

Türkiye and Syria – Earthquakes

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

41,987

Earthquake-related
Deaths Reported in
Türkiye and Syria

Media – February 2023

114,100

Earthquake-related
Injuries Reported in
Türkiye and Syria

Media – February 2023

49,000

Number of Damaged or
Destroyed Buildings in
Türkiye and Syria

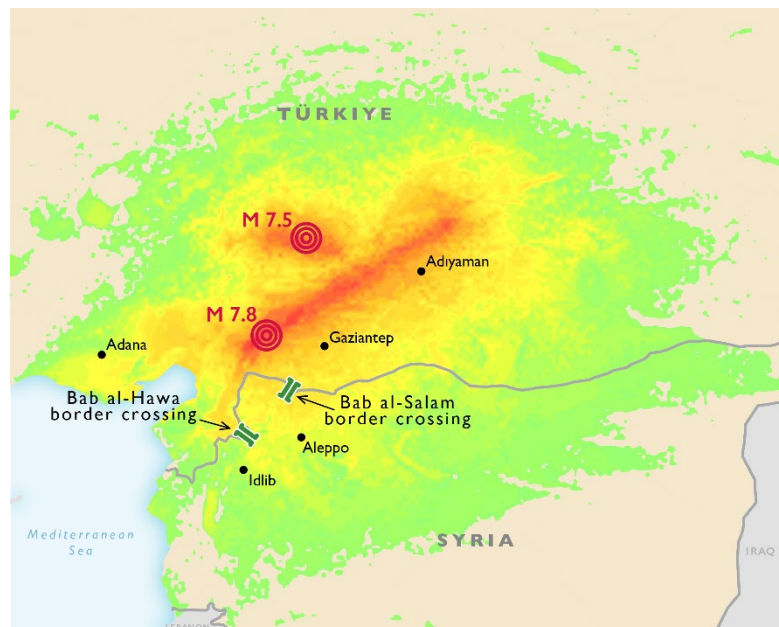
UN – February 2023

610,000

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

USGS – February 2023

- Preliminary reports indicate that the February 6 earthquakes resulted in at least 41,987 deaths and injury to approximately 114,100 people in Türkiye and Syria as of February 16.
- UN agencies—including USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners—continue to deliver relief commodities into northwest Syria from Türkiye through two border crossing points.
- The UN releases \$1 billion appeal to provide humanitarian assistance to 5.2 million people severely affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA¹

\$62,965,296

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

Total

\$62,965,296

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 41,987 Deaths, Significant Humanitarian Needs in Türkiye and Syria

The February 6 earthquakes had resulted in at least 41,987 confirmed deaths and injury to approximately 114,100 people in Türkiye and Syria—including 36,187 deaths and injury to at least 105,500 people in Türkiye and at least 5,800 deaths and injury to at least 8,600 people in Syria—as of February 16. The casualty figures are likely underreported as search-and-rescue operations and assessments continue.

Health experts warn of an elevated risk of diseases, such as cholera, dysentery, lice, scabies, and typhoid fever, resulting from poor hygiene conditions, overcrowded living situations, and reduced access to safe drinking water due to the earthquakes in southern Türkiye. Similarly, earthquake-related damage to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and disruption of safe drinking water access threaten to exacerbate the ongoing cholera outbreak in Syria. Public water networks have reportedly stopped pumping water, and many private and public wells are non-operational, resulting in long queues for water trucking services in northwest Syria, the UN reports. More than 60 percent of individuals affected by the earthquakes in northwest Syria have WASH needs, and more than 80 percent require hygiene kits, according to initial estimates from WASH actors. Moreover, commodity shortages and/or the increased prices of certain food items—including canned foods, ready-to-eat rations (RTEs), wheat flour, and yeast—threaten food insecurity in northwest Syria, according to relief actors. Humanitarian food stocks in northwest Syria require urgent replenishment to scale up and sustain assistance to affected people through May, the UN reports.

UN Continues Cross-Border Aid Deliveries to Northwest Syria Through Two Border Crossing Points

UN partners continue to deliver critical emergency relief commodities to northwest Syria from Türkiye, transporting 144 trucks of supplies through the Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salama border crossings between February 9 and 16. The total includes 20 trucks carrying food commodities dispatched by USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing on February 16. The total also reflects four trucks carrying 1,200 tents provided by U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with two trucks crossing into northwest Syria from Türkiye via Bab al-Hawa and two trucks crossing through Bab al-Salama border crossing on February 16.

The February 16 convoys follow a separate WFP cross-border convoy consisting of 22 trucks that transported vital food commodities—including high energy biscuits and emergency items, such as mobile storage units—into Syria via the Bab al-Hawa border crossing on February 15. On the same

day, U.S. Government (USG) partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) dispatched three trucks into Syria from Türkiye through the Bab al-Salama border crossing, the UN agency reports.

Additionally, UN Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria David Carden led a UN delegation into Syria, where representatives of multiple UN agencies conducted an assessment mission in Idlib Governorate on February 14 and Aleppo Governorate's Afrin District on February 15, international media report. While in Syria, the UN representatives also met with local communities and Syrian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to better determine immediate needs in the areas.

