

The Impact of the Extreme Weather Event in Hatay, Turkey, on May 21 on Women in Agriculture

Hatay, one of the provinces struggling to recover from the devastating effects of the February 6, 2023, earthquakes, was hit by extremely heavy rainfall on the night of May 21, 2026. The rainfall, which totaled 157.2 kg per square meter, went down in the region's history as one of the largest meteorological disasters (sources: Hatay Governor's Office and General Directorate of Meteorology). Under normal conditions, the region receives an average of 35–40 kg of rainfall per square meter in May. However, the event on the night of May 21 has been recorded as an extreme weather phenomenon caused by a supercell, which is believed to have been triggered by the global climate crisis. ([Samandag, Hatay Province, Turkey - May 21 2026](#).) This extreme damage, which was more than five times the average for May, has been recorded as a sudden and unexpected natural disaster triggered by the global climate crisis, falling entirely outside the scope of foreseeable seasonal risks. The losses caused by such an extraordinary and unstoppable natural event do not cast a shadow over the sustainability of ongoing efforts; rather, they highlight the necessity of supporting vulnerable groups with emergency resilience in the face of the climate crisis.

The heavy and continuous downpour that began around 3:30 a.m. triggered a sudden and massive flash flood in the region, severely disrupting daily life. Beneficiaries of our efforts to support women producers in Hatay since 2023—and particularly women in agriculture over the past year—were also affected by this situation. (Sample videos of women supported with equipment from our project: [Greenhouse Video - 1](#) [Greenhouse Video - 2](#) and [Field Video.](#))

As MaviKalem, our core mission in Hatay is to empower local communities, reduce poverty, and create lasting, sustainable change for our beneficiaries. This support initiative is also part of our commitment to preserving the development momentum of local communities and women-focused groups.

To this end, a rapid field survey and needs assessment were conducted immediately following the disaster. A significant portion of the beneficiary women have turned to their own resources and local solidarity networks to heal their wounds and quickly protect their means of production. However, a list of seven women in urgent need of support was identified—those who had suffered the most severe losses, bringing their production to a complete standstill. The goal is to support these women producers, who are just beginning to rebuild, and reintegrate them into the production chain.

In accordance with the decisions of the Damage Assessment Commission established by the Hatay Governor's Office following the disaster, within the first fifteen days:

Residential Damage: Citizens whose homes were damaged should apply to the Provincial Directorate of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change.

Emergency Basic Needs: For emergency basic needs such as shelter and food, applications should be made to the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation.

Business Premises and Fixed Asset Damage: Producers who have suffered damage to their business premises, vehicles, or property may apply to the Treasury or the relevant Tax Office Directorate.

Agricultural and Livestock Losses: Producers who have lost large or small livestock may apply to the District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry.

This meteorological setback has not disrupted the overall operation or long-term sustainability of our project. All equipment and materials previously provided by MaviKalem have been preserved without damage. These planned additional supports will prevent the main investments from going to waste, facilitate women's swift return to production, and fully ensure the sustainable development model we have aimed for since the project's inception.

These women producers are engaged in CEA primarily vegetable gardening and greenhouse farming, growing and processing vegetables and animal products. There is a need to rebuild their greenhouses, which were destroyed by heavy rainfall, and to replace the two flocks of chickens that were lost. These women were selected based on the criterion that the damage they suffered had halted their production.

	Code	Work/Produce	How was she supported by Mavi Kalem?	Explanation	Necessary support so she can continue production
1	A.A.	She plants and harvests peppers in a greenhouse. She produces tomato paste and ground red pepper.	Pepper paste machine	The materials provided by our project were not damaged. However, the greenhouse was destroyed.	Greenhouse materials (Covering material and steel profiles)
2	S.K.	She plants and harvests vegetables in the field and takes them to the market.	Herbicide Spraying Machine	The materials provided by our project were not damaged. However, the greenhouse was destroyed.	Greenhouse materials (covering and steel profiles) and a tiller
3	S.T.	They grow vegetables in the garden and make pickles and tomato	Refrigerator and tomato paste maker	The materials provided by our project were not damaged.	Greenhouse cover and irrigation hose

		paste from the harvest.		However, the greenhouse was destroyed.	
4	L.Z.	She grows vegetables in her fields and greenhouses and sells them at the market. She buys tomatoes and makes tomato paste. She produces grape molasses and pomegranate molasses.	Tomato paste machine	The materials provided by our project were not damaged. However, the greenhouse was destroyed.	Greenhouse materials (Covering material and steel profiles)
5	S.K.	They produce milk, cheese, butter, and yogurt. They raise chickens and sell their eggs.	Milking machine and churn	The materials provided by our project were not damaged, but he lost his chickens in the flood.	30 chickens and feed
6	P.M.	She plants and harvests vegetables in the field, makes tomato paste, and sells her produce at the market.	Tomato paste machine	The materials provided through our project were not damaged. She regularly employs a woman. She lost all her crops in the flood and quickly took out a bank loan to start planting again.	Herbicide Spraying Machine
7	D.Y.	They produce milk, cheese, butter, cottage cheese, and yogurt. They raise chickens and sell their eggs.	Churn, milking machine, kettle	The materials provided by our project were not damaged, but he lost his chickens in the flood.	30 chickens and feed

