

UNHCR TÜRKİYE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE

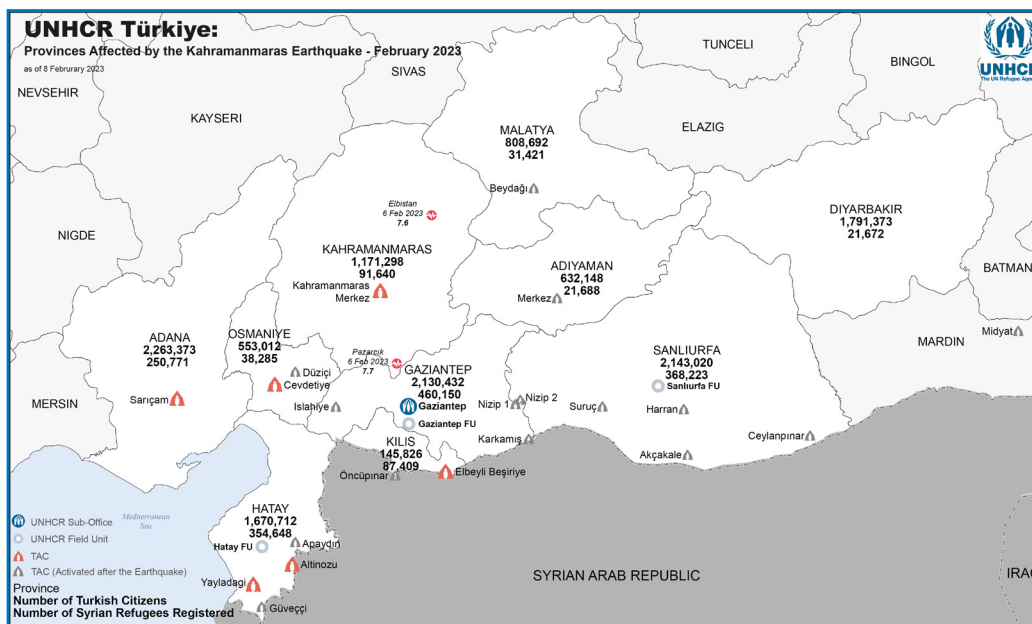
9 February 2023

BACKGROUND

- An earthquake of magnitude 7.7 was recorded in Türkiye at Pazarcık district of Kahramanmaraş province on Monday, 6 February at 04:17 local time (02:17 CET) impacting 10 provinces in the south-east region of Türkiye; namely, Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Gaziantep, Osmaniye, Malatya, Adiyaman, Adana, Diyarbakir, Kilis, Sanliurfa, as well as in north Syria.
- A second earthquake of magnitude 7.5 was reported at 13:24 local time in Kahat Gözpinar/Ekinözü district of Kahramanmaraş. The tremors were felt across Türkiye and neighbouring countries. Over 1,000 aftershocks ranging from 5.0 to 6.6 magnitude were registered in provinces adjacent to Kahramanmaraş.
- According to latest [official reports](#) by AFAD as of 20:50 on Thursday, 9 February, 17,134 people have lost their lives and 70,347 people have been injured. It is estimated that over [6,400 buildings](#) collapsed during the earthquake.
- The Turkish authorities have activated the Türkiye Disaster Response Plan (TAMP) at central and provincial level, while search and rescue teams have been deployed to the region. A Level-4 emergency has been declared in the country, which entails a call for international assistance, initially focused on search and rescue support.
- The Turkish President announced a 3-month state of emergency on 7 February for the 10 provinces affected by the earthquake.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS

- Türkiye has announced a seven-day national mourning. This is the strongest earthquake to hit Türkiye since 1939.
- The Turkish government is leading the response through coordination of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). The Turkish Red Crescent and several humanitarian organisations are working alongside AFAD.
- [From Türkiye](#), over 29,600 search and rescue teams with vehicles and construction equipment have been deployed to the south-east region. Close to 6,500 staff from other countries have also been deployed to assist with the search and rescue operation.
- Türkiye has also assigned additional governors and district governors to support the ongoing relief efforts, while sports facilities, youth centres and camps and dormitories have been made available to accommodate people.



OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION

- The earthquake has caused acute structural damage across the 10 provinces reported. Search and rescue operations continue round the clock.
- In Türkiye, most refugees live in urban areas among the host community. The earthquake has impacted local residents and refugees alike, and the response to the emergency by the Government of Türkiye is an integrated humanitarian response where efforts are to save lives and provide relief and shelter.
- Buildings in the three provinces of southeast Türkiye where UNHCR has field offices (Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Hatay) have been severely impacted by the earthquake.
- UNHCR has 85 staff operating in the affected region, with staff and families currently using safe spaces in Gaziantep for temporary accommodation.

UNHCR CAPACITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- UNHCR is liaising with the authorities, including the Presidency for Migration Management (PMM) and AFAD, and working with partners and communities to assess the overall needs to be addressed.
- Through its communication with communities (CwC) channels, UNHCR is disseminating information and messages to communities in multiple languages, including Arabic, English, Farsi, and Turkish.
- UNHCR is coordinating with PMM the provision of several thousand requested core relief items for PMM-managed centres, including temporary accommodation centres (TACs), which host around 1.5% of the country's Syrian refugees (47,000), and may, if needed, also be used to accommodate local residents. Core relief items are being dispatched and include, but are not limited to, blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, food packs and warm clothing.
- UNHCR is delivering tents to AFAD to accommodate persons displaced by the earthquake in several provinces.
- UNHCR is mobilizing tens of thousands of additional core relief items from its existing stockpiles in the country and the region and developing a larger response plan to address the different needs on the ground.

APPEALS AND FUNDING

- The United Nations, through the UN Country Team and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) mechanism, is supporting the efforts of the Government of Türkiye.
- OCHA confirmed a \$25 million grant released by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) on 7 February to help kick-start the earthquake response.
- The International Federation for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) issued two Emergency Appeals on 7 February for Türkiye and Syria to support earthquake response operations. The Türkiye appeal covers support to Turkish Red Crescent operations to reach 300,000 people in the 10 provinces affected by the earthquake. The CHF 120 million appeal covers integrated assistance (shelter, livelihoods, multi-purpose cash), healthcare, WASH, protection and prevention.