Earthquakes Hamper Aid Actors' Capacity to Deliver Food and Health Assistance in Syria

Food security actors responding to emergency needs in Syria resulting from the February 6 earthquakes are confronted with challenges that constrain their efforts, including widespread damage to and the destruction of food production infrastructure, according to the northwest Syria Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian FSL activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. The cluster notes that humanitarian actors will likely experience difficulty maintaining pre-earthquake levels of food assistance if food production infrastructure in Türkiye and northwest Syria is not quickly rehabilitated. Notably, the availability of flour in local markets is already constrained due to the increased demand for free bread distribution, according to FSL Cluster partners.

The earthquakes also significantly affected northwest Syria's already fragile health care infrastructure, with health actors reporting full or partial damage to at least 55 health facilities in northwest Syria and the full or partial suspension of operations at 31 health facilities as of February 11. As a result, health service capacity in northwest Syria has decreased by approximately 60 percent, while demand for services has significantly increased, according to UN Population Fund (UNFPA) assessments. The UN agency notes that the volume of earthquake-related injuries and emergency medical needs has overwhelmed health actors, reducing health facilities' capacity to provide sexual and reproductive health services and treatment to gender-based violence survivors. In addition, the tremors prompted the evacuation of at least two northwest Syria health facilities, where some essential medical supplies were destroyed. Meanwhile, the earthquakes damaged five of the 14 UNFPA-supported safe spaces in affected areas in northwest Syria, while two were rendered non-operational, and one is temporarily being used as a morgue, according to UNFPA.

In Syria Arab Republic Government (SARG)-held areas, at least 170 health facilities were damaged or adversely affected by the earthquakes as of February 13, however most health facilities were functioning with limited fuel, pharmaceutical commodities, and other necessary supplies and resources, UNFPA reports. Moreover, maternal health hospitals in earthquake-affected areas of Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia governorates had sustained earthquake-related damage, but were functioning as of February 13.

UN Releases \$1 Billion Appeal for Earthquakes Response in Türkiye

On February 16, the UN released a flash appeal requesting \$1 billion to meet the needs of the 5.2 million people most affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye for three months. The UN estimates that the earthquakes directly affected at least 9.1 million people in southern Türkiye. Moreover, the earthquakes have exacerbated the humanitarian needs of the more than 1.7 million refugees who resided in Turkey's 11 severely earthquake-affected provinces prior to February 6. The earthquakes have left hundreds of thousands of people without access to shelter, food, safe drinking water, heaters, and medical care amid freezing winter temperatures. In addition to generating and exacerbating humanitarian needs among earthquake-affected households, the harsh winter weather is constraining relief actors' ability to respond. Through the appeal, the UN and NGOs aim to reach 5.2 million people with health and nutrition support,

1.5 million people with multipurpose cash and WASH assistance, 1.2 million people with emergency shelter and relief commodity support, and 1 million people with protection services, as well as additional populations with food and early recovery assistance. The UN and broader humanitarian community have been supporting the Government of Türkiye (GoT)-led response in the country since the earthquakes struck. Relief organizations continue to deliver blankets, hot meals and other food assistance, kitchen sets, mattresses, tents, and warm winter clothing to earthquake-affected populations. The UN and NGOs are also deploying medical personnel and supplies to affected areas, as well as providing psychosocial support and establishing safe spaces for children and women.

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 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 life-saving technical activities, including specialized search-and-rescue operations involving structural collapse to rescue and recover trapped individuals.

At 12:00 a.m. on February 16 local time, eight of the 10 USAR sectors in Türkiye—including the Adiyaman sector where USAID/BHA-supported USAR teams are located—had concluded operations. USAID's USAR teams ceased search-and-rescue operations at the same time and shifted to become a rapid intervention team; as a rapid intervention team, the USAID USAR teams are on-call to respond to any search-and-rescue requests. USAID USAR teams are also collaborating with other USAR teams in Adiyaman to help recover human remains, important documents, and heirlooms from rubble piles at the request of local community members.

Additionally, four State/PRM NGO partners have provided staff and other resources to assist with search-and-rescue efforts in southern Türkiye. Overall, the GoT and international governments have deployed approximately 249,100 relief personnel; 12,200 vehicles, including heavy machinery; and 26 ships to Türkiye.



480,000

Number of earthquake-affected individuals reached with food assistance in Syria and Türkiye

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 had reached 480,000 earthquake-affected individuals in Türkiye and Syria with life-saving food assistance as of February 15. This includes 324,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Syrian refugees in Türkiye receiving food packages in camps and hot meals at municipal community kitchens, as well as nearly 156,300 people receiving emergency food assistance, including hot meals and RTEs, in both SARG- and opposition-held areas of Syria. In opposition held areas specifically, WFP had reached more than 87,100 earthquake-affected individuals with RTEs, while in SARG-held areas, WFP had reached more than 69,100 individuals with emergency food assistance.

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 Jandaris on February 10. A third USAID/BHA NGO partner had delivered bread, food kits, meals, relief commodities, and winter clothes to thousands of households affected by the earthquakes in northwest Syria as of February 15. The NGO had also distributed emergency multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to more than 1,200 affected households, provided 50,000 liters of petrol to local authorities to assist with rescue efforts, and purchased generators for newly established IDPs camps.

