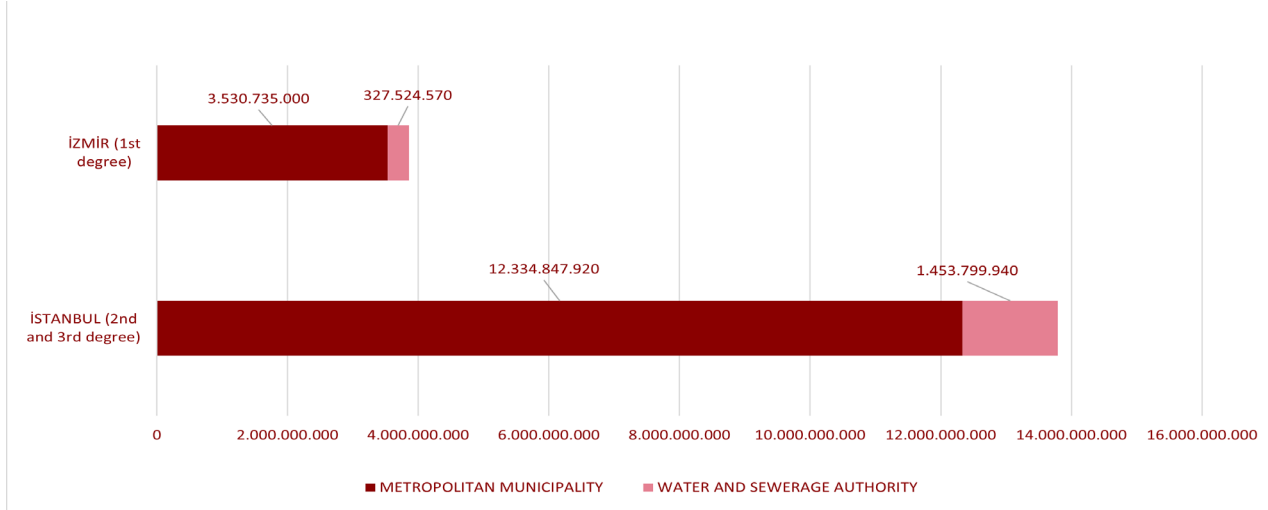
The budget share that metropolitan municipalities allocate for earthquakes is an important indicator. However, the budgets of metropolitan municipalities vary based on different factors such as their population, economic size, etc. The share in their budgets

shows the importance that metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities place on disasters, but the size of disaster budgets in Turkish Lira (TL) is also important.

In 2024, the total budget allocated for disaster by 29 metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities is limited to 26 billion TL. However, in 2024, the total budget of the Presidency of Religious Affairs is 91.8 billion TL, including 77.6 billion TL for personnel salaries. The 2024 budget of the General Directorate of Highways is 267 billion TL (Budget Justification, 2024).

While the total disaster budget of 28 metropolitan municipalities and their affiliated institutions is 11.7 billion TL, the total disaster budget of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality and water-sewerage authority is 13.8 billion TL. İzmir has the next largest budget after İstanbul

Image 2.1: Disaster Target Budgets of Istanbul and Izmir Metropolitan Municipalities and Water-Sewerage Authorities, 2024, TL



Source: Performance Programs of Metropolitan Municipalities and Water-Sewerage Authorities

with 3.8 billion TL. In Image 2.1, the disaster budgets of İstanbul and İzmir, which allocate the largest budget in TL, are presented first. The other 27 metropolitans are shown separately to obtain a visually meaningful image regarding the expenditures of other cities.

The total disaster budget allocated by İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality and water-sewerage authority is 13.8 billion TL. The disaster budget allocated by İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and water-sewerage authority is close to 4 billion TL. Unlike many other metropolitan municipalities, both İstanbul and İzmir Metropolitan Municipalities allocate budget for disaster-related targets through İstanbul Water - Sewerage Authority (İSKİ) and İzmir Water.

When the 2024 budgets allocated by 27 other metropolitan municipalities and affiliated institutions are examined, we see that Bursa has the largest disaster budget after İstanbul and İzmir Metropolitan Municipalities and water-sewerage authorities (Image 2.2). Bursa is a city under 1st-degree earthquake risk.

