

This report is produced by the UNDAC mission in Türkiye in collaboration with humanitarian partners and covers the period from 6 to 16 February 2023. It succeeds the joint Türkiye and northwest Syria Flash Updates; separate updates are issued covering the humanitarian impacts and response in Syria.

HIGHLIGHTS



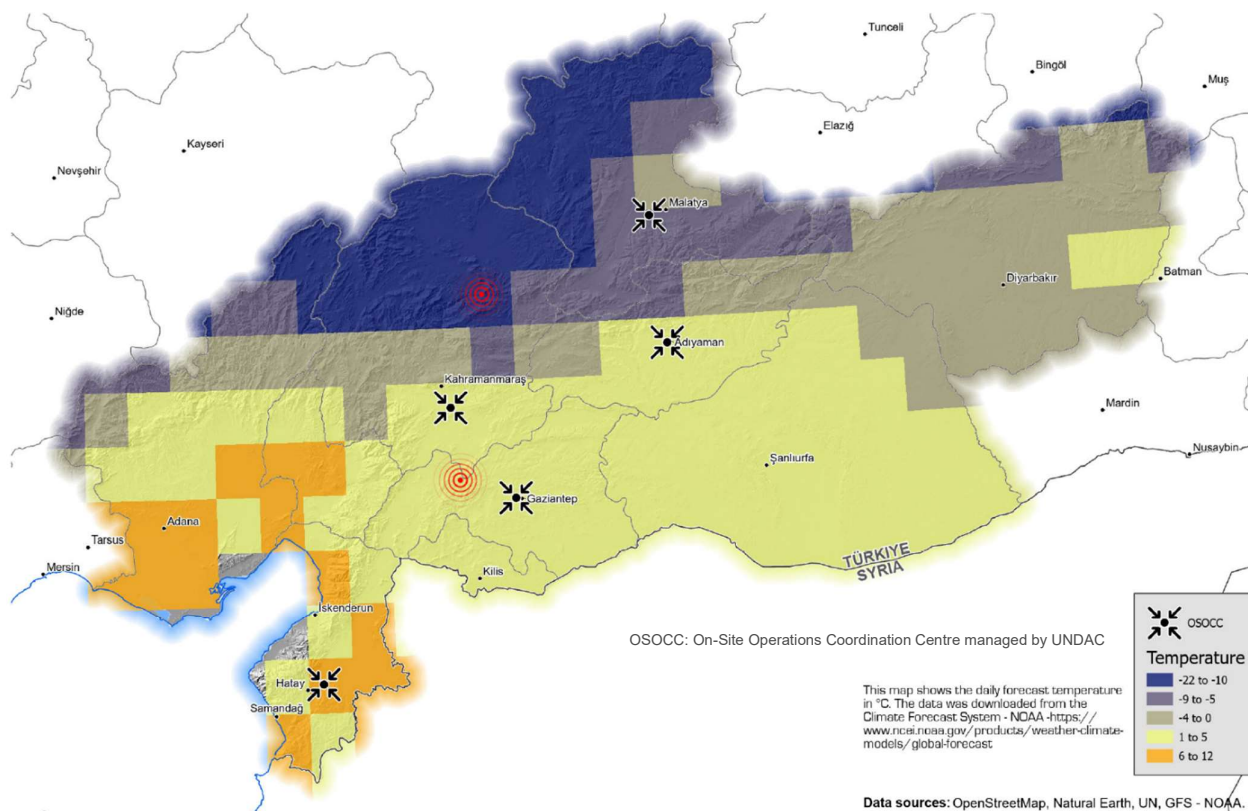
Türkiye: Earthquake

Average Daily Forecast Temperature - Feb 12 to Feb 16 2023

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216K

people relocated from affected areas

36K

people killed

55

international USAR teams operating on the ground

244

Live rescues completed by international teams

- Cold weather poses a serious risk for people displaced by the earthquake, many of whom are living outdoors or in temporary shelters. Actual and forecast temperatures in affected areas range from 12 degrees Celsius to well below freezing.
- The Government of Türkiye and the international humanitarian community are scaling up assistance for people in need, including with winterisation.
- 23 Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) are in Türkiye to support hospitals and medical facilities deal with the high number of trauma patients and catastrophic injuries.
- Access is improving as many road constraints are resolved and Hatay, Şanlıurfa and Gaziantep airports are once again operational.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

At 4:17 a.m. on 6 February 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck close to Gaziantep city in southern Türkiye – the most powerful earthquake recorded in the country since 1939. A second earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 occurred some nine hours later, with its epicentre only around 70 kilometres from the first earthquake, near Ekinözü city in Kahramanmaraş province. On the same day, the Government of Türkiye issued a Level 4 alarm calling for international assistance, with the earthquakes having caused widespread destruction of houses and infrastructure in urban centres and rural areas across Türkiye and northwest Syria. Aftershocks continued to impact Türkiye and Syria throughout the past week, including 38 earthquakes registering magnitudes of 4.5 or more.

