

2023 Türkiye & Syria EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE

project
HOPE

Situation Report #13

March 23, 2023

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 26 million people in Türkiye and Syria have been affected by two deadly earthquakes in February and the thousands of aftershocks that followed.ⁱ
- Floods have exacerbated the situation, compromising roads and highways, health care facilities, container cities, and more. At least 16 people have died due to flooding, and many more have been impacted as homes and camps have also been inundated.ⁱⁱ
- This week, Project HOPE provided shelter containers for health care workers supporting container cities.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Turkish cities of Adıyaman and Şanlıurfa — home to 2.7 million people — have yet to recover from last week's flash flooding.

The severe weather forced a Şanlıurfa hospital to evacuate its intensive care unit, an effort hampered by the collapse of part of a regional highway. In another case, flooding carried away a container housing three people displaced by recent earthquakes.ⁱⁱⁱ

Meanwhile, residents of formal and informal settlements in the cities found themselves having to evacuate yet another time. Flooding has also exacerbated the inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions of vulnerable populations, increasing the risk of disease transmission and poor health outcomes.^{iv}

The recent damage has further complicated humanitarian relief interventions for the more than 26 million people in Türkiye and Syria that were affected by two deadly earthquakes in February.^v

Across Türkiye, the earthquakes have forced over 2 million people into camps. While some live in formal settlements managed by the country's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, 1.6 million reside in informal accommodations lacking WASH facilities, security and safety infrastructure, and access to essential goods and services.^{vi}

Syrian refugees and ethnic minorities are more likely to live in informal settlements with even worse living conditions. As a result, Human Rights Watch has called on authorities to indefinitely allow refugees in earthquake-affected areas to move to



Project HOPE has provided shelter and shower/latrine containers to house health care workers in Adıyaman, Türkiye. Photo by Christine Lathrop for Project HOPE, March 22, 2023

other locations. Current regulations prohibit refugees from traveling outside of the province they are formally registered in without a permit. In the initial response to the earthquakes, Türkiye waived this restriction for 90 days. Since then, the time limit to this waiver has been reduced to 60 days, creating uncertainty for refugees as they attempt to recover from this crisis and plan for the future.^{vii}

Last week's severe weather conditions also hit parts of Syria, where close to 9 million people have been affected by the earthquakes. The humanitarian situation in Syria is particularly dire as 12 years of civil conflict have completely ravaged the country's infrastructure and relief agencies continue to face considerable access challenges. Almost all of the 4.5 million inhabitants of northwest Syria — the part of the country hit hardest by the earthquakes — require urgent humanitarian assistance.

In a recent report, the United Nations Population Fund noted that damaged Syrian health facilities pose particular risks for women of reproductive age and their children, including an increased risk of maternal morbidity and mortality due to a lack of access to essential obstetric and neonatal services. Additionally, the widespread disruption of comprehensive reproductive health services, including family planning, has caused psychological and mental health distress for earthquake survivors.^{viii}

PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team was activated within hours of the earthquake, providing key non-food items (NFIs) to impacted populations. SAMU First Response, a Project HOPE partner, dispatched a K-9 search and rescue team to the impacted area to search for survivors in the critical window after the earthquake.

Project HOPE continues to work hand-in-hand with Turkish government officials, humanitarian coordination agencies, and local nongovernmental organizations to respond to the health, WASH, and mental health needs of the impacted communities.

To date, Project HOPE has procured 75 housing and latrine/shower containers to support essential services for displaced populations. The first 20 units have arrived in Adiyaman and will be located adjacent to University Hospital to support health staff who will be providing care to approximately 10,000 people living in 2,150 containers in the shelter city that is currently being constructed.

An additional 20 container units will be delivered to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Family and Social Services in Kahramanmaraş to provide shelter to health workers and to facilitate the administration of essential services to displaced populations. Also, 15 container units will be delivered to a local partner in Hatay Province in order to provide shelter for health workers and essential services such as a public kitchen and laundry service.

Project HOPE delivered 150 mobility devices, including wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches, to the Gaziantep Ministry of Health to support earthquake survivors.

Seven infant incubators were also delivered to Gaziantep Cengiz Gokcek Obstetrics and Pediatrics Hospital, with an additional seven currently enroute.

Project HOPE has distributed 3,000 hygiene kits to the Ministry of Family and Social Services in Kahramanmaraş and, through a partner, is coordinating the distribution of an additional 15,000 hygiene kits to camps throughout the affected region, including the sites surveyed in Project HOPE's [Rapid Needs Assessment](#).^{ix}

Project HOPE has identified immense needs in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for survivors dealing with the long-term impacts of trauma. In collaboration with local partners, Project HOPE plans to implement MHPSS activities in the affected area, which will complement efforts by local authorities and organizations.

In Syria, Project HOPE is working with a local partner to provide primary health support to earthquake-impacted populations in the northern region of the country. Project HOPE is also delivering an Interagency Emergency Health Kit containing essential medicines, medical supplies, and equipment to a local partner in Syria to support primary health care services for up to 10,000 people over a three-month period. Project HOPE is currently procuring and allocating additional IEHKs and other much-needed resources to both current and new partners in Syria.

Project HOPE Impact at a Glance



2,500 POUNDS
of medication en route to
Syria



18,000
HYGIENE KITS
en route for distribution in
Türkiye



75 SHELTER AND
LATRINE/SHOWER
CONTAINERS
for health and protection
support



14
GENERATORS
procured for health care
support



150 ASSISTIVE
DEVICES
procured for IDPs



14,250 NFIs
distributed to earthquake-
impacted populations in
Türkiye

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- ⁱ <https://www.redcross.org.uk/stories/disasters-and-emergencies/world/turkey-syria-earthquake>
- ⁱⁱ <https://apnews.com/article/turkey-floods-deaths-earthquake-37b61bd15956a8e20ea3f5e240c85a84>
- ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/03/20/turkey-floods-earthquakes/>
- ^{iv} <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-10-17-march-2023-entr>
- ^v <https://www.redcross.org.uk/stories/disasters-and-emergencies/world/turkey-syria-earthquake#:~:text=The%20earthquakes%20are%20estimated%20to,belongings%2C%20livelihoods%20and%20love d%20ones.>
- ^{vi} <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-10-17-march-2023-entr>
- ^{vii} <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/03/22/turkey-suspend-time-limit-travel-outside-quake-zone>
- ^{viii} <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/unfpa-turkiyesyria-earthquake-joint-situation-report-1-march-20-2023>
- ^{ix} <https://www.projecthope.org/resource/turkiye-earthquake-response-rapid-needs-assessment/>