

# Türkiye and Syria – Earthquakes

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

**48,224**

Earthquake-related Deaths Reported in Türkiye and Syria

*Media – February 2023*

**118,700**

Number of people injured in Türkiye and Syria

*Media – February 2023*

**99,600**

Number of Damaged or Destroyed Buildings in Türkiye and Syria

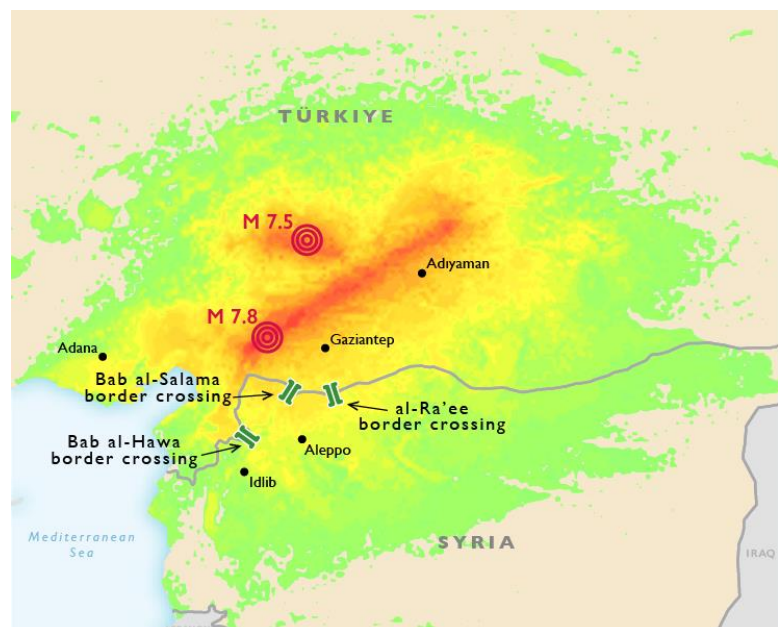
*UN – February 2023*

**610,000**

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

*USGS – February 2023*

- The February earthquakes continue to generate significant humanitarian needs among affected populations in Türkiye and Syria.
- 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.
- Deteriorated living conditions due to the earthquakes are exposing vulnerable populations in Syria to heightened protection risks, the Protection Cluster reports.



## TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup>

\$76,314,524

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 8*

**Total**

**\$76,314,524**

<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

### Shelter, WASH, Other Humanitarian Needs Persist Among Earthquake-Affected Populations

Populations affected by the February earthquakes in Türkiye continue to require shelter support, with nearly 431,700 earthquake-affected individuals sheltering at temporary accommodation centers (TACs)—including dormitories, schools, sports halls, tent communities, and other facilities—across Türkiye as of February 22, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. TACs in Adana, Sanliurfa, and Gaziantep provinces are hosting approximately 135,700; 75,200; and 43,500 individuals, respectively, which is more than any other provinces, according to IOM. Moreover, the Government of Türkiye (GoT) had identified at least 1,850 unaccompanied minors in earthquake-affected areas as of February 21. Overall, food, health, hygiene, and shelter needs in earthquake-affected regions of Türkiye continued to increase as of February 21, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) reports.

In Syria, the earthquakes had affected at least 8.8 million people as of February 22, according to UN Deputy Special Envoy for Syria Najat Rochdi. The districts with the highest number of earthquake-related deaths and injuries were Idlib Governorate's Harim District, Aleppo Governorate's Afrin District, and Idlib's Jisr-Ash-Shugur District, in order of casualty count, as of February 21, the UN reports. Meanwhile, Harim residents temporarily displaced by the Tal Talum Dam collapse and resultant flooding are largely returning to the area as of February 23, according to the Syria Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. However, until the dam is repaired and water levels are controlled, flooding may persist, potentially exposing populations in the area to heightened risk of water-borne diseases. Meanwhile, Syria continues to face a cholera outbreak, with more than 49,000 suspected cholera cases reported in the country as of February 21, according to the UN.

