

Türkiye and Syria – Earthquakes

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

33,905

Earthquake-related Deaths Reported in Türkiye and Syria

Media – February 2023

87,600

Earthquake-related Injuries Reported in Türkiye and Syria

Media – February 2023

8,400

Estimated Number of Buildings Collapsed due to the Earthquake

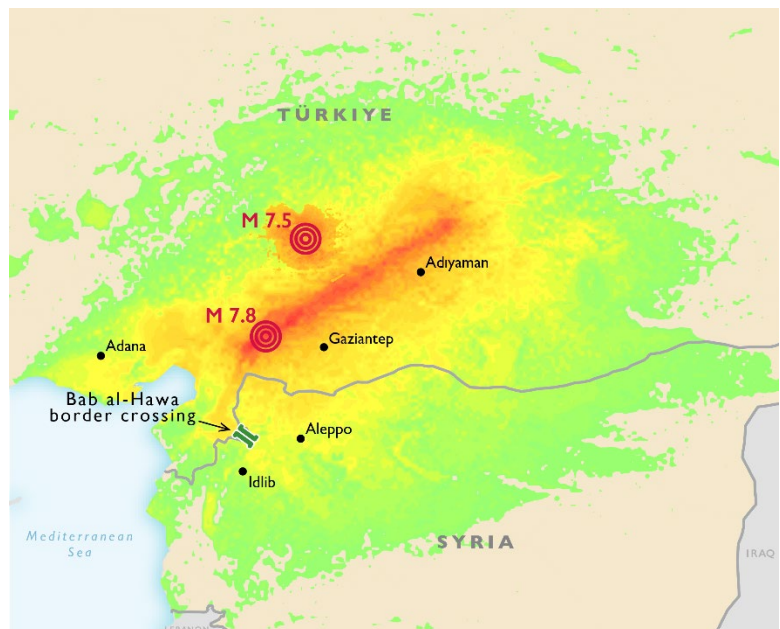
UN – February 2023

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 a magnitude 7.5 earthquake that struck the area at a depth of 6.2 miles the same day, according to USGS.
- Preliminary reports indicate that the earthquake resulted in at least 33,905 deaths and injury to approximately 87,600 people in Türkiye and Syria as of February 12.
- UN agencies, including USAID/BHA partners, completed the cross-border delivery of 52 trucks of emergency relief commodities from Türkiye to northwest Syria to respond to the urgent needs of earthquake-affected populations between February 9 and 12.



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 Response Management Team 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

February 9, 2023

USAID/BHA announces the allocation of \$85 million in humanitarian assistance for earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye and Syria

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Earthquakes Result in At Least 33,905 Deaths in Türkiye and Syria

The February 6 earthquakes had resulted in at least 33,905 confirmed deaths and injury to approximately 87,600 people in Türkiye and Syria—including 29,605 deaths and injury to approximately 80,000 people in Türkiye and at least 4,300 deaths and injury to 7,600 people in Syria—as of February 12. The casualty figures are likely underreported as search and rescue operations continue.

The tremors also resulted in significant displacement, with at least 150,000 people displaced in Türkiye as of February 8, relief actors report. Meanwhile, the Syria Humanitarian Country Team reports that the earthquakes adversely affected an estimated 6 million individuals in Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-held areas as of February 12. In opposition-held areas of northwest Syria—located closest to the earthquakes' epicenters and where nearly 2.6 million people were internally displaced by conflict prior to February 6—the tremors prompted the displacement of at least 30,200 people, the majority of whom were secondarily displaced from internally displaced person (IDP) sites.

Priority needs among IDPs in northwest Syria displaced by the earthquake include food, health services, relief commodities, and shelter support, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. As of February 9, the IDP camps in Aleppo Governorate's Jandares sub-district and Idlib Governorate's Salqin and Harim sub-districts had reported the highest number of resident departures in northwest Syria, while camps in Idlib's Dana, Maaret Tamsrin, and Salqin sub-districts had registered the largest number of IDP arrivals, according to the CCCM Cluster.

UN Continues Delivering Cross-Border Assistance into Northwest Syria

UN agencies, including USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners, successfully transported 52 trucks carrying critical relief commodities from Türkiye to northwest Syria through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing between February 9 and 12, the UN reports. On February 10, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) delivered a second cross-border humanitarian convoy comprising 14 trucks. On February 11, a third convoy of 22 trucks carrying critical relief supplies provided by UN agencies—including USAID/BHA partners the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the UN World Health Organization (WHO)—crossed from Türkiye into northwest Syria through the same border crossing. A fourth convoy of 10 trucks transporting IOM supplies—including more than 1,000 shelter kits for

dispatch to a USAID/BHA NGO partner—crossed into Syria from Türkiye through Bab al-Hawa on February 12. These cross-border deliveries follow IOM's February 9 humanitarian convoy, which transported blankets, mattresses, tents, shelter materials, and other relief commodities sufficient to support at least 5,000 people into northwest Syria and marked the first UN cross-border convoy since the February 6 earthquakes.