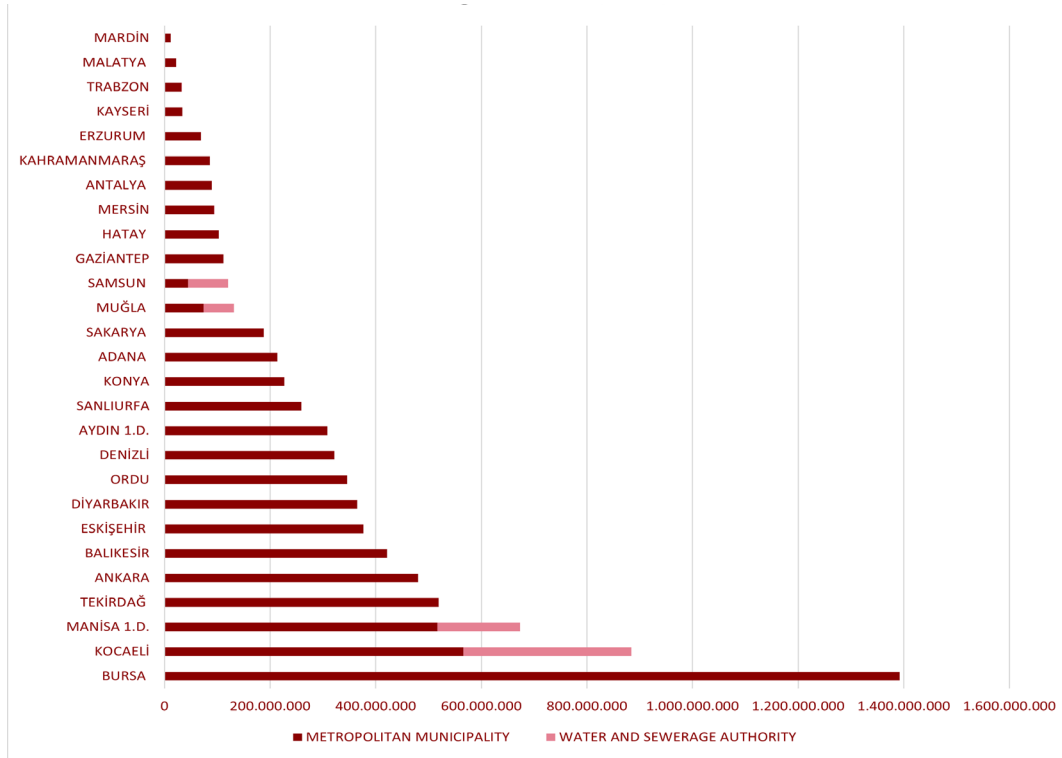
Kocaeli, Tekirdağ, Manisa and Balıkesir, which are earthquake cities, also allocate significant budgets. Although Ankara is a city with low earthquake risk, it has a significant disaster budget.

The areas of disaster expenditures such as earthquakes, floods and fires will be analysed in the third and fourth sections of this text. However, it should be mentioned here that disaster budgets of cities in 2nd- or 3rd-degree earthquake zones such as Malatya, Samsun, Kahramanmaraş, Antalya, Diyarbakır, Eskişehir and of cities in 1st-degree earthquake zones such as Hatay, Muğla, Sakarya, Aydın, Denizli are considerably low.

3. EVALUATION OF THE BUDGET OF RISK REDUCTION TARGETS OF METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES AND CONCLUSION

When the share of 29 metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities allocated to response and risk reduction in their disaster targeted budgets is compared, we see

Image 2.2: Disaster Target Budgets of Metropolitan Municipalities and Water-Sewerage Authorities, 2024, TL



Source: Performance Programs of Metropolitan Municipalities and Water-Sewerage Authorities

Ankara, Bursa, Antalya, Balıkesir, İstanbul and Gaziantep) allocated more/equal share to risk reduction.⁶

As seen in Table 1, risk reduction is categorised under two main items. These are risk reduction and identification (DRR.1) and risk reduction: construction and equipment (DRR.2). Urban renewal, expropriation and project development, temporary shelter, building reinforcement for earthquake, flood control and stream rehabilitation are classified under construction-equipment related to risk reduction (DRR.2), while other identification, prevention, analysis and awareness raising activities are classified separately (DRR.1).

In Table 2, metropolitan cities are ranked from the highest budget they allocated for risk reduction in 2024 to the lowest. As

detailed in Table 2, Konya, Hatay, Sakarya, Erzurum, Kayseri, Trabzon, Malatya are the metropolitans that allocated less than 750.000 USD budget for risk reduction targets for 2024. Kahramanmaraş, Mardin and Mersin have not allocated any budget for risk reduction targets. On the other hand, there are 19 metropolitan municipalities that allocated more than 750.000 USD for risk reduction but reduced their risk reduction budget from 2023 to 2024. These are Ankara and Manisa. Table 2 is prepared in USD currency to allow for an inflation-adjusted analysis.⁷ Metropolitan municipalities' and water-sewerage authorities' budgets of risk reduction targets is increased by 51% in total as shown at the last three rows of Table 2. The most significant part of the risk reduction targets budget is for construction and equipment.

