

Türkiye and Syria – Earthquakes

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

41,218

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

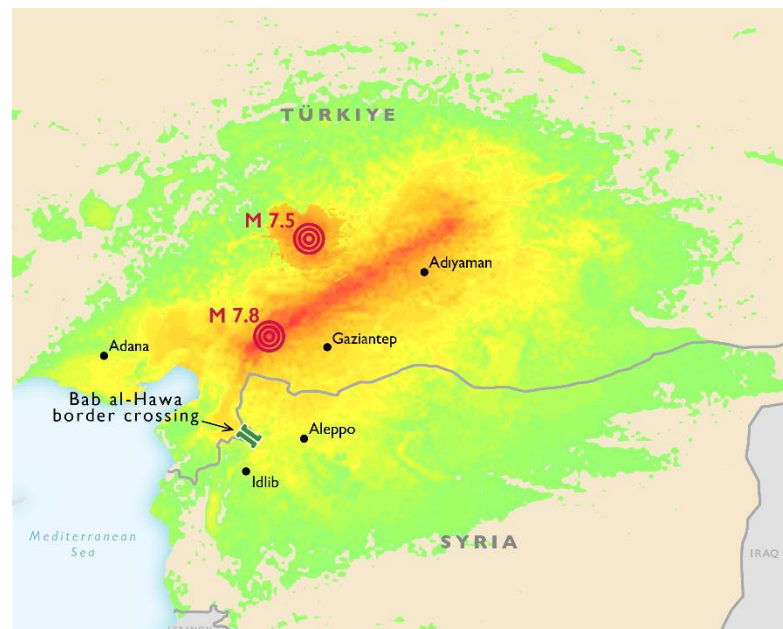
UN – February 2023

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 41,218 deaths and injury to approximately 87,600 people in Türkiye and Syria as of February 14.
- UN agencies—including USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners—continue to conduct cross-border humanitarian aid deliveries into northwest Syria from Türkiye.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/BHA¹

\$41,947,216

For the Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes Response in FY 2023

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

Total

\$41,947,216

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

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

February 9, 2023

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Earthquakes Result in At Least 41,218 Deaths in Türkiye and Syria

The February 6 earthquakes had resulted in at least 41,218 confirmed deaths and injury to approximately 87,600 people in Türkiye and Syria—including 35,418 deaths and injury to approximately 80,000 people in Türkiye and at least 5,800 deaths and injury to 7,600 people in Syria—as of February 14. The casualty figures are likely underreported as search-and-rescue operations continue.

Response personnel had evacuated at least 158,100 individuals from affected areas and rescued at least 80,200 individuals from debris in the 10 affected provinces in Türkiye as of February 13, the Government of Türkiye (GoT) Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) reports. In northwest Syria, the earthquakes directly affected an estimated 280,000 individuals, who are in immediate need of shelter and/or emergency relief commodities as of February 13, the UN reports. Urgent humanitarian needs include winter clothing, heating fuel, emergency relief commodities, shelter kits, and tents.

UN Continues Delivering Cross-Border Assistance into Northwest Syria

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) deployed a six-truck humanitarian convoy carrying USAID/BHA-supported emergency relief commodities from Türkiye to northwest Syria via the Bab al-Hawa border crossing on February 14, the UN agency reports. The trucks contained 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 kitchen kits, and 500 kits containing items to support newly displaced individuals. The final destination for the commodities is Aleppo Governorate's Azaz city, where a USAID/BHA international non-governmental organization (INGO) partner will distribute the items. Also on February 14, IOM deployed 11 additional trucks carrying relief commodities to northwest Syria from Türkiye via the Bab al-Salama border crossing, including one truck containing donations from the Government of Romania, the UN agency reports. The convoy follows the UN announcement on February 13 that the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) had officially authorized UN cross-border access through the Bab al-Salama and Al Ra'ee border crossings between Türkiye and Syria for an initial period of three months to allow for the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to earthquake-affected populations. The 11 trucks contained 500 relief commodity kits for newly displaced people and 500 shelter kits, with two USAID/BHA INGO partners preparing to distribute the aid to earthquake-affected individuals sheltering in Azaz. In addition to the IOM-supported humanitarian convoys, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) transported 19 trucks carrying 2,500 relief commodity kits and 1,000 tents from Türkiye

to northwest Syria via the Bab al-Hawa border crossing on February 14, and USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) deployed six trucks containing 50 metric tons of high-energy biscuits to northwest Syria also through Bab al-Hawa on February 13.

