



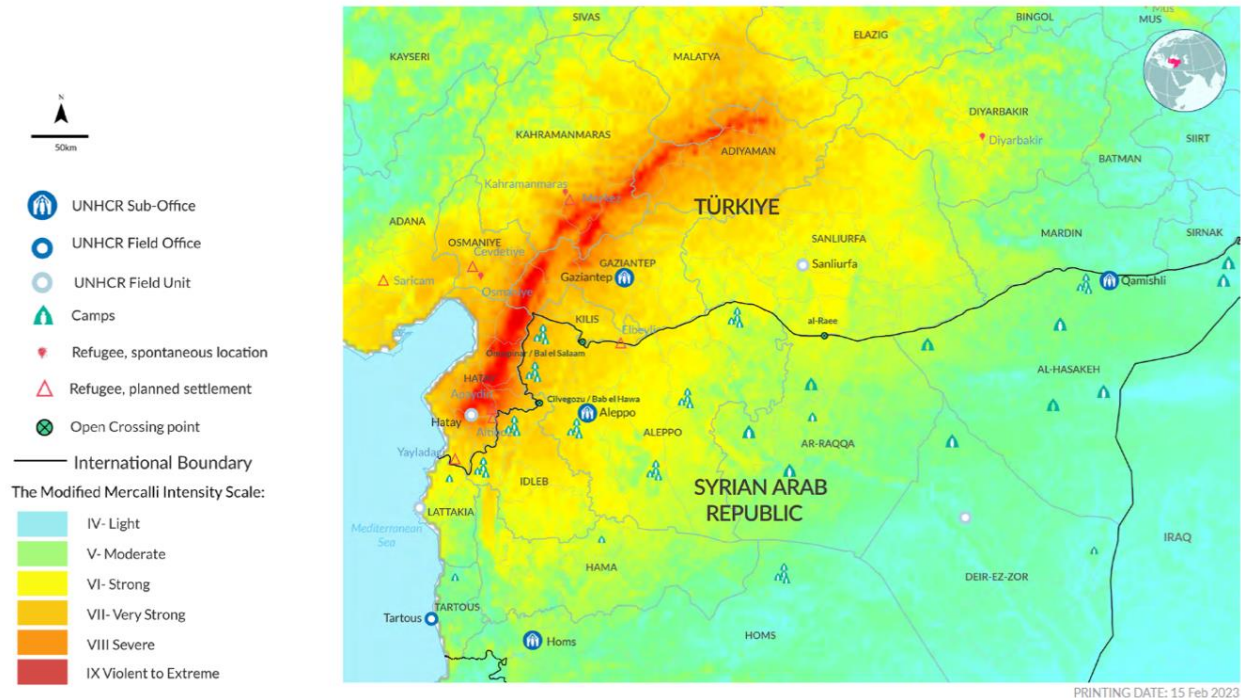
## Syria and Türkiye Earthquake Emergency: One-Month Impact Report

*UNHCR staff speak with Osana, 76, who fled her home in Aleppo city with her daughter and granddaughter when the earthquake struck. She has been staying in a mosque which is functioning as a collective shelter, where UNHCR staff are on hand providing emergency support. © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf*

### Operational context

Early on 6 February, two powerful earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.5 magnitude struck Kahramanmaraş province in southeastern Türkiye. The earthquakes struck early in the morning, in the peak of winter, while most people were in their beds sleeping, leaving many people trapped inside buildings as they collapsed. Heroic search and rescue efforts were launched immediately, but the devastation has been vast.

- Within 24 hours, more than 2,600 deaths were confirmed by the authorities of Türkiye and Syria, with many more people injured.
- Now as of 21 March, over 50,000 deaths have been reported across the two countries, with tens of thousands more injured.
- Essential community services, including schools and hospitals, have been severely impacted. Meanwhile homes have either been completely destroyed or damaged to a level that requires demolition.



## Türkiye

In Türkiye, the world's largest hosting refugee country, **9.1 million people over 11 hardest-hit provinces have been impacted by the earthquakes. Those residing in the worst affected areas include 1.7 million refugees, most of whom are Syrian.** Thousands of families have been forced to seek refuge in community buildings such as mosques, schools and facilities allocated as temporary shelters by the authorities. Immediate shelter assistance, winter items, and basic supplies are urgently needed so affected households can meet their basic needs, as well as protection services to support the most vulnerable people, particularly women, children, older people, people with disabilities, and other groups at risk.