Table 2: 30 MUNICIPALITIES, PERFORMANCE PROGRAM RISK REDUCTION BUDGETS, DOLLAR

Metropolitan municipalities and their affiliated institutions	2023	2023	2023	2024	2024	2024
	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IDENTIFICATION (DRR.1)	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CONSTRUCTION-EQUIPMENT (DRR.2)	TOTAL	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IDENTIFICATION (DRR.1)	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CONSTRUCTION-EQUIPMENT (DRR.2)	TOTAL
İSTANBUL MM and AI	9.940.917	147.799.516	157.740.433	63.333.722	174.491.643	237.825.366
İZMİR MM and AI	7.584.956	43.754.327	51.339.283	13.123.212	74.888.684	88.011.896
BURSA MM and AI	717.798	25.988.571	26.706.370	855.152	26.425.182	27.280.333
KOCAELİ MM and AI	232.990	128.762	361.752	3.009.242	18.916.231	21.925.473
TEKİRDAĞ MM and AI	913.865	8.252.097	9.165.962	2.862.061	11.929.091	14.791.152
ANKARA MM and AI	576.232	21.128.492	21.704.724	303.030	9.393.939	9.696.970
ŞANLIURFA MM and AI	115.246	4.436.983	4.552.230	954.545	6.757.576	7.712.121
BALIKESİR MM and AI	4.687	0	4.687	7.536.364	151.515	7.687.879
MANİSA MM and AI	861.256	7.148.380	8.009.637	1.862.975	5.392.139	7.255.114
DİYARBAKIR MM and AI	0	4.994.007	4.994.007	0	9.763.939	9.763.939
MUĞLA MM and AI	0	1.287.878	1.287.878	0	3.469.697	3.469.697
ADANA MM and AI	80.672	19.208	99.880	1.151.515	1.863.636	3.015.152
ESKİŞEHİR MM and AI	0	1.550.601	1.550.601	0	2.652.394	2.652.394
SAMSUN MM and AI	0	1.690.279	1.690.279	0	2.575.758	2.575.758
ORDU MM and AI	1.335.935	322.152	1.658.087	899.091	1.257.727	2.156.818
ANTALYA MM and AI	576	1.628.827	1.629.403	0	1.743.939	1.743.939
GAZİANTEP MM and AI	7.683	0	7.683	140.909	1.550.000	1.690.909
AYDIN MM and AI	268.910	122.738	391.648	826.818	282.394	1.109.212
DENİZLİ MM and AI	339.055	0	339.055	814.909	0	814.909
KONYA MM and AI	1.092.535	15.366	1.107.901	615.152	45.455	660.606
HATAY MM and AI	309.247	0	309.247	190.909	454.545	645.455
SAKARYA MM and AI	310.128	92.197	402.325	462.515	156.061	618.576
ERZURUM MM and AI	37.324	259.935	297.259	0	370.952	370.952
KAYSERİ MM and AI	0	211.287	211.287	0	196.970	196.970
TRABZON MM and AI	3.842	38.415	42.257	3.030	151.515	154.545
MALATYA MM and AI	36.495	0	36.495	31.818	0	31.818
KAHRAMANMARAŞ MM and AI	0	0	0	0	0	0
MARDİN MM and AI	115.246	5.378.162	5.493.408	0	0	0
MERSİN MM and AI	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAN MM and AI						
TOTAL 29 MM and AI	24.885.595	276.248.181	301.133.777	98.976.970	354.880.983	453.857.953
GROWTH BETWEEN 2023-2024 %						50,72%
TOTAL EXCEPT İSTANBUL	14.944.678	128.448.666	143.393.343	35.643.248	180.389.340	216.032.588

Source: 2024 Performance Programs of Institutions. For the methodology, see www.kahip.org



In 2024, the total risk reduction-related expenditure is 454 million USD, of which 355 million USD is related to construction and equipment. Not surprisingly, construction and equipment budget is mainly allocated for urban renewal.

The budget allocated by İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality and water-sewerage authority for risk reduction targets is 238 million USD in 2024, while the combined budget of the other 28 metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities is 216 million USD. İstanbul's budget of risk reduction targets accounts for 52% of the total allocated by the 29 metropolitan municipalities.

