

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE CASE STUDY

Triage for the Children of the Earthquake

How Sobrato Philanthropies and BriteMind AI, with funding support from the Swanson Calderon Foundation, deployed mobile mental-wellness triage to displaced children in the wake of the Turkey earthquake.

LEAD PARTNER

Sobrato Philanthropies

TECHNOLOGY

BriteMind AI

FUNDING SUPPORT

Swanson Calderon Foundation

• **Deployed**



Overview

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck southern Turkey and northern Syria in February 2023 — killing more than 50,000 people and displacing millions — an entire generation of children was left without homes, schools, or access to the mental-health support they desperately needed.

In response, **Sobrato Philanthropies**, building on the John and Sue Sobrato tradition of international humanitarian relief, partnered with **BriteMind AI** to deploy a mobile, faith-integrated mental-wellness triage program for displaced children. The **Swanson Calderon Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to ensuring that no one is left without mental-health support regardless of circumstance, provided funding support to extend the program's reach and operational capacity.

50,000+

LIVES LOST

1 : Dozens

CLINICIAN TO CHILD RATIO

Every Faith

SERVED WITH DIGNITY

The Challenge

Disaster-zone mental health is one of the hardest problems in humanitarian care. Inside every pod, a single clinician faces dozens of children at once. Specialty clinicians are scarce, traditional infrastructure is destroyed, and the children most in need are often the hardest to reach. Any response has to contend with:

- ✓ **Capacity overload:** one clinician serving dozens of traumatized children — a ratio no human practitioner can sustain alone
- ✓ Destroyed clinics, schools, and care infrastructure across the affected region
- ✓ Severe shortage of trained mental-health professionals who can deploy to the field
- ✓ Religious and cultural diversity requiring care pathways that honor each child's faith and family context

THE CORE INSIGHT

The bottleneck is clinician capacity — not willingness to care.

Traditional mental-health care assumes that patients can travel to clinicians, and that clinicians can give each child sustained individual attention. In a disaster zone, neither is true. The response required a portable care environment that followed the children, and a technology layer that could extend a single clinician's reach across an entire room full of them.

The Solution

Inside each pod, a single clinician faces dozens of children at once — a ratio that would overwhelm any human practitioner working alone. The program pairs a physical deployment layer with an intelligent clinical layer to extend one clinician's reach across an entire classroom of traumatized children without sacrificing the quality or dignity of care.



A Sobrato pod in Turkey — one clinician, dozens of children.



Children engaging with BriteMind-powered iPads inside the pod.

Remote Container Care Units

Retrofitted shipping containers deployed as self-contained, transportable wellness classrooms. Each pod provides a private, climate-controlled, dignified space — complete with bookshelves, desks, and heating — in regions where no standing infrastructure remains. Pods can be repositioned as displacement patterns shift, following the children rather than waiting for them.

iPad-Delivered Triage, Powered by MyTherapist

Inside each pod, iPads running BriteMind's **MyTherapist** platform deliver structured triage, emotional support, and faith-integrated care pathways. When one clinician is serving dozens of children, MyTherapist acts as a force multiplier — continuously engaging every child, surfacing the ones who need urgent human attention, and freeing the clinician to focus exactly where they are most needed.

Faith-Integrated Care

The region affected by the earthquakes is home to Muslim, Christian, Alawite, Yazidi, and other communities. BriteMind's faith-integrated module engages each child within the tradition meaningful to their family — a design principle rarely available in disaster-zone mental-health response, and one that drives meaningfully higher adoption across religious lines.

Impact & Deliverables

The deployment demonstrated that AI-enabled clinical triage can meaningfully extend humanitarian mental-health response — when paired with physical care infrastructure and respect for local faith and culture.

- 1 **Physical care reach** into communities where no standing mental-health infrastructure remained, via deployable container units.
- 2 **AI-enabled clinical triage** extending the impact of every clinician across thousands of displaced children.
- 3 **Faith-integrated engagement** honoring Muslim, Christian, and minority-faith families alike — a replicable model for cross-religious humanitarian care.

In Their Words



We are thankful for the wonderful work that Sobrato Philanthropies have done. The opportunity to support the expansion of AI-enabled clinical triage through BriteMind with faith-based integration that serves people of a variety of religions is not just unique — it's unparalleled.

Amb. Michael P. Murphy, KMOB

Director, Africa and Middle East Division · Sovereign Military Order of Malta

ABOUT THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

Founded circa **1048**, the Order of Malta is a **sovereign entity under international law** — one of the oldest institutions of Western civilization still active today, operating a humanitarian mission focused on medical aid, disaster relief, and refugee support.

DIPLOMATIC TIES
100+ countries

UNITED NATIONS
Observer Status

CORE MISSION
Medical · Disaster · Refugee

The Swanson Calderon Foundation's support of this initiative is offered in honor of the life and legacy of Dr. Jose Luis Calderon, M.D. — a Harvard-educated physician who believed the poor deserved Harvard-educated doctors too, and whose commitment to serving the most vulnerable animates every program the Foundation funds.

Help Is Not a Privilege. It's a Right.

When disaster strikes, the children left behind cannot wait for care to find them. This program shows what is possible when philanthropy, technology, and faith-informed compassion arrive together.