## Syria

In Syria, the earthquakes have caused untold destruction in a country already devastated by 12 years of crisis. Following the earthquake, **an estimated 8.8 million individuals have been**



**impacted.** The magnitude of the earthquake has mainly affected the north, central, and the coastal parts of Syria, with severe human and material damages reported, mainly in Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia Governorates, and impacting almost every person living in northwest Syria. Prior to the earthquakes, in north-west Syria alone, **4.1 million people depend on lifesaving humanitarian assistance, which includes an estimated 2.9 million internally displaced people, some living in tents, flimsy shelters and under difficult conditions.** The majority are women and children.



*People walk by ruins in central Latakia, Syria. © UNHCR/Saad Sawas*

## UNHCR's response

From day one, UNHCR has supported national and local earthquake response efforts, by quickly mobilising life-saving assistance and protection services.

### Türkiye

The Turkish government is leading the response, and UNHCR teams were able to immediately mobilise in support of the authorities. UNHCR has prioritized the delivery of core relief items, winter clothing, tents, and shelter materials, and is working with partners and communities to identify and assess the overall needs of refugees and the host communities.



#### Core relief items and shelter:

- With the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), UNHCR is coordinating the provision of core relief items for PMM-managed centres, including temporary accommodation centres that are being used to shelter affected refugees and local residents.
- As of 13 March, **UNHCR has provided 19,500 high thermal blankets, 12,000 foam mattresses, 19,500 kitchen sets, 12,600 supplementary food packs, and 9,000 hygiene parcels, as well as heaters, winter clothes and boots, and other core relief items for distribution in these centres.**
- UNHCR has **provided the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) with over 45,000 sleeping bags, 30,800 family tents and close to 600 all-weather tents, 28,700 foldable beds, 78,000 high-thermal blankets, over 26,800 hygiene parcels, 10,000 sheets of plastic tarpaulin, and 3,100 foam mattresses.** UNHCR is also supporting the

Ministry of Family and Social Services with 3 Rubb Halls (temporary warehouses), over 100 tents, and 800 power-banks.

- At the local level, UNHCR has delivered 4,000 high thermal blankets and 5,000 hygiene kits to local authorities to support them in hosting people who have moved from earthquake-affected areas into their provinces.
- UNHCR is procuring and dispatching more core relief items and hygiene materials from its stocks in Europe, the Middle East and Asia to provide urgently needed shelter assistance. Items are dispatched through airlifts and road transport.



*UNHCR's thermal blankets and tents are loaded onto trucks in Türkiye. © UNHCR/Osman Orsal*



### Protection and Community Engagement:

- In affected provinces and those neighbouring them, UNHCR is working with local authorities to carry out assessments, identify needs, and monitor population movements, including refugee movements from the earthquake-affected provinces. UNHCR teams are in close communication with municipalities and city councils regarding support for the earthquake survivors including refugees, and following up on individual cases.
- The Protection coordination team led by UNHCR has developed guidance for earthquake response teams on referral for people affected by protection issues or in need of a specific service, such as child protection, and preventing and responding to violence against women, girls and other vulnerable groups.
- As the need for psychosocial support increases, **UNHCR has delivered 70 tents to serve as counselling centres across to nine provinces of south-east Türkiye.**
- **UNHCR is providing information through a dedicated counselling line, which has received over 44,400 earthquake-related calls as of 10 March.** UNHCR is also sharing information and messages related to the earthquake – such as hotlines, information from authorities on unaccompanied children, and health guidance from WHO - digitally through social media and its 'Help' webpage operating in multiple languages and viewed over 35,000 times in the past week.
- The need for Syrian and other refugees to be resettled outside of Türkiye has increased due to the earthquake. UNHCR is advocating with resettlement countries to expedite processing and departures of vulnerable refugees already identified and accepted for resettlement.

## Syria

Since the onset of the emergency, UNHCR and its partners have been providing assistance and protection services throughout affected areas, including areas not controlled by the Government. This has included protection advice and information, core relief items and shelter support to thousands of families staying at collective shelters and hosted by local communities, particularly the most vulnerable such as female-headed households, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

In Syria, UNHCR leads the Protection and Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI) sectors, as well as the Protection, Shelter/NFI and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters in northwest Syria, leading the coordination of the humanitarian community and the overall response in these areas.