In 2024, the total risk reduction-related expenditure is 454 million USD, of which 355 million USD is related to construction and equipment. Not surprisingly, construction and equipment budget is mainly allocated for urban renewal. Considering that urban renewal is also used for political or economic rent-seeking in our country, we have included all urban renewal-related activities as it was not possible to separate earthquake risk reduction from other urban renewal activities. The urban renewal budget will be discussed separately in the following section.

a) Disaster Risk Reduction: Construction - Equipment

A more detailed examination of the construction-equipment procurement (DRR.2) sub-item of the risk reduction budget shows that the metropolitan cities with the most substantial expenditures are İstanbul, İzmir, Bursa, Kocaeli, Tekirdağ, Ankara, Şanlıurfa, Manisa, Diyarbakır, Muğla, Ordu, Eskişehir,

Samsun, Antalya, Gaziantep.

Within the construction-equipment procurement sub-item (DRR.2) of the risk reduction budget, urban renewal-related budgets constitute the most important. Urban renewal and its related projects about expropriation and project development is the most important budget item for most of the cities. İstanbul, İzmir, Ankara, Adana, Eskişehir and Antalya exemplify metropolitans that allocate the highest budget for urban renewal. Bursa and Kocaeli allocated high budgets for expropriation for urban renewal while Şanlıurfa's urban renewal budget is concentrated on project design.

Urban renewal budgets are followed by for stream rehabilitation and flood control. İstanbul, İzmir, Kocaeli, Tekirdağ, Muğla, Samsun are metropolitan cities that reserve resources for stream rehabilitation and flood control. İstanbul and Kocaeli's flood control and stream rehabilitation budget is close to urban renewal budget while İzmir allocated higher amounts to these targets than urban renewal.

İzmir, Manisa, Diyarbakır and Gaziantep allocated the highest budget for the reinforcement of existing buildings within the risk reduction targets budget. İzmir and Adana are the two cities that included construction/strengthening of fire stations for risk reduction.

➔ **In a geography with a high earthquake risk like Türkiye, the demolition and reconstruction of high risk buildings are too costly to be covered by local governments budget alone.**

When we analysed 2024 performance programs of 29 metropolitan municipalities, we discovered 147 million USD is allocated for risk reduction activities related to urban renewal, of which 38 million USD is for expropriation and project development. The remaining 109 million of this amount is directly related to urban renewal. Apart from the budget for urban renewal-related targets 29 metropolitan municipalities have allocated 109 million USD for stream rehabilitation and flood control, 75 million USD for reinforcing buildings and 2 million USD for the construction/strengthening of fire stations.

Although it is thought that higher risk reduction budgets than disaster response budgets will have a positive impact on human, animal and natural life in the long run, almost half of the budget allocated by local governments for risk reduction is related to urban renewal.

The Medium Term Program (MTP), effective today, states that in addition to the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change (MOEUCC) budget, 220 billion TL for 2024, 381 billion TL for 2025, and 370 billion TL for 2026, is allocated as non-program expenditure (MTP, 2024 and MOEUCC 2024 Performance Program). Türkiye is a country with high earthquake risk. Considering that, scientists have been emphasizing this risk since the 1999 earthquake and urban renewal, especially for Istanbul, is a long-overdue goal. As mentioned above, considering that 29 metropolitan municipalities can allocate 109 million USD (approximately 3.5 billion TL) for

urban renewal, it is clear that an additional budget for urban renewal should be allocated by the central government. Moreover, it is estimated that even the resources allocated within the MTP will not be sufficient for Istanbul, where 1,500,000 buildings need to be demolished urgently.⁸

Instead of undertaking urban transformation directly, it may be appropriate for local governments to allocate more resources to ground surveys, expropriation and project development; identification, detection and demolition of high-risk buildings; and early warning and prevention systems. This is because in a geography with a high earthquake risk like Türkiye, the demolition and reconstruction of high risk buildings are too costly to be covered by local governments budget alone. Support from the central budget is crucial. However, how urban transformation budget in cities will be utilised is of strategic importance. Since for many years the authority of local governments has been restricted, the budget and decisions have become increasingly centralised, and the problems such as controversial quality, local adaptation, and peripheral relocation seen in traditional/established TOKİ (Mass Housing Development Administration) implementations, it would be beneficial for urban transformation to be carried out by local governments on the basis of participation and transparency. In this respect, it can be suggested that cooperation between the center and local governments should be prioritised instead of the rent-oriented urban renewal approach.