As of February 21, the number of confirmed casualties resulting from the February earthquakes continued to rise, with 48,224 deaths and injury to approximately 118,700 people reported in Türkiye and Syria—including 42,310 deaths and injury to at least 108,000 people in Türkiye and at least 5,914 deaths and injury to at least 10,600 people in Syria. The casualty figures are likely underreported as assessments continue.

### UN Continues to Deliver Aid Cross-Border to Northwest Syria

UN agencies—including U.S. Government (USG) partners—have dispatched nearly 340 trucks carrying critical relief commodities cross-border to northwest Syria from Türkiye as of February 23. The total

includes more than 270 trucks that have delivered aid through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point (BCP), more than 50 trucks that have crossed through the Bab al-Salama BCP, and 10 trucks that have crossed through the Al Ra'ee BCP. On February 23, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) and USG partner IOM transported 39 trucks and eight trucks, respectively, through the Bab al-Hawa BCP, while U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) delivered six trucks through the Bab al-Salama BCP. On February 22, UNHCR, WFP, and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) transported 16 trucks through the Bab al-Hawa BCP, while WHO dispatched one truck through the Bab al-Salama BCP.

Moreover, on February 21, IOM transported 12 trucks carrying 1,000 relief supply kits for newly displaced populations, 1,000 hygiene kits, and 1,000 kitchen sets through the Bab al-Salama BCP for delivery to a USAID/BHA NGO partner in Aleppo's Azaz District. Through all of its cross-border deliveries of aid, including shelter supplies, medical items, and other relief commodities, IOM is equipping humanitarian actors with relief commodities sufficient to support more than 266,000 people in earthquake-affected areas of northwest Syria, particularly in the highly-affected areas of Aleppo's Azaz and Dana Sub-Districts.

During the International Syria Support Group Humanitarian Task Force meeting in Geneva on February 22, the UN Deputy Special Envoy for Syria expressed support for the rapid resumption and scale up of the UN's cross-border operations, including through the Bab al-Salama and Al-Ra'ee BCPs, which were recently authorized for UN use. However, Deputy Special Envoy Rochdi underscored the need to increase cross-line operations into northwest Syria and for parties to the conflict to ensure simplified, expedited procedures for humanitarian staff movement without restrictions into the region to continue addressing urgent needs.

## Earthquakes Heighten Protection Risks in Affected Areas of Syria

Earthquake-related disruptions to essential services, increased displacement, and overcrowded temporary shelters have increased earthquake-affected populations' exposure to protection risks, with children, women, older persons, and people with disabilities considered especially vulnerable, according to the Protection Cluster. Between February 9 and 15, the Protection Cluster assessed earthquake-affected communities in Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-held areas of Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Latakia, and Tartus governorates to ascertain their living conditions and associated protection concerns. Approximately 70 percent of 100 interviewed individuals reported that overcrowding is a common issue in collective shelters. Meanwhile, more than 80 percent of surveyed individuals reported gaps in services for older persons, persons with disabilities, and youth. In addition, unexploded ordnance may have shifted, surfaced, and/or been covered by rubble due to the earthquakes, increasing risks faced by search-and-rescue workers, humanitarian staff, and displaced populations, the Protection Cluster reports.

### 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. In response, 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—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 34 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 242,400 search-and-rescue personnel and 13,700 vehicles, including heavy machinery, to Türkiye.

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



**660,000**

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

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 the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) in Türkiye. Additionally, five existing USAID/BHA NGO partners 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 approximately 660,000 earthquake-affected individuals in northwest Syria and 162,000 people in SARG-held areas with food assistance as of February 19.

WFP had also reached 900,000 earthquake-affected people in Türkiye, including 796,000 affected Turkish citizens and Syrian refugees in Türkiye with hot meals and 104,000 Turkish citizens and Syrian refugees with food packages as of February 20. Overall, USAID/BHA partner WFP reached an estimated 1.7 million earthquake-affected people in Türkiye and Syria with

hot meals, RTEs, and in-kind food assistance between February 6 and 20. Moreover, with USAID/BHA and other donor support, TRC had provided approximately 64 million pieces of bread, 59 million hot meals, more than 28 million bottles of water, 14.5 million ready-to-eat meal packages, 10 million units of soup, and 3.4 million beverages to earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye as of February 22.