Damage to WASH Infrastructure Exacerbates Risks of Water-Borne Diseases, Results in Flooding

Earthquake-related damage to and destruction of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in Syria is exacerbating risks of water-borne disease and other hazards. A lack of essential parts for repairs are hampering efforts to restore the operation of a water pumping line that serves nearly two-thirds of Aleppo Governorate's population, the UN reports. Moreover, water trucking deliveries to Idlib Governorate's Atmeh and Idlib towns and Aleppo Governorate's Jarablus city have been suspended since February 9 due to heightened water turbidity, which heightens the risk of water-borne disease, such as cholera, the UN reports. A cholera outbreak has been ongoing in Syria since September 2022, and health actors had recorded approximately 47,000 suspected cholera cases in northwest Syria, including approximately 560 confirmed cholera cases as of February 11. Relief actors remain concerned that the effects of the earthquake could exacerbate the cholera outbreak in affected areas.

Meanwhile, earthquake-related damage to Tal Talum Dam in Idlib's Harim District has resulted in substantial flooding in the area, adversely affecting approximately 1,000 houses and forcing an estimated 7,000 people to evacuate as of February 11, according to the UN. In response, WASH partners deployed heavy machinery to open channels and mitigate flooding at Tal Talum as of February 11, the UN reports.

More Than 1 Million People in Türkiye Reside in Temporary Shelters

Across southeastern Türkiye, people who have fled their homes due to the earthquakes remain unable to return as GoT authorities continue to instruct residents of affected areas to avoid entering buildings until they undergo assessment to determine their stability, relief actors report. Assessments of the structural vulnerabilities of buildings are ongoing throughout the region. Humanitarian actors report that the earthquakes have rendered at least 150,000 people homeless in Türkiye due to destruction or damage to their residence, with more than 1 million people sheltering at temporary shelters for earthquake-affected communities as of February 13. In Hatay Province, shelter and insulation are the most frequently reported challenges, with many communities whose homes were damaged or destroyed remaining without tents, sleeping under tarpaulins, and burning fires for heat.

According to a rapid needs assessment conducted by a UN Population Fund (UNFPA) implementing partner, approximately 60 percent of nearly 500 surveyed refugees in Türkiye who were affected by the earthquakes were unsure as to where they would live, while 10 percent reported living on the street, and 5 percent reported living in temporary accommodations, such as camps, churches, mosques, open areas, schools, tents, or with friends. Moreover, nearly 69,300 people were sheltering in collective centers located in Türkiye's Diyarbakir and Sanliurfa provinces, of whom approximately 24,000 reported an inability to return to their respective residences due to earthquake-related destruction or significant damage. Populations in Diyarbakir and Sanliurfa most urgently require shelter support, blankets, heaters, mattresses, tents, hygiene supplies, and diapers and formula for infants, according to an assessment conducted by INGO Concern Worldwide.

As of February 13, Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaras, and Sanliurfa provinces remained without access to power or natural gas due to severe damage to energy distributing infrastructure, U.S. Government (USG) sources report. In addition, while the main transmission lines for natural gas had been repaired as of February 13, gas lines continue to be shut off in some areas where search-and-rescue efforts are ongoing to ensure the safety of urban search-and-rescue (USAR) teams and earthquake survivors.

UN Launches Flash Appeal for Earthquakes Response in Syria

On February 14, the UN released a flash appeal for \$397.6 million to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to 4.9 million people most affected by the earthquakes in Syria. The assistance will support affected populations through May and comes in addition to the existing 2022-2023 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan. Pre-existing, widespread humanitarian needs; logistical and access constraints to some earthquake-affected areas; winter conditions; and an ongoing cholera outbreak are exacerbating the severity of humanitarian needs resulting from the earthquakes. Primary earthquake-related needs include emergency health services; urgent food and nutrition assistance; emergency shelter support, particularly during winter; heavy machinery, fuel, and equipment for debris removal; mental health support; WASH assistance; and interventions to prevent and mitigate protection risks. Through the appeal, the UN aims to reach 4.9 million people with health assistance, 4 million people with food and agriculture assistance, 2.7 million with WASH support, and 2.6 million people with protection services, as well as providing shelter, multipurpose cash, camp coordination and camp management, and other multi-sector assistance.

