

# Türkiye and Syria – Earthquakes

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

**7,266**

Earthquake-related  
Deaths Reported in  
Türkiye and Syria

*Media – February 2023*

**25,000**

Earthquake-related  
Injuries Reported in  
Türkiye and Syria

*Media – February 2023*

**5,820**

Estimated Number of  
Buildings Collapsed due  
to the Earthquake

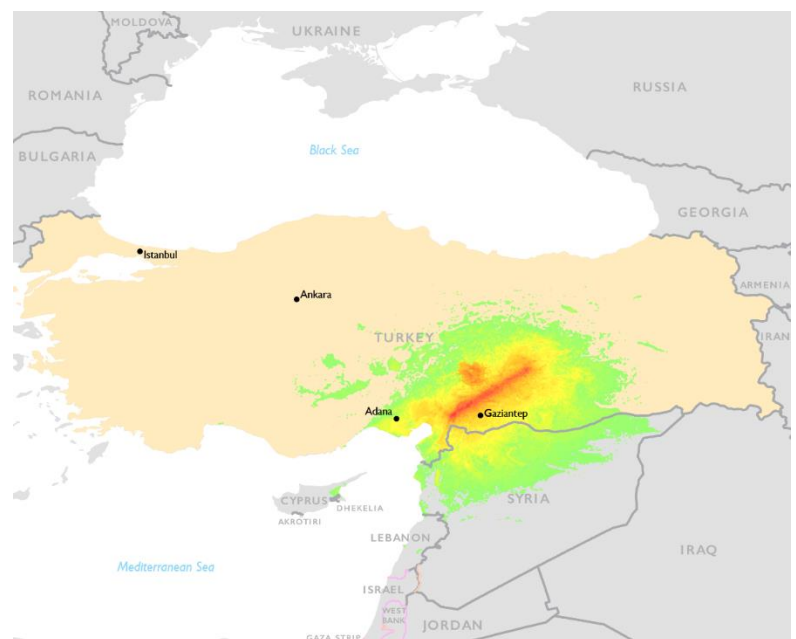
*UN – February 2023*

**610,000**

People Exposed to  
Strong—MMI Level  
IV—or Above Shaking

*USGS – February 2023*

- At 4:17 a.m. local time on February 6, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central-southern Türkiye at a depth of 11.1 miles, followed by at least 78 tremors, including a magnitude 7.5 earthquake that struck the area at a depth of 6.2 miles the same day, according to USGS.
- As of February 7, preliminary reports indicate that the earthquake resulted in at least 7,266 deaths and injury to approximately 25,000 people in Türkiye and Syria.
- On February 6, U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey L. Flake issued a DHN due to the effects of the earthquakes in Türkiye. USAID/BHA activated a DART, which includes USAR experts, and a Washington, D.C.,-based RMT.



## TIMELINE

**February 6, 2023**

At 4:17 a.m. local time, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake strikes central-southern Türkiye at a depth of 11.1 miles

**February 6, 2023**

At 1:24 p.m. local time, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake strikes central-southern Türkiye at a depth of 6.2 miles

**February 6, 2023**

GoT calls for international search-and-rescue assistance as well support to meet the emergency needs of earthquake-affected populations

**February 6, 2023**

U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey L. Flake issues a DHN due to the effects of the earthquakes in Türkiye

**February 6, 2023**

USAID/BHA deploys a DART to Türkiye and activates a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to coordinate USG response efforts

**February 7, 2023**

USAID/BHA deploys USAR teams from the Fairfax and Los Angeles County fire departments to support ongoing search-and-rescue efforts

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Major Earthquakes Result in At Least 7,266 Deaths in Türkiye and Syria

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central-southern Türkiye—near the border with Syria—at a depth of 11.1 miles at 4:17 a.m. local time on February 6, or 8:17 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on February 5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The epicenter of the earthquake was located approximately 16.2 miles east of Gaziantep Province’s Nurdağı city and 20.9 miles west-northwest of Gaziantep city. USGS issued a red alert for earthquake-related fatalities and estimated economic losses, indicating that high casualties and extensive damage are probable, and the disaster is likely widespread. USGS reported multiple tremors after the initial earthquake, including a magnitude 7.5 earthquake that struck the area at a depth of 6.2 miles at 1:24 p.m. local time—or 5:24 a.m. EST—on February 6, which prompted USGS to issue an orange alert for estimated economic losses and fatalities, indicating that significant casualties and damage are probable.

As of February 7, preliminary reports indicate that the earthquakes had resulted in at least 7,266 deaths and injury to approximately 25,000 people in Türkiye and Syria, including 5,434 deaths and 21,100 injuries in Türkiye and 1,832 deaths and more than 3,600 injuries in Syria. Türkiye’s Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Şanlıurfa provinces and Syria’s Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, and Latakia governorates are among the worst-affected areas, according to a non-governmental organization (NGO). Relief actors anticipate that the compounding effects of the earthquakes will likely exacerbate fragile humanitarian conditions in northwest Syria, where 4.1 million residents required humanitarian assistance prior to February 6. More than 200,000 people affected by the earthquakes in Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-controlled regions and opposition-held areas of northwest Syria are in need of emergency food assistance, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). Impact assessments are ongoing and relief actors expect casualty figures to rise as search-and-rescue operations continue.

