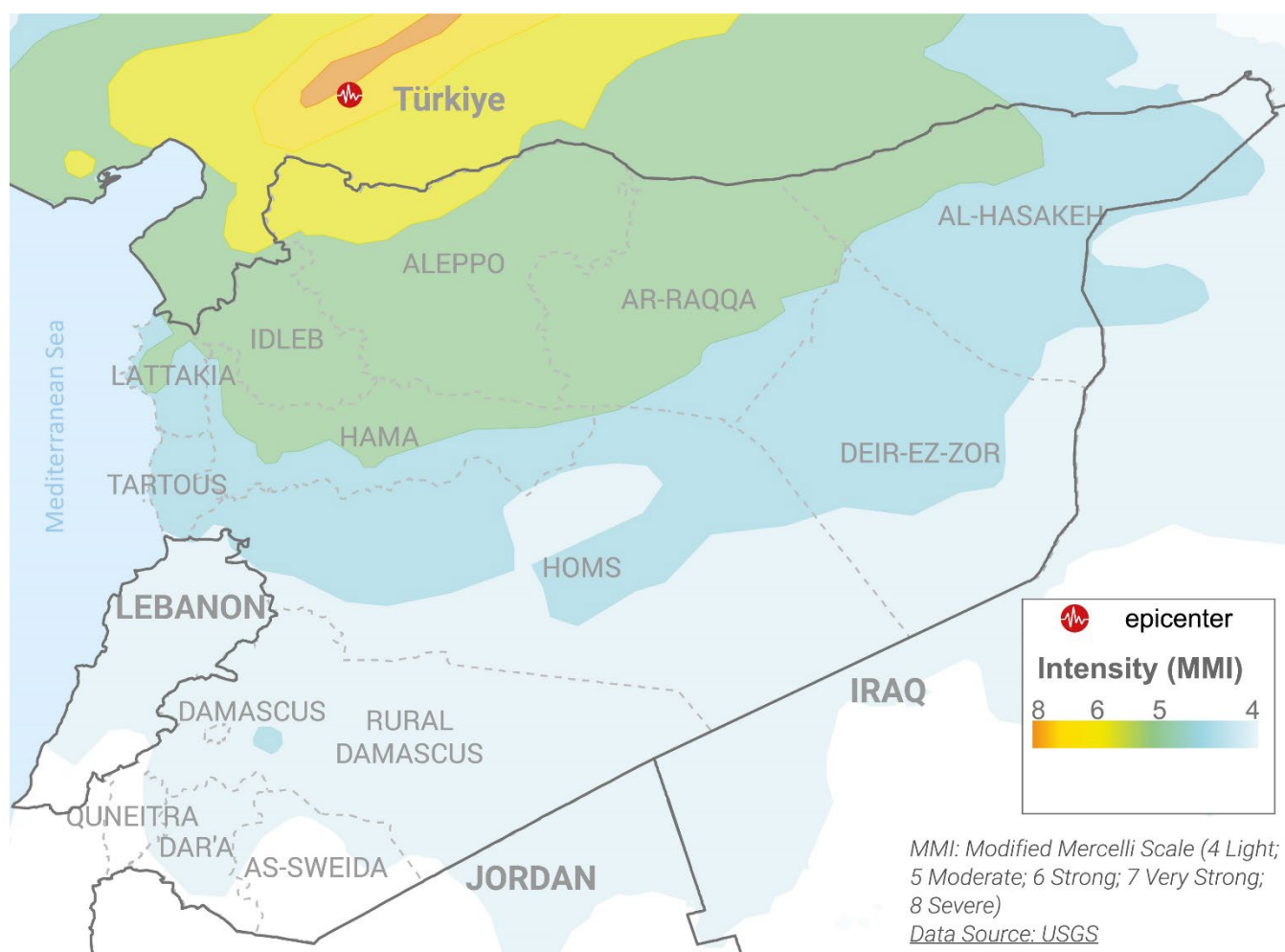


Situation overview

Multiple earthquakes hit southern Türkiye and Syria early morning on 6 February. The one with the most severe impact had 7.7 magnitude, and its tectonic epicenter was located in Gaziantep; Adana at a depth of 24.075 kilometers, with tremors felt in varying intensities across the Syrian Arab Republic. Following the earthquake, multiple aftershocks were reported. Several governorates in north, central, and coastal parts of Syria were affected with Aleppo being the most impacted; although Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, and Idleb, were also considerably affected. Preliminary reports indicate both human and material damages, mainly in Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama, Idleb and Tartous. Preliminary reports from the Syrian Ministry of Health indicate that 430 people have so far been confirmed dead and that 1,315 people sustained injuries in the HCT-Coordinated response areas, mostly in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia and Tartous. The death toll is expected to continue to rise, as is the structural damage as many of the buildings in the affected areas are structurally unsound and could collapse following the additional damage.



In Aleppo, in addition to reported deaths and injuries, preliminary reports indicate that a total of 40 buildings collapsed, and unspecified numbers sustained damages. Dozens of people have also reportedly been registered as missing by their relatives. All government technical teams and service departments have been deployed to support search and rescue efforts. SARC also immediately deployed its first aid and disaster management teams.