The humanitarian community in Syria continues to adapt to the evolving humanitarian crisis, but has also been severely impacted by the earthquake, with several NGOs and UN agencies having lost colleagues and other personnel sustaining injuries or coping with displacement from residences rendered unsafe. Still, many humanitarian organizations, including USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners, have utilized existing resources to support the earthquake response.

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 GoT requested international search-and-rescue assistance. USAID/BHA deployed two USAID-funded USAR teams from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Los Angeles County Fire Department who joined the 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. As of February 14, the USAR teams had completed targeted assessments of 80 buildings, during which crews used canines and structural engineers to determine the likelihood that individuals were trapped in the sites. In addition, the USAID-funded USAR teams had completed an initial structural stability assessment of nearly 5,600 buildings in Adiyaman city to support AFAD with a comprehensive overview of damage severity and information to prioritize the assignment of USAR teams working in the areas as of February 12.

Overall, the GoT and international governments have deployed approximately 238,500 relief personnel; 12,300 vehicles, including heavy machinery; and 26 ships to Türkiye.



320,000

Number of people reached with food assistance in northwest 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 WFP and its implementing partners provided hot meals to more than 27,900 individuals in SARG-held areas of Syria from February 11 to 12. Additionally, WFP had provided ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) to more than 44,400 individuals in opposition-held areas of northwest Syria as of February 12. Overall, relief actors, including USAID/BHA partners, in opposition-held northwest Syria had reached 320,000 people with bread, 173,000 people with RTEs, 78,000 people with cash assistance, and 63,000 people with hot meals, primarily from existing stocks within Syria, as of February 13.

A USAID/BHA INGO partner had 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. Another USAID/BHA NGO partner distributed 350 RTEs to earthquake-affected individuals in Aleppo Governorate on February 12 and distributed more than 200 RTEs at the Al-Hamam border crossing point in Jandares on February 10.

Two USAID/BHA INGO partners and two State/PRM partners are broadening existing programs to support the distribution of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to earthquake-affected communities, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in affected camps, in northwest Syria.



120,500

Number of people reached with relief commodities and WASH support in Syria

RELIEF COMMODITIES AND 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 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. Another USAID/BHA INGO partner supplied safe drinking water to displaced persons, collected and removed solid waste from IDP camps, and conducted desludging in a camp in Aleppo Governorate on February 10. An additional NGO partner had provided emergency relief commodities, shelter support, and WASH assistance to more than 120,500 people in northwest Syria’s Azaz, Harim, Idlib, Jebel Saman, and Jisr-Ash-Shugur districts as of February 14.

With State/PRM support, IOM had distributed 10,000 blankets, 10,000 winter coats and boots, more than 9,100 heaters, more than 5,000 mattresses, 2,600 electric stoves, and tents supporting more than 100 individuals to earthquake-affected populations in four provinces in southeastern Türkiye as of February 14. In Syria, a State/PRM partner delivered 600 blankets and 300 mattresses, as well as canned food, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, and tea to collective shelters in Aleppo as of February 14. The same partner provided 5,000 mattresses, 2,500 canned food parcels, and 1,000 hygiene kits to Syrian Arab Red Crescent warehouses in Aleppo, Lattakia, and Hama governorates.

Moreover, at the request of USAID/BHA, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) airlifted approximately 18 metric tons of critical relief supplies from Incirlik Air Base to AFAD officials in Kahramanmaraş Provinces’ Elbistan and Pazarcik towns for distribution to earthquake-affected populations.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Syria			
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Aleppo, Idlib	\$7,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Affected Areas	\$15,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE			\$32,500,000
Türkiye			
IOM	Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
DoD	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$1,500,000
	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$2,799,452

Program Support

\$147,764

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE RESPONSE

\$9,447,216

TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023

\$41,947,216

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](#)