### Core relief items and shelter:

- As of 9 March, UNHCR had **distributed core relief item (CRI) kits across the country reaching 187,000 people**, with thousands more being distributed every week. UNHCR has also **distributed some 110,000 items of winter clothing** such as jackets and rubber boots, as well as adult diapers for people living with disabilities.
- Thanks to stock already prepositioned in north-west and the expansion of its delivery assistance following the earthquake, UNHCR managed to quickly distribute CRI kits and tents to people in need within 48 hours.
- UNHCR has participated in **13 cross-border convoys from Türkiye into north-west Syria, delivering 86 trucks of assistance** comprising 9,300 CRI kits, 5,300 tents and 4 Rubb halls (temporary warehouses). 200 Refugee Housing Units have also been delivered, to be used as temporary accommodation and emergency housing.
- Through the UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Cluster, training sessions were provided on shelter structural damage assessments for engineers and technical staff in northwest Syria.



*UNHCR provides assistance for earthquake-affected families in Hama.*  
 © UNHCR/Saad Sawas





## Protection:

- As of 9 March, **over 280,000 people have been reached with protection interventions**, including psychological first aid, mental health support, counselling, and referrals to specialist services, at community centres, collective shelters and through mobile teams, across affected areas of Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama governorates as well as in northwest Syria.
- 18,000 affected individuals have been reached with awareness sessions on identified needs such as gender-based violence (GBV) support and legal assistance, as well as 13,440 children through community based child-based child protection activities, and 9,400 individuals with psychological first aid (PFA).
- **Protection partners have also distributed over 60,000 dignity kits** – a package comprising the basic necessities for affected women and girls to maintain feminine hygiene, dignity and respect in their daily lives, tailored to the local context.
- UNHCR is also helping to adapt other newly established collective shelters to mitigate protection risks, especially measures to ensure the safety of women and girls, adequate privacy, and accessibility for older and disabled people.
- UNHCR's existing network of 110 community centres are prioritizing raising awareness on safety, psychosocial support and referrals to available emergency services.



*Earthquake survivors speak to UNHCR staff in Aleppo. ©UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf*

## Thank you for your support

On behalf of all of us at UK for UNHCR, we want to thank you for your support and solidarity at this time of crisis. Thanks to timely support received from the Isle of Man, UNHCR and partners were able to rapidly scale up its response in Türkiye and Syria to deliver critical assistance and protection to earthquake survivors. Without urgent and flexible funding, this first phase of the

response - which has seen thousands of core relief items, health kits, essential shelter supplies and protection services provided - would have struggled to get off the ground.

However, earthquake affected communities remain extremely vulnerable. Ongoing support is critical to help families rebuild their lives, particularly as the response continues beyond the immediate emergency phase. **UNHCR is urgently appealing for \$201.3 million** to support its earthquake response across both countries for an initial period of three months. **As of 14 March, our appeal is only 16% funded.** Your partnership is vital, now more than ever, to meet the urgent needs of the many families and individuals affected by this latest emergency and by the challenges that lie ahead.

### What your support can do in Syria<sup>1</sup>

- ❖ **£5,000** could provide 20 families with a core relief item kit including high-thermal blankets, mattresses, kitchen set, plastic sheeting, jerry can, plastic bucket, solar lamp, and sleeping mats.
- ❖ **£10,000** could help us provide 562 people with a mattress
- ❖ **£20,000** could provide 45 families with a tent
- ❖ **£50,000** could help us provide 7,194 people with a high-thermal blanket

### What your support can do in Türkiye<sup>2</sup>

- ❖ **£5,000** could provide 247 families with an electrical heating appliance
- ❖ **£10,000** could provide 577 families with an electric stove for cooking
- ❖ **£20,000** could provide 1,037 people with a winter coat, gloves and winter boots
- ❖ **£50,000** could provide 2,815 families with a bed linen set (double)

**Thank you for standing with refugees**

**If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out**

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<sup>1</sup> Price Points do not include Indirect Support Costs

<sup>2</sup> Price Points do not include Indirect Support Costs