Two State/PRM partners are broadening existing programs to support the distribution of MPCA to earthquake-affected communities, including IDPs residing in affected camps, in northwest Syria. Multiple State/PRM partners have also provided food, health, and other life-saving assistance using existing programming funds in Syria.



120,500

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

RELIEF COMMODITIES AND WASH

On February 15, an initial flight carrying USAID/BHA in-kind relief commodities arrived in Türkiye's Adana city from the bureau's warehouse in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. The cargo comprised more than 227,000 pounds of hygiene supplies and kitchen sets, which partner IOM transported to Türkiye's Hatay Province for distribution to affected populations.

Separately, with USAID/BHA support, 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 supply 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.

State/PRM partner UNHCR had released 25,700 core relief items kits—comprising high-thermal blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mattresses, plastic sheeting, and sleeping mats—for distribution to earthquake-affected households in Syria’s Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Latakia, and Tartus governorates as of February 15. UNHCR had also released 20,800 winter jackets and 7,900 winter clothing kits from its warehouses in Aleppo, Homs, and Tartus for distribution to affected households. The UN agency also released 41,200 adult diapers, which are critical for older persons and persons with disabilities. Another 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, Hama, and Latakia.

With State/PRM support, IOM had distributed relief commodities—including blankets, electric stoves, heaters, and winter clothing—for more than 114,000 earthquake-affected individuals in four provinces in southeastern Türkiye as of February 16. In addition, IOM opened its warehouse in Gaziantep Province’s Gaziantep city to shelter 1,200 affected individuals and provide them with food and safe drinking water. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is evacuating children in shelters across southeastern Türkiye to relocate them to safer locations, conducting protection assessments and providing additional support as needed. UNICEF is working with local authorities to support operations in more than 100 youth centers that have been converted into temporary shelters. The UN agency had provided 38,000 hygiene kits, 9,000 items of winter clothing for babies and children, nearly 4,800 blankets, and 3,000 jerrycans, as well as safe drinking water, to earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye as of February 16. Moreover, UNICEF is providing mental health and psychosocial support and assisting separated and unaccompanied children.

HEALTH

Three USAID/BHA NGO partners are delivering critical health care services to earthquake-affected populations in Syria. One USAID/BHA NGO partner had dispatched mobile medical units to accommodation centers to support displaced populations in Atmeh and Jandaris, deployed 50 community health workers to surgical hospitals, and dispatched three ambulances to affected



5

Number of USG partners providing health assistance in Syria and Türkiye

areas, among other health-related activities as of February 14. In addition, the partner's psychological first aid (PFA) team continues to provide PFA services to affected individuals in northwest Syria. The NGO had also established a 24-hour mental health and psychosocial support hotline for vulnerable individuals in Syria. With USAID/BHA support, a second NGO deployed a mobile clinic to Aleppo Governorate's Jandarisi town to provide emergency health services, including trauma treatment and follow-up services, to earthquake-affected populations. The mobile teams are also providing service referrals and supporting the proper management of human remains. Meanwhile, a team of 10 physicians from a third USAID/BHA NGO partner, entered northwest Syria on February 15 and had conducted surgeries and managed individuals in intensive care units at hospitals supported by the NGO in Aleppo Governorate's Atareb and Al-Hawa towns and Idlib Governorate's Idlib city as of February 16. In addition, the partner delivered medical supplies, including antibiotics, from Türkiye to northwest Syria on February 15.

State/PRM partner the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is distributing essential medical supplies to affected Palestinian refugees in Syria and offering telemedicine services to limited program participants based on need. The UN agency is also providing essential health and psychosocial support services to households impacted by the earthquake in Neirab refugee camp in Syria. In addition, State/PRM partner UNFPA is delivering reproductive health services through four existing delivery points throughout southeastern Türkiye and is working to maintain access to essential health services and supporting state hospitals by providing medical items, medicines, and reproductive health supplies. The UN agency is also distributing dignity and hygiene kits to affected populations in Türkiye.



124,000

Pounds of relief items airlifted by DoD in coordination with USAID/BHA

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

At the request of USAID/BHA, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has supported the transportation of more than 124,000 pounds of emergency relief items to earthquake-affected areas of southern Türkiye as of February 16. The missions included the airlift of approximately 43,400 pounds of critical relief supplies—including blankets, cots, emergency food commodities, generators, space heaters, and tents—from Adana's Incirlik Air Base to GoT Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) officials in Kahramanmaraş Province's Goksun town and Hatay Province for onward distribution to earthquake-affected populations on February 16. DoD assets also facilitate the movement of DART personnel to conduct assessments and USAR operations in earthquake-affected areas.

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
Implementing Partner	Health	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
	Program Support		\$11,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE			\$37,511,000
Türkiye			
DoD	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$1,500,000
IOM	Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance, Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$16,000,000
	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$2,799,452
	Program Support		\$154,844
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE RESPONSE			\$25,454,296
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$62,965,296

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 16, 2023.

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/center-for-international-disaster-information) 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)