

2023 Türkiye & Syria EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE



Situation Report #6

February 13, 2023

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Two strong earthquakes struck Southeast Türkiye and Northwest Syria on Feb. 6, killing over 37,000 people.
- Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is on the ground to support survivors through the delivery of key medical equipment and supplies, including 100 incubators and several generators for health facilities
- Additional Project HOPE Emergency Response Team members are deploying to Türkiye to respond to the needs of the impacted region.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On February 6, 2023, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake occurred near Gaziantep, Türkiye. Several hours after the initial quake, a 7.5-magnitude aftershock struck, one of hundreds that has complicated search efforts and sent additional buildings crashing to the ground.ⁱ

The death toll across the country has reached 37,000 and UN officials expect this number to double as search and rescue efforts dwindle and bodies are recovered from the rubble.

In Türkiye, access to the impacted areas has been affected by damaged transit systems and clogged roads as survivors flee and first responders, construction vehicles, and humanitarian aid tries to reach the epicenter of Kahramanmaraş and surrounding communities.

Project HOPE's assessments reveal significant needs in health care center support, including temporary housing for health care workers, medicines, medical supplies, and water and sanitation interventions. Officials estimate that over 1 million people are now displaced, many living in shelters, in vehicles, and on the streets.ⁱⁱ

Over 4 million Syrians have sought safety in Türkiye during the 12-year conflict between government forces and opposition military forces. Many of them had relocated to southern Türkiye and are now facing a backlash of discrimination as some Turkish residents insist that humanitarian aid first serve the Turkish population before serving the refugee population.ⁱⁱⁱ Officials insist that aid will be distributed equally amongst the impacted communities.

In Syria, humanitarian care and supplies has only trickled in, complicated by the difficult security situation. Fifty-eight UN trucks have been able to bring food and non-food items to northern Syria in the one week since the disaster, serving only a fraction of the over 10 million Syrians impacted by the quake.^{iv} North Syria is held by the government, while northwest Syria is under opposition control. The UN will be assisting in the movement of aid into opposition-held areas.



Project HOPE's partner, SAMU, searches for survivors with their search and rescue dog on February 10. Photo by James Buck for Project HOPE, 2023.

PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE activated Emergency Response Team members already in Türkiye in the immediate aftermath of the initial earthquake. In the first 24 hours, Project HOPE responders began assisting survivors out of the rubble and directing people to medical services. The team is identifying access points in the major cities to the impacted areas to re-establish supply chain routes.

Project HOPE's partner SAMU, a Spanish-based humanitarian response organization, immediately deployed a search-and-rescue team, including a dog trained to find people under the rubble. In the days following the quakes, they were able to recover over 20 bodies.

Project HOPE's team is communicating with local partners operating in Syria to respond to the immediate health needs, including supporting program activities as well as the potential delivery of medicines and medical supplies to the impacted communities.

The Emergency Response Team has mobilized 100 infant incubators for import and distribution to the Turkish Ministry of Health. Project HOPE is actively procuring and distributing thousands of blankets, standard blankets, and sleeping bags, as well as 3,000 family and infant hygiene kits to the impacted areas.

Project HOPE is also working to identify additional local Turkish vendors for the procurement of medicines, medical supplies, hygiene kits, and generators for distribution to the Ministry of Health and impacted health facilities.

Project HOPE continues to work with our partners to respond to immediate needs, including the deployment of a Type 1 Mobile Medical Team on standby pending government approval. The Emergency Response Team is also mobilizing additional surge support, including a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support expert and a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene expert.

Project HOPE first started providing medical support in Türkiye in 1987 and has responded to previous crises including the 1999 earthquake and Syrian refugee response in 2013-2015. Project HOPE is mobilizing funds to support our immediate response and the most urgent recovery needs. More information and response needs will be updated as the situation evolves.



Project HOPE partner SAMU conducted 25 search and rescue interventions in the days following the earthquake, including in Antakya, seen here. Photo by James Buck for Project HOPE, 2023.

ⁱ <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/earthquake-turkiye-and-north-west-syria-flash-update-no-2-7-february-2023>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/middleeast/100000008768658/earthquake-turkey-syria.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/12/world/middleeast/syria-turkey-earthquake-refugees.html>

^{iv} https://www.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/turkey-syria-earthquake-updates-2-13-23-intl/h_96320c686b707dc5b3928088d2fc2224

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