

# 2023 Türkiye and Syria EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE

## Proposal for Support

February 2023

### Situation Report

The February 6, 2023, earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria have caused catastrophic damage. More than 37,000 people have been killed across both countries—numbers that may double as the chaos of the initial emergency subsides. The profound amount of damage to health facilities has severely impacted the provision of emergency medical attention. Hundreds of aftershocks, freezing temperatures, and difficulty in aid reaching the region has compounded the emergency and created increasingly hazardous environments for survivors and first responders.

It is estimated that the earthquakes displaced around 1 million people, many of whom are living in shelters, informal camps, vehicles, and on the streets.

The damage and destruction in the region are unprecedented. Syria, which has suffered from over a decade of war and instability, is now face-to-face with one of the most complex humanitarian challenges in recent years. Communities impacted by years of airstrikes and bombardments were unable to withstand the earthquakes, as evidenced by the leveling of entire buildings. Very little aid has trickled across the border for the more than 10 million Syrians impacted by the quakes.

Safe housing, medical care, clean water, electricity, and communication remain limited in the impacted areas of both Türkiye and Syria.



## Project HOPE's Response

Project HOPE deployed staff to Gaziantep, Türkiye within hours of the initial 7.8-magnitude earthquake. In the first 24 hours, Project HOPE responders assisted survivors out of the rubble, directed people to medical services, and identified access points to major cities including Gaziantep and Antakya, which will be vital to re-establish supply chains for humanitarian support.

Project HOPE's global partner SAMU, a humanitarian response organization, deployed a K-9 search and rescue team to the earthquake zone in Türkiye to locate victims and survivors in the crucial 72-hour window following the quakes. The team conducted 25 search and rescue interventions over three days in the most devastated cities, including Antakya.

Project HOPE's team on the ground continues to identify additional local partners and health care centers to support the immediate needs of the population.

As part of our immediate response, Project HOPE has initiated the shipment of 100 infant incubators to the Turkish Ministry of Health. Additionally, our Emergency Response Team is actively procuring and distributing thousands of blankets (both thermal and standard), sleeping bags, and 3,000 family and infant hygiene kits to impacted areas. Further procurements for generators and locally produced medicines and medical supplies are underway to support the Turkish Ministry of Health.

Additional medicines and supplies, including three Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs), medical supplies, and pharmaceuticals, are under consideration for onward movement to Syria through local partners. The IEHKs contain three tons of essential medicines and medical devices that will support the immediate primary health needs of 30,000 people for up to three months.

Project HOPE has a Type 1 Emergency Medical Team ready to deploy and is positioning additional medical, mental health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) staff for support in the region. This mobile team will provide primary care services, stabilize patients with acute trauma injuries, and refer patients for specialized care.

Project HOPE has additional emergency response teams deploying to support the affected population, and our Emergency Response Unit is preparing additional teams to rotate into the response region as the need for a long-term response is expected.



*Project HOPE activated its Emergency Response Team to affected areas in Türkiye immediately following the earthquake. Photo by James Buck for Project HOPE.*

## Request for Support

Project HOPE's extensive disaster response experience, coupled with rapid assessments and relationships with local officials and NGOs, has informed the earthquake response plan. Our teams will work through local partners and direct implementation in both Türkiye and Syria.

Project HOPE anticipates the immediate emergency response to include the following:

- Health, mental health, and shelter needs for health personnel;
- Increasing access to emergency and primary health care via existing health facilities, local partners, and Project HOPE's Emergency Medical Teams;
- Establishing temporary structures and supplies for primary health clinics;
- Procuring and shipping pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, medical devices, equipment, and other essential health-related items;
- Supporting the cold-chain system for sensitive pharmaceuticals, including insulin;
- Providing clean water, hygiene kits, infant kits, and dignity kits to limit the spread of water-borne disease;
- Procuring generators to support local health care facilities;
- Providing additional non-food items, including blankets, tents, sleeping bags, cots, and jerry cans.



*Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team assesses the damage from the February 6, 2023 earthquake in Antakya, Türkiye. In addition to supporting local partners, Project HOPE's initial response to the disaster includes four tons of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to support affected populations.*

Project HOPE is also planning an intermediate and long-term response plan, including the following:

- Rehabilitating water supply systems at the primary, secondary, and tertiary health facility level;
- Mental health support for first responders, health staff, and civilians;
- Health interventions through community health agents focused on WASH, health, and mental health.

Project HOPE has estimated a total budget of \$4,000,000 to respond to the immediate needs of this emergency.

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