

# 2023 Türkiye & Syria EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE



## Situation Report #15

July 24, 2023

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In Türkiye, approximately 2.6 million people are living in tents and informal settlements with limited access to essential services.
- Project HOPE is supporting earthquake survivors on both sides of the border through ongoing shelter, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), mobile medical unit (MMU), and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs.
- Project HOPE is also coordinating with local health facilities to provide much-needed medical equipment, including mobility devices, oxygen cylinders, infant incubators, bedside monitors, and solar water chlorination systems.



*A health worker with Syrian Relief and Development conducting a mobile medical unit consultation in Daret Azza, Syria. Photo by SRD staff for Project HOPE, 2023.*

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Five months after February's earthquakes, residents in southern Türkiye and northern Syria continue the difficult task of recovering from the devastation and repairing their communities. While the Turkish government continues plans to construct new housing in the affected provinces, 2.6 million people are still living in tents and informal settlements. Our team has identified significant needs for health services, MHPSS, non-food items, protection services, shelter, and WASH.

Hundreds of thousands of workers in Türkiye and Syria lost their livelihoods in the aftermath, creating significant financial constraints and putting communities and individuals at an increased risk of harm, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, and adverse health outcomes. In Syria, the loss of 170,000 jobs has affected an estimated 725,000 men, women, and children. In Türkiye, estimates suggest that workers will lose a combined \$150 million USD monthly until the economy recovers.

Roughly 55,000 people in Türkiye and 6,000 people in Syria died in the earthquakes. In February, the World Health Organization estimated that 26 million were directly impacted by the devastation and were in need of urgent assistance.



*A nurse at Cengiz Gökçek Gynecology and Pediatrics Hospital in Gaziantep, Türkiye using an infant incubator donated by Project HOPE. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.*

Now, with the immediate threat gone, those same people need support rebuilding their communities and livelihoods. An additional concern in this phase of recovery are the health risks associated with long-term exposure to the toxic particles released from fallen buildings, such as asbestos, silica, mercury, and lead.

## PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Within hours of the first earthquake in February, Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team was activated to provide key non-food items to the impacted population. Now, with a localized base in Gaziantep, Project HOPE is committed to a long-term response supporting those impacted by the earthquakes.

Additionally, as part of our commitment to locally led development, we have established partnerships with several local humanitarian organizations in Türkiye and northwest Syria.

To date, Project HOPE has provided **70 housing containers** to address basic shelter needs for health care workers and first responders. These 70 units were split between Adiyaman, Kahramanmaraş, and Hatay provinces. The containers support displaced health staff from local hospitals and provide essential services such as a public kitchen and laundry. In the early stages of the emergency, Project HOPE also provided **7 generators** to Gaziantep Health Directorate, **750 sleeping bags** to the Health Directorate in Adiyaman for health workers supporting the emergency health response while in cold and exposed conditions, as well as **1,000 regular blankets and 1,500 thermal blankets** to the Directorate Family and Social Services in Kahramanmaraş for psychosocial workers.

Recognizing the need to support earthquake survivors with disabilities and mobility impairments, Project HOPE also delivered **250 mobility devices**, including wheelchairs (50), walkers (50), and crutches (50) to the Gaziantep Directorate of Health, as well as an additional 100 wheelchairs to the Kahramanmaraş Directorate. In addition, **34 infant incubators** were delivered to health facilities in earthquake-affected areas, including 24 to hospitals in Gaziantep, five to hospitals in Adiyaman, and five to hospitals in Kahramanmaraş.

To address specifically requested needs, Project HOPE facilitated the donation of **30 oxygen cylinders and 10 bedside monitors** to the Health Directorate in Adiyaman in July. This equipment will help Adiyaman's main hospital provide quality care despite the recent oxygen shortage and the loss of equipment during the earthquake. In addition, Project HOPE delivered medical items and supplies to two primary healthcare



*Project HOPE's Country director, Adam Jacouvu, distributing aid to shelter containers housing health workers in Adiyaman, Türkiye.  
Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.*



*Project HOPE delivering mobility devices to Sehitkamil Public Hospital in Gaziantep, Türkiye.  
Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.*

centers in Nurdagi and Islahiye in Gaziantep province, and \$56,000 of medicines were donated to Gaziantep’s main hospital.