### Earthquakes Severely Damage or Destroy Infrastructure, Exacerbating Humanitarian Needs

The earthquakes had resulted in the collapse of nearly 5,600 buildings and damage to roads and other public infrastructure in Türkiye as of February 7, according to U.S. Government (USG) sources. The tremors damaged at least 30 electricity substations in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, and Kahramanmaraş, compromising the supply of electricity for populations in some locations, which disrupts access to heating amid freezing weather conditions. Moreover, the primary east–west highway linking Gaziantep city with the cities of Adana and Osmaniye remained closed at multiple points due to damages as of February 7, potentially limiting relief actor mobility, USG sources report. Additionally, the Gaziantep airport had

suspended commercial operations, permitting only air travel that supports the earthquake response as of February 6, while operations at the airports in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş were suspended due to extreme damage resulting from the earthquakes.

In Syria, the tremors resulted in damages to at least 320 buildings and the destruction of more than 220 buildings, the UN reports. The earthquakes also resulted in structural damage to Latakia Governorate's Jandariyeh internally displaced person (IDP) site, prompting local authorities to evacuate residents of the IDP site to alternative nearby collective centers as of February 7, according to relief actors.

### **USAID/BHA Deploys DART, USAR Experts to Türkiye to Respond to the Needs of Earthquake-Affected Populations in Türkiye and Syria**

On February 6, U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey L. Flake issued a declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) due to the effects of the earthquakes in Türkiye. In response, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), including urban search-and-rescue (USAR) experts, to Adana, Türkiye, and activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to coordinate USG humanitarian response efforts to meet the needs of earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye and Syria. The DART is coordinating with local authorities, humanitarian organizations, and USG staff in the region to assess earthquake-related damages, identify priority needs, and provide life-saving aid to affected communities in the two countries. In addition, USAID/BHA staff are coordinating with existing partners in Syria, who are responding to the ongoing complex emergency in the country, to modify existing programs to meet the needs of earthquake-affected populations in Syria.

### **GoT Leads Humanitarian Response as International Actors Provide Assistance**

The Government of Türkiye (GoT) Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) issued a level four disaster alert for Türkiye, the country's highest disaster alert level, which included a request for international assistance on February 6, local media report. AFAD is coordinating international assessment and response efforts, with approximately 60 countries offering support for search-and-rescue operations in Türkiye as of February 7. Approximately 25,000 national and international emergency responders, including search-and-rescue personnel, were responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye as of the same date, international media report. In addition, four mobile social service centers and more than 1,300 personnel were responding to mental health and psychosocial support needs in earthquake-affected areas, according to USG sources.

#### KEY FIGURES



**161**

USAR personnel deployed to Türkiye with the DART

## **NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

### **URBAN SEARCH-AND-RESCUE**

In the wake of the earthquake, the GoT requested international assistance, prompting approximately 60 countries to offer USAR support, including 20 countries with staff on the ground as of February 7. USAID/BHA deployed two USAID-funded USAR teams from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, including 161 search-and-rescue personnel and 12 canines, who all joined the DART on February 7. The USAR team traveled with more than 170,000 pounds of specialized tools and equipment, such as hydraulic concrete breaking equipment, saws, torches, and drills, along with advanced medical equipment

for search-and-rescue operations.

USAID/BHA USAR teams consist of 19 functional positions, staffed by experienced emergency managers, planners, search-and-rescue specialists, hazardous materials technicians, licensed engineers and construction riggers, emergency medicine physicians and paramedics, search-and-rescue dogs with handlers, and logisticians. Structure collapse resulting from earthquake events tends to create numerous void spaces in damaged or destroyed buildings where survivors may be trapped. Thus, USAR teams perform lifesaving technical activities, including specialized search-and-rescue operations involving structural collapse to rescue and recover trapped individuals. Separately, an existing USAID/BHA humanitarian partner is providing search-and-rescue support to affected communities in northwest Syria.

Overall, the GoT and international governments had deployed more than 13,700 search-and-rescue personnel, 360 vehicles, and nearly 3,400 construction equipment to the affected areas as of February 7.



**45,000**

Number of RTEs available for distribution to earthquake-affected populations in Syria

## **FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOODS, AND MPCA**

The UN and humanitarian community in Syria are mobilizing a whole-of-Syria response to address the emergency needs of earthquake-affected populations. WFP maintains 25,000 ready-to-eat food rations (RTEs) in northwest Syria and 20,000 RTEs in SARG-held areas available for distribution to vulnerable earthquake-affected populations as of February 7. As of the same date, the UN agency had dispatched 6,000 RTEs to three cooperating partners and hot meals to displaced populations sheltering at temporary accommodations in SARG-held areas.

Two USAID/BHA international NGO (INGO) partners are broadening existing programs to support the distribution of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to earthquake-affected communities, including IDPs residing in affected camps, in northwest Syria. One of the INGOs also plans to support the distribution of cash assistance for food, food vouchers, and RTEs.



**3**

Number of USAID/BHA partners already responding to the WASH needs of earthquake-affected populations in Syria

## **WASH**

With support from USAID/BHA, one INGO partner is working to provide hygiene and shelter kits to 300 earthquake-affected households in northwest Syria's Idlib Governorate. A separate USAID/BHA INGO partner is rapidly assessing the emergency needs of more than 130 communities and 98 displacement camps in northwest Syria and intends to provide the populations with urgent water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support and relief commodities once their priority needs are determined. A third USAID/BHA INGO partner is coordinating with other relief actors on the ground to distribute 100 relief commodity kits—comprising jerrycans, mats, mattresses, solar lamps, and other essential items—to vulnerable populations in northwest Syria on February 7.

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## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [USAID's Center for International Disaster Information](#) website and [interaction.org](#).
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](#)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](#).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](#)