Search and rescue efforts are however being hampered by the lack of equipment. Government authorities have called for support from the private sector. Damage to Infrastructure has been widely reported across the governorate but the most affected areas are Shaar, Kalaseh, SalahEddin, Myassar, Akabeh, Azizieh, Baroun, Ein Al Tal, Nubol, Zahra, Bustan AzZahra, Azamieh, Fardous, Salheen. Access to all locations is reportedly feasible. The Aleppo sub-relief committee has designated temporary shelter for affected families including a total of 150 apartments in Masaken Hanano, 25 apartments in the rehabilitation and training centre in Sheikh Taha, and 17 formal education schools.

In Lattakia according to the local authorities, affected areas include, Al Oweiniyeh, Al Kazzazin and Al-Raml Janoubi neighborhood in Lattakia City, as well as Demsarkho, Jablah, Al-Qabu and Astamo villages. In addition to confirmed deaths and injuries, preliminary reports also indicate that 53 buildings collapsed while unspecified numbers sustained damages across the Governorate. Additionally, dozens of people have also been reported missing by their relatives. Four temporary shelters have been designated in Lattakia City.

Also, in Lattakia, structural damage to water reservoirs and tanks has been reported. The High Ghaniri Reservoir, with a volume of 200 m³, is reportedly falling apart, and the condition of its structure has been assessed as very poor. The reservoir is surrounded by residential buildings which makes it high risk. Al Fawar ground tank (Jableh city), Dahr Al-Syriani high reservoir and Cemet high reservoir of Wadi Qandil station have reportedly been cracked; while, the Dam station reservoir (Central) has cracked and the water is leaking. Al-Zoubar and Karkit stations reportedly sustained some structural damages; and Al Bahloulieh Al Rastan station has sustained huge structural damages and cracks in the workers' room. Due to the power outage since the earthquake occurred, there is no information regarding the extent of the damage in the water networks.

In Hama in addition to confirmed deaths and injuries, local authorities also reported that three high rise buildings reportedly collapsed, and dozens of people are also reportedly still missing. Civilians who have been evacuated from their homes have been asked to move to Ibraheem Mahmoud School in Al Arba'een neighbourhood and the Disability Center within Hama city that have been designated by the authorities as temporary collective shelters. Reportedly in rural areas, families that are residing in mud houses have been asked by the local authorities to temporarily seek alternative shelter as a protective measure. According to the local authorities, seven collective high-water tanks reportedly collapsed while five others were damaged as a result of the earthquake. One child died as a result. The water department confirmed that they will continue pumping water to the city and its neighborhood while the service will be suspended for rural areas to allow them to manage the turbidity of water.

In Tartous, while no confirmed deaths and injuries have been reported, local authorities informed that Qadmous, Qallue, and Banyas towns were affected by the earthquake. Preliminary reports indicate that 40 buildings in Bayas reportedly sustained structural damages and three buildings collapsed in Tartous. Reports also indicate that hundreds of families have moved from Banyas to the neighboring villages. Local authorities have deployed debris removal equipment and ambulances. Additionally, SARC also reportedly deployed some ambulances. Governorate supported Lattakia with mechanisms for debris removal and ambulances. SARC Tartous supported Lattakia with two ambulances. Reports on hundreds of families displaced from Banyas towards the neighboring villages. Two schools in Tartous reportedly sustained some structural damages.

In HCT response areas in Idleb, reports indicate that several uninhabited buildings collapsed but no casualties have so far been confirmed.

Government response

Following the earthquake, field response teams consisting of technical governmental teams and the Syria Arab Red Crescent were immediately deployed on the ground and are, amongst others, contributing to/and coordinating search and rescue efforts. The President of the Syrian Arab Republic chaired an emergency Cabinet meeting on 6 February. An emergency nationwide action plan has been set, and a 24-hour central operations

room established to coordinate the Government response. Emergency operation rooms have also been established in the affected Governorates. Sub-national relief committees in all aforementioned governorates held meetings headed by the governors to discuss the impact and response.

A number of urgent steps have been taken by the Government including the deployment of search and rescue teams, supporting debris removal and mobilization of relief supplies. Directives have also been issued for assessments to be conducted on the safety of buildings in the affected locations, and quick detection of the safety of dams, reservoirs, and water stations. Further all relevant line ministers and service departments are on high levels of alert to respond to the emerging needs.

Humanitarian response and capacities:

Humanitarian organizations are supporting immediate response efforts including the search and rescue operations, provision of ready-to-eat food or hot meals to displaced families/those that have lost their homes; provision of non-food items, portable water, medicines, first aid and trauma care, dignity kits, protection interventions including psychosocial support. Preparations for inter-agency needs assessments are underway to inform comprehensive response efforts. Notably as this new emergency occurred at a time when the humanitarian community is already grappling to respond to large numbers of people in need with very limited funding; unless additional resources are immediately mobilised and deployed the humanitarian community is weary that these new needs will exacerbate the prevailing humanitarian situation and further constrain the already very limited response capacities.