



Collapsed building in Sarmada, north-west Syria. 6 February 2023. Credit: OCHA/Ali Haj Suleiman

Situation Overview

Close to 2,000 deaths have been reported in Türkiye and north-west Syria on 6 February as a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck southern Türkiye at 4:17 am. This is Türkiye's most powerful earthquake recorded since 1939. At least 78 aftershocks have been reported followed by a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude at 13:24 with the epicenter in Ekinozu/Kahramanmaras province. Tremors were reportedly felt in Gaziantep and neighboring provinces. The Government of Türkiye has since issued a Level 4 alarm, calling for international assistance.

The earthquake also heavily impacted north-west Syria, a region where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance today. The majority are women and children. At this time, Syrian communities are simultaneously hit with an on-going cholera outbreak and harsh winter events including heavy rain and snow over the weekend. The humanitarian response is largely overstretched with a [funding gap of 48 per cent](#) identified for the last quarter of 2022 (US\$371.1 is required out of 802.1 million).

The UN and partners are monitoring the situation on the ground amidst information flow constraints due to chronic telecommunication disruptions and power shortages. Infrastructural damages are difficult to assess at this time and roads have been reportedly blocked in both Türkiye and north-west Syria.

Updates in Türkiye

Impacts and humanitarian needs

- At least 1,700 deaths and 5,385 injuries have been confirmed by the Government of Türkiye. Kahramanmaras and Gaziantep are among the most impacted provinces.

9) rental trucks and vans to transport people, 10) reception centers for IDPs and 11) safe spaces for women and girls.

- The Health Cluster reported that urgent medical needs in hospitals include serums, gauze bandages, painkillers, medical plaster and blood bags. Other urgent needs include fuel for generators and heating as well as burial bags. At least two hospitals are now out of service in the Idlib governorate.
- Homelessness and onward movement can create or exacerbate protection risks including those related to mine action. It is anticipated that the earthquake will force people onto contaminated land, bringing them into contact with explosives and mines.
- OCHA's Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF), having completed its second Standard Allocation valued at \$28 million, is in urgent need of new contributions for the launch of a Reserve Allocation dedicated to the earthquake response.

Humanitarian response

- The UN and partners are closely monitoring the situation on the ground and are looking to mobilize emergency funds in the region. Several partners have launched assessments and results are expected to come in the coming days.
- Partners have reported that their offices and warehouses have been damaged and hospitals are overwhelmed.
- IOM and UNHCR partners have a total stock of some 2,000 tents and approximately 1,700 Non-Food Item (NFI) kits pre-positioned inside north-west Syria. Some additional 1,800 NFI kits are available through Mercy Corps. Partners reported that there are urgent needs for tents and NFIs, in particular blankets, heating fuel, stoves and plastic sheets.
- UNHCR reported that 1,000 additional tents are available in its warehouse in Gaziantep and discussions are also ongoing to mobilize regional stock.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has released their trauma kits from warehouses to at least 16 hospitals in NWS.
- The Protection cluster and its Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) plan to roll out a rapid protection assessment as soon as it is feasible and map accessible/available protection services in affected areas.
- Earthquake and continued aftershocks caused displacements. Available information indicates that at least four interim shelters/centers are being established to host families from Idlib.
- Partners are administrating reception centers including one in the Sheikh Bahr area that can host up to 200 families in need of shelters, and one in Maaret Tamsrin community that can host some 160 families. Two other centers have reportedly been opened in the Idlib governorate.
- The Early Recovery Cluster is coordinating with partners active in the Idlib region and via the Emergency Road Rehabilitation Committee to assess roads interruptions and physical access impediments requiring urgent interventions, such as rubble and debris removals, and shift of resources capacities.

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