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. Moreover, State/PRM partner the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continues to support 160 Palestinian refugee households in Latakia with food assistance and additional families sheltering in Aleppo's Ein al-Tal Camp with RTEs.



**840**

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

## RELIEF COMMODITIES AND WASH

As of February 23, nine flights carrying USAID/BHA in-kind relief commodities had arrived in Türkiye's Adana city from the bureau's warehouse in the United Arab Emirates and a regional supplier. In total, the flights transported nearly 840 MT of relief commodities, including 58,000 high and medium thermal blankets; 56,000 14-liter buckets to store water; 189 hygiene kits sufficient to support 100 households each; nearly 41,200 kitchen sets; 520 rolls of plastic sheeting; and 54,800 plastic tarpaulins. Partner IOM is transporting the relief commodities to earthquake-affected areas of Türkiye for onward distribution to affected populations to support their shelter and WASH needs. With international donor support, including USG funding, IOM had reached 166,000 with emergency relief supplies in earthquake-affected areas of Türkiye as of February 22.

In addition, IOM had distributed more than 1,700 relief commodity kits, which were pre-positioned prior to the recent tremors, to earthquake-affected populations in northwest Syria as of February 15. IOM continues to transport additional supplies to northwest Syria from Türkiye through three BCPs, delivering relief commodities sufficient to support more than 266,000 people as of February 22. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its implementing partners had provided hygiene kits to 114,000 earthquake-affected individuals and WASH supplies and services to more than 302,300 earthquake-affected individuals in approximately 90 reception centers and affected communities in opposition-held areas of northwest Syria as of February 22. UNICEF and its partners are also supporting more than 187,000 individuals' access to safe drinking water in northwest Syria through its water quality management of five water stations and supporting 125,000 people with water trucking, solid waste management, and desludging services.

State/PRM partner UNHCR had released 30,200 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 Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Latakia, and Tartus 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

With USAID/BHA support, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and three existing 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 Jandarisi 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 Jandarisi 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. Moreover, a third NGO partner had treated 90 individuals affected by the February 20 earthquake as of February 21. The partner also deployed a second team of doctors and supplies required for neurosurgery to northwest Syria on



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Number of USG partners  
providing health assistance  
in Syria and Türkiye

February 20.

With pre-existing support from USAID/BHA and other donors, UNFPA had distributed nearly 200 sexual and reproductive health kits—sufficient to meet the needs of nearly 23,000 women and girls—and nearly 5,000 dignity kits to earthquake-affected populations in northwest Syria. 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 treatment services 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 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.

## LOGISTICS SUPPORT

At the request of USAID/BHA, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) delivered approximately 541,100 pounds—245 MT—of emergency relief items to earthquake-affected areas of southern Türkiye between as of February 22. The missions include the airlift of 135,000 pounds, or 61 MT, of critical relief supplies—including blankets, emergency food commodities, generators, space heaters, tents, and winter clothing—from Adana 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 between February 21 and 23. DoD assets have also facilitated the movement of DART personnel to conduct assessments and USAR operations in earthquake-affected areas.

Additionally, DoD delivered more than 200 military tents from Bahrain and other locations to Adana for onward transportation by USAID/BHA partners to affected areas in Syria and Türkiye to support thousands of individuals displaced by the earthquakes. Moreover, DoD delivered a field hospital to Adana on February 22, which it is working to install in Hatay for use by the GoT.



**541,100**

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

## 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 Partners	Health, MPCA	Affected Areas	\$6,500,000
	Program Support		\$11,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE</b>			<b>\$39,011,000</b>
Türkiye			
DoD	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$1,500,000
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
	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$5,642,550
	Program Support		\$160,974
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE RESPONSE</b>			<b>\$37,303,524</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$76,314,524</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 23, 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/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://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)