Project HOPE provided **20 solar water chlorination systems** to the Health Directorate in Adiyaman to ensure the provision of clean water in health facilities and informal settlements in rural areas without reliable access to clean water, reaching a catchment population of **16,850 individuals across 20 villages**. Essential pharmaceuticals were delivered to the Health Directorate in Gaziantep for distribution to a central hospital and multiple primary health care centers in the province.

Project HOPE also distributed **disaster hygiene kits** to promote personal and family sanitation and hygiene. Since the earthquake, **over 15,000 family and baby hygiene kits** have been provided – with most donations going to communities in underserved rural areas in Kahramanmaraş and Hatay.

Between March and June, Project HOPE supported two **mobile medical units (MMUs)** in Azaz and Daret Azza districts in northwest Syria in partnership with Syrian Relief and Development (SRD). Each MMU provided basic primary health care consultations to both internally displaced people and host community members. Services included reproductive and pediatric health care services, general medical consultations, and non-specialized mental health care integration. Between March and June 30, the MMUs provided a grand total of **8,412 health consultations**, with 3,384 women, 2,014 girls, 750 men, and 2,264 boys receiving care.

Project HOPE also delivered an **Interagency Emergency Health Kit** containing enough essential medicines, medical supplies, and equipment to support primary health care services for up to **10,000 people** over a three-month period to SRD.

Project HOPE has also identified immense MHPSS needs for survivors dealing with the long-term impacts of trauma. MHPSS programs are being implemented on both sides of the border by partners. Project HOPE is supporting the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) and Genç Hayat Foundation, also called the Young Life Foundation (YLF), in **Türkiye**, as well as Sened Organization (Sened Derneği) in Northwest **Syria** in their efforts to provide **MHPSS and protection services** to those affected by the earthquakes as they rebuild their lives.

**YLF** is leading **psychosocial support (PSS) and protection activities**, targeting individuals who have lost their homes, suffered injuries, and are experiencing emotional distress due to the earthquakes in Adiyaman. Their focus is primarily on children and teenagers aged 11 to 18. YLF has established a secure tent area in a central location to carry out these activities efficiently, including PSS and MHPSS services. Referral services are available to connect individuals to specialized care when necessary. Additionally, YLF provides educational stationery kits and nutritional support to support holistic well-being.

**SAMS** aims to enhance the health and well-being of earthquake-affected individuals through MHPSS services in Nizip District in Gaziantep. A **mobile clinic team** provides both in-person and online MHPSS



*Project HOPE staff member, Nezhahat Yildirim, talking with Baniye Hanım, an earthquake survivor whose village received a solar water chlorination device. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.*

services. A psychiatrist provides online individual **mental health consultations** for people with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or severe mental health disorders. Psychologists conduct need assessments and provide individual PSS treatment sessions for patients with moderate psychological disorders. PSS workers facilitate group sessions, primarily for women and children. The sessions include psychoeducation and awareness-raising components, to increase well-being among participants. SAMS also distributes PSS kits containing resources to promote well-being and coping skills.

**Sened Organization** supports people affected by the earthquake and those who cannot access basic needs in A'zaz and Afrin in Northwest Syria. Sened's MHPSS Coordinator supervises the work of PSS officers remotely and reviews their technical assessments regularly. Sened staff provide comprehensive **case management** services, oversee the assessment and referral processes, evaluate children's needs, create individual plans, monitor rehabilitation progress, and work on family guidance plans. Sened also provides children with a **child-friendly space** where they can engage in activities, play, and receive emotional support.