However, the fact that almost half of the risk reduction budget allocated by local governments is directed toward urban renewal suggests rent-seeking.

b) Disaster Risk Reduction and Identification

As mentioned earlier, for 2024, the DRR.2 budget of 29 metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities is 454 million USD, while the DRR.1 budget is only 99 million USD. DRR.1 sub-item covers areas such as ground surveys, microzoning, training, coordination, awareness raising and fire prevention. For example, in 2024, 75% (approximately 73 million USD) of the DRR.1 budget, which totals 99 million USD, was allocated for ground surveys and identification of high-risk buildings. Of this, \$53 million was allocated by İstanbul, \$10 million by İzmir, \$2.7 million by Tekirdağ, \$2 million by Bursa, \$1.3 million by Kocaeli, and \$1 million by Adana Metropolitan Municipality. The remaining 26 million USD could be allocated for awareness, training and fire prevention.

CONCLUSION

When 29 metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities' budgets are evaluated together, it is necessary to state that, on average, they allocated only 3.42% for disaster-related targets in 2022. This ratio was 3.10% in 2023 and remained lower than 2022 in 2024 with a very small number of 3.22%. In total, the budgets of 29 metropolitan municipalities and their affiliated institutions

allocated for disasters amount to only 26 billion TL in 2024.

When comparing the share of disaster target budgets allocated to response and risk reduction by 29 metropolitan municipalities and water-sewerage authorities, it is understood that 13 of them (Şanlıurfa, Tekirdağ, Diyarbakır, Muğla, Kocaeli, İzmir, Samsun, Ankara, Bursa, Antalya, Balıkesir, İstanbul and Gaziantep) allocate more/equal share for risk reduction.

In 2024, the total risk reduction related expenditure is 454 million USD, of which 355 million USD is related to construction and equipment. Not surprisingly, this construction and equipment budget is mainly allocated to urban renewal related targets. When we analyze 2024 performance programs of 29 metropolitan municipalities, we see that a budget of 147 million USD is allocated for urban renewal related risk reduction targets, of which 38 million USD is for expropriation and project development, and 109 million USD is directly related to urban transformation.

It is clear that higher risk reduction budgets than disaster response budgets will have a positive impact on human, animal and natural life in the long run. However, the fact that almost half of the risk reduction budget allocated by local governments is directed toward urban renewal suggests rent-seeking.

The MTP effective today, states that in addition to the MOEUCC budget, 220 billion TL for 2024, 381 billion TL for 2025, and 370 billion TL for 2026, is allocated as non-program expenditure (MTP, 2024 and MOEUCC 2024 Performance Program). Türkiye is a country with a high earthquake risk and urban renewal is a long overdue target, especially for Istanbul. As mentioned above, 29 metropolitan municipalities can allocate 109 million USD (approximately 3.5 billion TL) for this target. It is clear that an additional budget should be allocated by the central government.

Local governments have limited resources for urban renewal. Instead, it may be appropriate

for them to allocate their resources to ground survey, expropriation and project development; identification, detection and demolition of high-risk buildings; early warning and preventive works. The additional resources required for urban renewal are large enough to be met from the central government budget. On the other hand, it is important that the implementation of urban renewal is based on the geographical, cultural and sociological characteristics of the region and the understanding of creating energy-efficient and resilient cities with a cooperative approach between central and local governments.

NOTES

1. The authors are members of the Public Expenditure Monitoring Platform.
2. Performance program is a type of document in which municipalities annually identify and publish indicators and budgets necessary to achieve their goals and objectives in strategic plans.
3. Metropolitan municipalities also have water-sewerage authorities as affiliated institutions and transportation administrations that perform transport services. However, since no disaster budget is found in the affiliated institutions related to transport, they are not included to the study.
4. In this article, only the budgets of municipalities and water-sewerage administrations related to risk reduction targets will be discussed in addition to their total disaster budgets. The comprehensive report in which disaster response targets budgets are also discussed is available at <https://www.kahip.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Buyuksehir-Belediyelerinin-Afete-Yonelik-Butceleri.pdf>
5. It was not possible to identify the disaster targets in the Van 2024 Performance Program according to the classification given in Table 1.
6. For the ratios of disaster response and risk reduction budgets, see www.kahip.org
7. The dollar exchange rate is based on the end-June exchange rates of the relevant year.
8. For the Central Government disaster budget, see Yentürk, 2025 to be published, Istanbul Bilgi University Publishing House, Istanbul.

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