

# Türkiye and Syria – Earthquakes

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

**46,820**

Earthquake-related Deaths Reported in Türkiye and Syria

*Media – February 2023*

**114,100**

Number of people injured in Türkiye and Syria

*Media – February 2023*

**49,000**

Number of Damaged or Destroyed Buildings in Türkiye and Syria

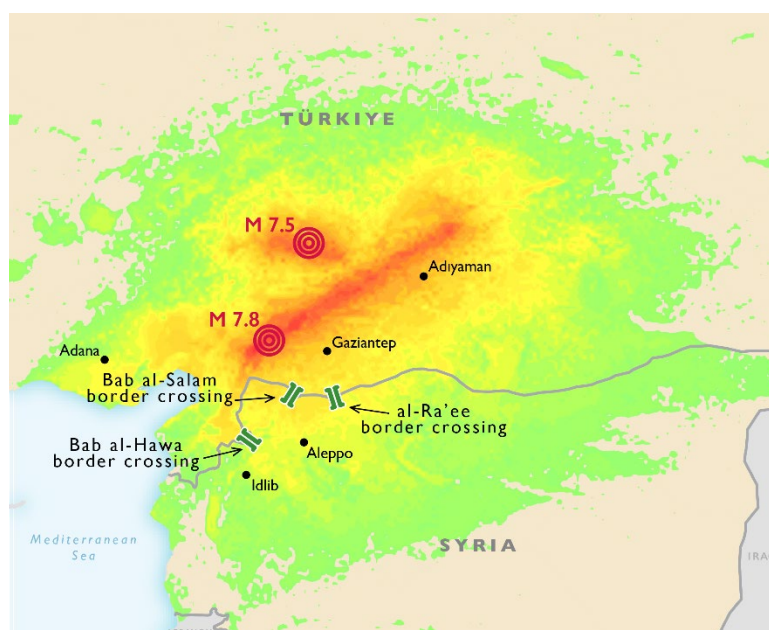
*UN – February 2023*

**610,000**

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

*USGS – February 2023*

- On February 20, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck southern Türkiye, resulting in further casualties and destruction in parts of Türkiye and Syria affected by the February 6 earthquakes.
- UN agencies, including USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners, continue to deliver critical relief supplies to northwest Syria from Türkiye through three border crossing points authorized for UN use.
- Secretary Blinken announces an additional \$100 million in humanitarian assistance for the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria, bringing the total USG contribution to the response to \$185 million.



## TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup>

\$72,966,256

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

**Total**

**\$72,966,256**

<sup>1</sup> 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. 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 and support to meet the 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

### February 19, 2023

USG announces the allocation of an additional \$100 million in humanitarian assistance

### February 20, 2023

USAID/BHA-supported USAR teams demobilize and return to the United States

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Magnitude 6.3 Earthquake Strikes Southern Türkiye on February 20

At 8:04 p.m. local time—or 12:04 p.m. Eastern Standard Time—on February 20, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck southern Türkiye at a depth of 6.2 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The epicenter of the earthquake was located 1.9 miles southwest of Uzunbag city in Türkiye's Hatay Province. USGS issued a red alert for estimated economic losses and an orange alert for estimated fatalities, indicating that extensive damage is probable with the disaster likely widespread, and significant casualties are likely. Initial reporting as of February 21 indicates that the tremor resulted in the deaths of at least six people and injury to an estimated 300 others in Türkiye, according to Government of Türkiye (GoT) Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca. Additionally, the February 20 tremor resulted in injury to approximately 500 individuals in northwest Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reports. Although the earthquake struck in an area that had been largely evacuated due to the February 6 earthquakes, additional individuals are reportedly trapped under rubble, according to international media. All U.S. Government (USG) staff in Türkiye, including USAID/BHA staff in Adana and Ankara, are safe and accounted for.

Individuals in Hatay's Antakya city reported the resultant destruction of additional buildings, many of which had sustained damage during the February 6 earthquakes; however, the full breadth of infrastructure damage resulting from the February 20 earthquake remained unclear as of February 21. While urban search-and-rescue (USAR) teams in many of Türkiye's earthquake-affected provinces have demobilized, USAR teams remained active in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş provinces as of February 20, international media report; as of February 21, the GoT had not requested further support for search-and-rescue efforts in response to the February 20 earthquake. The tremor was felt in Türkiye, Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon, according to international media. The February 20 earthquake marks the latest in a series of thousands of aftershocks that followed the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck central-southern Türkiye on February 6.

The February earthquakes had resulted in at least 46,820 confirmed deaths and injury to approximately 114,100 people in Türkiye and Syria—including 41,020 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 21. The casualty figures are likely underreported as search-and-rescue operations and assessments continue.