In Türkiye, over 36,100 people were killed and tens of thousands more were injured due to the earthquakes, while 216,347 people from affected areas have been relocated to other provinces, according to Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) on 16 February. With search and rescue efforts still ongoing and many people still buried beneath the rubble, the number of casualties resulting from this disaster is likely to continue increasing. On 7 February, the Government of Türkiye announced a 3-month state of emergency in 10 affected provinces: Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Sanliurfa. Some 15 million people live in these 10 provinces, including over 1.7 million Syrian refugees and around 4.6 million children. At least 9.1 million people have been directly impacted in the 11 most affected provinces, which include the 10 provinces in which a state of emergency has been declared (Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Kilis, Hatay, Malatya, Diyarbakır, Adana, Osmaniye, Kahramanmaraş and Şanlıurfa) and Elazığ.

People displaced from their homes or trapped under rubble face freezing weather conditions, with temperatures dropping well below zero degrees Celsius in many of the affected areas. Many people are sleeping in their vehicles, attempting to stay warm while avoiding being in or near buildings for fear of further collapses, while others are gathered in parks or other open spaces, burning available materials to stay warm. Many buildings and structures still standing show cracks or other signs of damage, and even those apparently unmarked remain uninhabitable or otherwise unusable pending formal structural assessments. The absence of gas for heating also means that in many places, the indoors are little warmer than the outdoors.

Reflecting the destruction of buildings, the departure of people from their homes, and the disruption of basic utilities, a preliminary light-loss assessment issued by the UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) and Wuhan University on 14 February shows that many urban areas in affected areas became darker after the earthquake, with power outage areas mainly distributed along the plate junction of Kahramanmaraş and Hatay, and significant light loss particularly observed in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Adiyaman. In many sectors of Hatay City, night-time light declined by more than 90 per cent; in Adiyaman, eastern sectors of the city lost more light than western sectors; and downtown Hatay city (areas with higher light density) lost significant light post-earthquake.

Access to and within earthquake-affected areas has improved over the past week. The road constraints impeding access between the main populated areas in the affected areas have been resolved, and roads connecting Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay, Adiyaman and Malatya are passable again. In some parts of Malatya, some roads remain accessible only with 4x4 vehicles. While Adana remains the main entry point for international humanitarian cargo coming by air, Gaziantep is also open to passenger flights and Hatay and Sanliurfa airports resumed operations on 13 February.

The United Nations today launched an appeal for US\$1 billion so humanitarian agencies can help 5.2 million people affected by the cataclysmic earthquakes. The resources will allow humanitarian organizations to swiftly ramp up their operations to support Government-led response efforts in the areas of food security, protection, education, water, and shelter, among others.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The response to the earthquakes is being led by the Government of Türkiye, coordinated through its Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC). The most urgent priority since the earthquake has been swift and effective urban search and rescue (USAR) operations and the provision of lifesaving assistance to people who have been affected.

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

USAR activities are continuing in their 10th day, with 244 live rescues completed by international teams as of 14 February according to the USAR Coordination Cell (UCC). To support effective and cohesive USAR efforts, Sector Coordination Cells (SCC) were established in affected population areas, to serve as a coordination link between the UCC and the teams in that geographic sector. Six remain in operation: one each in Adiyaman, Kahramanmaras, Malatya and Gaziantep, and two in Hatay. Given the scale of the disaster, UNDAC established and is operating an On-Site Operation Coordination Centre (OSOCC) in Gaziantep, with Sub-OSOCCs in Hatay, Kahramanmaras, Adiyaman and Malatya.

Reception and Departure Centres (RDC) – set up upon the arrival of the first international USAR teams – remain operational in Adana and Gaziantep airports to facilitate the smooth arrival and departure of international teams and to help ensure their deployment to where they are most useful. The UCC reports 55 international USAR teams still operating on the ground in Türkiye as of 14 February, comprising light teams, with operational capacity to operate search and rescue (SAR) structural collapse incidents; medium teams, with capacity for difficult and complex technical SAR operations in structural collapse incidents and the ability to search for entrapped persons; and heavy teams, with the capability to operate complex SAR at two different locations simultaneously. Given the difficult conditions and the lack of resources and services available in the affected areas, all incoming USAR teams are required to be suitably equipped and self-sufficient. Demobilisation has begun for some USAR teams, especially light teams, which are most effective in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)

Twenty-three emergency medical teams (EMTs) have arrived in Türkiye to date, representing the largest deployment of EMTs in the WHO European Region in its 75-year history. As of 14 February, 14 EMTs are operational following approval by the Ministry of Health, with a further nine EMTs also accepted by the Ministry of Health in the process of mobilising. Hailing from 19 countries, these specialised teams will integrate into Türkiye's ongoing health response, providing critical emergency care. Their immediate priority will be to support the many hospitals and medical facilities that have been damaged, working particularly to deal with the high number of trauma patients and catastrophic injuries.