The Bab al-Hawa crossing remains the only border crossing authorized by the UN Security Council for the delivery of UN assistance into northwest Syria. The cross-border operation was temporarily disrupted following the earthquake as the road connecting Türkiye's Gaziantep city to the UN Transshipment Hub in Türkiye's Hatay Province was damaged; the UN thereafter identified alternative routes to the Hatay hub and border crossing by February 8. The cross-border operation is critical to delivering assistance to northwest Syria; in 2022, approximately 600 trucks per month with aid sufficient to support 2.6 million Syrians on average crossed from Türkiye into Syria through the crossing.

Earthquakes Create Significant Health Needs While Damaging Health Care Infrastructure; WHO Responds With Emergency Health Aid

Infrastructure damage resulting from the February 6 earthquakes has disrupted affected populations' access to critical services, particularly health care to address urgent medical needs. In northwest Syria, where populations' access to health services was already limited due to nearly 12 years of conflict, the tremors caused damage to or prompted the closure of 57 hospitals and primary health facilities, according to the Health Cluster. Moreover, the high volume of casualties resulting from the earthquakes is reportedly overwhelming the capacity of hospitals in northwest Syria that continue to operate, with most hospitals reporting acute shortages of medical consumables and supplies. Meanwhile, 26 of 32 assessed health facilities in Türkiye were either non-operational or only partially operational due to earthquake-related damages as of February 12, WHO reports.

In addition to the physical trauma experienced by earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye and Syria, the February 6 tremors and their aftermath pose significant health threats to affected communities, such as hypothermia due to prolonged exposure to harsh winter conditions and freezing temperatures, disrupted access to essential health services due to overwhelmed health systems and damaged infrastructure, increased risk of pregnancy and childbirth complications due to interrupted obstetric and neonatal services, and psychological trauma, according to WHO. The UN agency also highlights that populations in earthquake-affected areas are at heightened risk of contracting waterborne illnesses due to disrupted access to safe water and sanitation, poor shelter conditions, and overcrowding at facilities sheltering individuals displaced by the earthquakes.

To respond to the emergency health needs of earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye and Syria, WHO had delivered 72 metric tons (MT) of trauma and emergency surgery supplies to health actors in the two countries as of February 10, according to the UN agency. A first WHO charter flight transported 37 MT of supplies to Türkiye on February 9, and a second flight delivered 35 MT of supplies to Syria on February 11. The quantity of medical supplies delivered will allow health service providers to conduct 120,000 surgical interventions and provide health care to an additional 100,000 people in both Türkiye and Syria.

KEY FIGURES



160

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 Government of Türkiye (GoT) requested international search and rescue assistance. USAID/BHA deployed two USAID-funded urban search and rescue (USAR) teams from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Los Angeles County Fire Department who joined USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) on February 7. The USAR teams 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-supported 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.

USAID's USAR teams are mobilized 24 hours per day to respond to specific reports of civilians trapped under rubble. Between February 9 and 12, the USAR Sector Coordination Cell dispatched the USAR teams to more than 25 sites to respond to reports of civilians trapped under rubble. On February 10, USAID's USAR teams assisted a local Turkish rescue team with the medical care of an entrapped individual in Adiyaman city. The Turkish rescue team also extracted a trapped child from the same site. Overall, the USAR teams had completed targeted assessments of nearly 80 buildings, during which crews used canines and structural engineers to determine the likelihood that individuals were trapped in the site, as of February 12. In addition, the USAID-funded USAR teams had completed an initial structural stability assessment of nearly 5,300 buildings in Adiyaman to support the GoT's Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency with a comprehensive overview of damage severity and information to prioritize the assignment of USAR teams working in the areas as of the same date.

Overall, the GoT and international governments had deployed nearly 166,100 relief personnel; 12,100 vehicles, including heavy machinery; and 12 ships to Türkiye. Response personnel had rescued nearly 80,100 individuals from debris and inspected nearly 122,200 buildings in the 10 affected provinces as of February 11, the GoT reports.



150,000

Number of earthquake-affected individuals being reached with ready-to-eat rations 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. USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) is providing ready-to-eat rations, including beans, canned meat, oil, sugar, and vegetables, sufficient to support 150,000 individuals in Syria affected by the earthquakes for one month. A USAID/BHA international NGO (INGO) partner had also re-started its bakery program in northwest Syria, delivering flour and yeast to contracted bakeries to enable them to produce subsidized bread to address food shortages as of February 12.

Two USAID/BHA 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.



3

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

WASH

USAID/BHA partners continue to implement water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities in Syria. 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 had resumed partial operations in northwest Syria and provided trucked water to residents of nearly 100 IDP camps, tested the water quality at nearly 50 IDP camps, and distributed new arrival kits to more than 800 individuals sheltering at IDP sites and nearby communities as of February 9. 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.

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](https://www.usaid.gov/our-work/cidi) website and [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

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