### UN Cross-Border Aid Deliveries to Northwest Syria Continue, Expand to Three Border Crossing Points

UN agencies—including USG partners—continue to deliver critical humanitarian assistance to earthquake-affected populations in northwest

Syria from Türkiye, transporting approximately 270 trucks of relief supplies through three border crossing points between February 9 and 21. The total includes 10 International Organization for Migration (IOM) trucks carrying emergency relief supplies and medical items that crossed through the Al-Ra'ee border crossing point on February 20, representing the first time the UN has been able to successfully transport commodities through the Al Ra'ee border crossing point since the February 6 earthquakes. While the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) approved the border crossing for UN use on February 13, the UN had not previously delivered aid through Al Ra'ee border crossing as it needed to assess the conditions and prepare logistics at the site prior to its first use on February 20.

Meanwhile, the UN has maintained cross-border deliveries at the two other approved border crossing points, transporting 210 trucks through Bab al-Hawa and 45 trucks through Bab al-Salama. The figures include nearly 70 trucks from USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP), 33 trucks from USG partner IOM, six trucks from U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), five trucks from USG partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and two trucks from USAID/BHA partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO) through Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salama since February 17. IOM trucks included hygiene kits, kitchen sets, relief kits for newly displaced populations, and other relief commodities, while WFP trucks carried emergency food commodities.

### **Earthquake-Affected Populations Maintain Limited Access to Health, WASH Services**

Earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye—particularly those in rural areas—are experiencing challenges accessing required medicines, non-governmental organization (NGO) the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) reports. Road blockages due to earthquake-related debris and rubble have further hampered affected populations' access to health services, while the decomposition of deceased bodies amid rubble piles and seepage of bodily fluids is affecting safe drinking water networks. As a result, populations in earthquake-affected areas are advised to drink bottled water, which remains a priority humanitarian need, particularly in Hatay, ASAM reports. In addition, the availability of mobile water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, including showers and toilets, is limited outside of formal temporary shelters and refugee camps, according to ASAM. Populations sheltering in other locations, such as makeshift shelters in city centers, lack or have limited access to WASH facilities, increasing the risk of communicable disease transmission. Meanwhile, increased incidence of scabies has been observed among displaced earthquake-affected children. As of February 15, the GoT Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure had facilitated the relocation of approximately 272,300 individuals from earthquake-affected provinces to less- or non-affected provinces; however, populations in many earthquake-affected areas remain in need of relocation support.

### **Secretary Blinken Announces \$100 Million in Additional USG Assistance During Visit to Türkiye with AtA Charles**

On February 19, U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken announced the provision of an additional \$100 million of humanitarian assistance through USAID/BHA and State/PRM to respond to the needs of earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye and Syria. The new funding builds on an initial allocation of \$85 million in USAID/BHA assistance for Türkiye and Syria immediately following the earthquakes, bringing total USG humanitarian assistance for the earthquake response to \$185 million. The \$100 million allocation includes \$50 million in Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Funds (ERMA) that President Joseph R. Biden intends to authorize for State/PRM to respond to the effects of the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. To date, nearly \$73 million of allocated funding has already been provided to partners. With this funding, USAID/BHA is providing emergency food and shelter for newly displaced individuals, winter supplies to

support families through harsh winter weather conditions, critical health care services in areas where health facilities were damaged or destroyed by the earthquakes, and WASH assistance to prevent infectious disease.

Secretary Blinken announced the new funding during his and USAID/BHA Assistant to the Administrator (AtA) Sarah Charles' visit to Türkiye from February 18 to 20. During the visit, the USG officials met with USAID/BHA partners operating in Türkiye and Syria; USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) for the earthquakes, including search-and-rescue experts; and U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) personnel supporting the humanitarian response at the request of USAID/BHA. Secretary Blinken and AtA Charles also conducted a flyover to observe conditions in earthquake-affected areas with DoD personnel and GoT Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlut Cavusoglu. Moreover, AtA Charles visited a WFP-supported kitchen serving earthquake-affected individuals in Adana city's Yeni Mahalle neighborhood on February 20. The kitchen is located at a women's cooperative site, and an Adana Municipality representative and cooperative volunteers established the kitchen on February 15. With USAID/BHA support, WFP equips the kitchen with food commodities, enabling the provision of approximately 30,000 meals on-site and through delivery services daily. Overall, the UN agency sponsors approximately 60 municipal kitchens across 11 provinces in Türkiye.

## 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 DART on February 7. The USAR teams traveled with more than 170,000 pounds—77 metric tons (MT)—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.

On February 20, DART USAR personnel demobilized and returned to the United States following the completion of rescue and recovery efforts in Türkiye, while 33 DART staff remained in the region to continue scaling up humanitarian assistance for affected communities in Türkiye and Syria. The USAR teams supported GoT-led rescue efforts and structural assessments in Adiyaman Province since arriving in Türkiye. In addition, the DART

donated tents from its base of operations and a portion of its search-and-rescue tools and equipment to the AKUT Search and Rescue Association, a Turkish search-and-rescue NGO.

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 245,200 relief personnel and 12,700 vehicles, including heavy machinery, to Türkiye.

## FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOODS, AND MPCA

USAID/BHA supports WFP to deliver emergency food assistance in both Türkiye and Syria, as well as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its partner Turkish Red Crescent to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) in Türkiye. Additionally, five existing USAID/BHA NGO partners in Syria are amplifying programs to provide food and MPCA to earthquake-affected populations in Syria. NGO partners in northwest Syria are delivering flour and yeast to contracted bakeries to produce subsidized bread and distributing food kits and ready-to-eat rations (RTEs). USAID/BHA partner WFP had reached 500,000 earthquake-affected individuals in Türkiye and Syria with life-saving food assistance, including hot meals and RTEs, as of February 17.

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

## RELIEF COMMODITIES AND WASH

As of February 21, eight flights carrying USAID/BHA in-kind relief commodities had arrived in Türkiye's Adana city from the bureau's warehouse in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. The cargo comprised nearly 1.6 million pounds—more than 720 MT—of buckets, hygiene supplies, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, and tarpaulins, which partner IOM transported to Türkiye's Hatay Province for onward distribution to affected populations to support shelter and WASH activities.

In addition, with support from USAID/BHA and other donors, UNICEF distributed relief commodities previously pre-positioned in northwest Syria in late 2022 to respond to earthquake-related needs of vulnerable Syrians. As of February 16, UNICEF had reached 90,000 people in northwest Syria with hygiene kits and safe drinking water, among other forms of assistance. In addition, USAID/BHA partner IOM had distributed more than 1,700 relief commodity kits, which were also pre-positioned prior to the recent tremors, to earthquake-affected populations in northwest Syria.

State/PRM partner UNHCR had released 30,200 core relief items kits—



**500,000**

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



**720**

Number of MT of USAID/BHA in-kind relief and WASH commodities delivered to support earthquake survivors

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 18. UNHCR had also released 50,500 high-thermal blankets and delivered 29,000 hygiene kits, 19,500 kitchen sets, 16,300 mattresses, 15,100 tents, and 10,000 tarpaulins to earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye as of February 20. Another State/PRM partner delivered 600 blankets and 300 mattresses, as well as 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. State/PRM is also supporting UNICEF’s efforts to evacuate children in shelters across southeastern Türkiye to safer locations, conducting protection assessments and providing additional support as needed. Meanwhile, the UN agency is working with local authorities to support operations in more than 100 youth centers that have been converted into temporary shelters. UNICEF 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, the UN agency is providing mental health and psychosocial support and assisting separated and unaccompanied children.

## HEALTH

Three USAID/BHA NGO partners are delivering critical health 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 Idlib’s Atmeh town and Aleppo’s Jandaris town, deployed 50 community health workers to surgical hospitals, and dispatched three ambulances to affected areas, among other health-related activities as of February 14. In addition, the partner continues to provide psychological first aid services to affected individuals in northwest Syria. The NGO 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 Jandaris 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.

With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) had distributed nearly 200 sexual and reproductive health kits—sufficient to meet the needs of nearly 23,000 women and girls—and nearly



5

Number of USG partners providing health assistance in Syria and Türkiye

5,000 dignity kits to populations in northwest Syria; UNFPA was a USAID/BHA partner in Syria prior to the February 6 earthquakes and is using existing funds to address earthquake-related needs. In addition, UNFPA partners in SARG-held areas continue to provide essential sexual and reproductive health services at 14 facilities, while 32 mobile teams providing sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence services treatment are assisting populations displaced by the earthquakes who are currently residing in temporary shelters. Between February 8 and 14, UNFPA’s mobile teams reached nearly 20,000 women and girls. Moreover, UNFPA delivered 25 sexual and reproductive health kits—sufficient to meet the needs of nearly 2,900 women for three months—to SARG-held areas of Aleppo 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 earthquakes 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.



**310,000**

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) delivered approximately 310,000 pounds—140 MT—of emergency relief items to earthquake-affected areas of southern Türkiye between February 16 and 21. The missions included the airlift of critical relief supplies—including blankets, emergency food commodities, generators, space heaters, tents, and winter clothing—from Adana’s Incirlik Air Base to Adiyaman Province’s Karagol Koyu town; Hatay Province’s Hassa, Hatay, and Samandag towns; and Kahramanmaras Province’s Elbistan, Goksun, and Pazarcik towns for onward distribution to earthquake-affected populations. 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 2023<sup>1</sup>

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY         | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|----------------------|------------------|----------|--------|
|                      | <b>USAID/BHA</b> |          |        |
|                      | 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            |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE</b>                              |   |                | <b>\$37,511,000</b> |
| <b>Türkiye</b>   |   |                |                     |
| IFRC   | MPCA, Protection  | Affected Areas | \$2,000,000         |
| IOM  | Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements  | Affected Areas | \$5,000,000         |
| UNICEF   | Protection, WASH  | Affected Areas | \$5,000,000         |
| WFP  | Food Assistance, Logistics Support  | Affected Areas | \$16,000,000        |
| WHO  | Health  | Affected Areas | \$2,000,000         |
| DoD  | Logistics Support   | Affected Areas | \$1,500,000         |
|  | Logistics Support   | Affected Areas | \$3,799,452         |
|  | Program Support   |                | \$155,804           |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE RESPONSE</b>                            |   |                | <b>\$35,455,256</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b> |   |                | <b>\$72,966,256</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Year 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)