Humanitarian Aid

With 961 staff and 4,565 volunteers on the ground, TRC is operating 86 mobile catering units, 320 mobile kitchens, 22 field kitchens, 33 mobile ovens and 791 vehicles as part of their rescue efforts. As of 15 February, TRC has provided affected people with 45,000 tents and more than 55,000 blankets in coordination with AFAD, as well as distributed nearly 15.5 million bottles of water, 2 million other beverages, 22 million loaves of bread and 4.5 million portions of soup, as well as over 20.3 million hot meals and 10.2 million ready-to-eat (RTE) packages.

TRC is also responding with its mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) teams, with two MHPSS tents and two mobile child-friendly spaces (CFS) currently operational and more underway. Blood donation drives are also ongoing, with TRC increasing the number of blood donation points to 300 in order to meet the heightened need. Mobile pharmacies have begun operating and critical vaccine supplies – including against tetanus and rabies – have been sent to the earthquake zone, according to the Türkiye Ministry of Health.

National authorities have evacuated many severely injured patients to hospitals outside the disaster zone, including at least 3,135 patients by air and 328 by sea. Severely injured patients in need of post-acute care are also being transported to urban centres away from the disaster zone, particularly Istanbul, Ankara and Mersin.

The international humanitarian community is supporting the Government of Türkiye to aid the affected population. On 7 February, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) announced US\$25 million to support people in Türkiye and Syria who have been affected by the earthquake. International NGOs and UN agencies in Türkiye are collaborating with Government entities including AFAD to deliver essential supplies to people in temporary shelters such as schools and mosques, including water, food, winter clothing, heaters, mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits and first aid kits. Tips on disability-inclusive emergency response were also rapidly issued by the Disability Inclusion Task Team, and a dedicated page has been set up on the UNHCR Türkiye Help website for earthquake resources, including location-specific information and key hotline numbers: <https://help.unhcr.org/turkiye>.

Since the earthquake, WFP has shipped food commodities to provide nearly 3.3 million cooked meals to some 98,500 people in Mersin, Kilis, Hatay, Kahramanmaras and Gaziantep, and is supporting TRC in their distribution of cooked food. WHO released more than US\$16 million from the Contingency Fund for Emergencies for the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria, with at least 37 metric tons of lifesaving trauma and emergency surgery supplies, including treatments, flown to Türkiye to treat and care for affected people as well as to enable urgent surgical interventions. The trauma and emergency surgery supplies are designed to treat injuries sustained during the earthquake as well as to treat illnesses such as pneumonia that are expected to increase as people are exposed to cold temperatures, with many sheltering outdoors, in vehicles or in temporary shelters.

In coordination with the Presidency for Migration Management (PMM), UNHCR is providing core relief items including blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, heaters, food packs and warm clothing for PMM-managed centres, including some 12 temporary accommodation centres. To date, UNHCR has dispatched 9,000 kitchen sets, 3,000 hygiene kits, 3,000 sanitisers, over 2,100 foam mattresses and 3,300 blankets to temporary accommodation centres in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Osmaniye, Malatya, Kilis and Hatay, as well as 4,000 high-thermal blankets, 9,600 tents and 660 tent accessories, and thousands of non-food items. UNHCR is dispatching further tents and winter kits from its global stocks in Europe and the Middle East regions to provide urgently needed shelter assistance, in coordination with AFAD which is arranging airlifts through Turkish Airlines and road transport to Türkiye.

UNICEF's immediate priority is to ensure that affected children and families receive the support they need, focusing on child protection, providing immediate psychosocial support in child-friendly spaces, assessing main water stations and services, and health and nutrition needs. UNICEF is distributing winter clothes for children, blankets, and family and travel hygiene kits, and is together with the Ministry of Youth and Sports also mobilising 5,000 youth volunteers to work alongside local response teams in addition to the over 3,000 youth volunteers already supporting the response. UNICEF has reached 147,000 people (including more than 90,000 children) with supplies such as hygiene kits, winter clothes, electrical heaters, and jerrycans.

For more information, please visit www.reliefweb.int/disaster/eq-2023-000015-tur