As humanitarian organizations approach the mid-way point of the flash appeal, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to focus on delivering essential support to those who need it most in Türkiye and Northwest Syria. As part of the humanitarian community’s response in both countries, IOM appealed for USD 161 million in February. More than half of that funding is still urgently required and vital sectors remain largely underfunded, such as the health, temporary settlement support and early recovery sectors. IOM welcomes the commitments made at the Donor Conference held in Brussels on 20 March and calls for the pledges, which total EUR 7 billion, to be urgently actioned.

In Türkiye, a UN prioritization exercise has ranked seven districts in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya provinces as the most severely affected by the earthquake and with the highest levels of needs (severity 5), while 33 other districts have been ranked as severity 4. Since February, IOM has been scaling up its emergency assistance in these areas. As part of its rapid response, IOM engaged a surge team of experienced humanitarian workers from around the world to support its operations in Türkiye and Northwest Syria. Already having one of the largest operational presences in the affected region, recruitment efforts are ongoing to further capacitate the team in the longer term, particularly at a national level. Increased and sustained funding is essential to match the level of needs on the ground, particularly as affected communities start the long road to recovery.

UN reports show that around 17,500 persons displaced by the earthquakes in Northwest Syria, have been able to return home. However, at least 100,000 people affected by the earthquakes remain displaced, with a vast majority of them sheltering in the 78 reception centres and in urgent need of assistance, particularly shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, and health care. The opening of additional border crossing points has been vital to ensuring aid reaches people in need. Within days of the earthquakes, IOM was the first UN organization to restart Cross-Border assistance and since then more than 230 trucks carrying essential aid items have been dispatched. Continued facilitation of Cross-Border assistance, including through the newly opened border crossing points, is essential to helping those affected by the earthquakes in Northwest Syria.

1. In Türkiye and Syria since 06 February 2023

**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

**KEY MESSAGES**

1. In Northwest Syria, while some persons have returned home, at least 100,000 people remain internally displaced as a result of the earthquake and in need of assistance.
2. Despite millions people being displaced in Türkiye, the temporary settlement support (TSS) sector remains largely underfunded, both IOM operations and support to sector coordination as the co-lead.
3. IOM’s health response is also greatly underfunded in both countries even as lack of access to water and sanitation pose major public health risks for displaced persons with communities in Northwest Syria already grappling with a cholera outbreak.
4. IOM has been scaling up in Türkiye and Northwest Syria, particularly in the areas hardest hit and where needs are highest, but further funding is required to ensure the response matches needs. In total, IOM’s earthquake response still requires more than half of the total USD 161 million appeal.

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IOM provides essential aid items to earthquake affected families in Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye

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1. In Türkiye and Syria since 06 February 2023

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IOM provides essential aid items to earthquake affected families in Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye
The impacts of heavy rains and floods continue to negatively affect displaced and earthquake affected communities. The shelter and non-food item team have been working to ensure affected communities have the materials needed to protect their shelters against extreme weather conditions, including pallets and tar and they expanded their flood response beyond Adiyaman and Sanliurfa provinces to include Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaras and Malatya, which have also been experiencing heavy rains. As co-chairs the Disability Inclusion Task Team, IOM is working with the humanitarian community to advocate for an inclusive response which takes into account the specific needs of persons living with disabilities. Additionally, IOM is lead hub-level focal point for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in Adiyaman, Malatya, and Kahramanmaras, under the MHPSS sub-sector. IOM continues to develop its temporary settlement support (TSS) operations in support of the Government efforts, particularly to ensure coordination of support for displaced persons living in informal temporary settlements. Also, in support of the Government, IOM is co-leading the TSS sector coordination. With the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team, the TSS sector coordination team has completed a baseline assessment of temporary settlements, which identified 2.4 million people living in the formal and informal settlements. The data has also fed into the UN inter-sector prioritization exercise.

2. Estimated figure based on National Average Household Data and number of Shelter and NFIs dispatched
3. Tents: 9,231, Relief Housing Units: 350
4. To help mitigate water seepage from flooding inside shelters
IOM continues to receive essential aid items and dispatch them into Northwest Syria. The continued operation of border cross points has been vital to the Organization’s efforts to bring more than 230 trucks of aid cargo to earthquake-affected populations and became a major supplier of medical supplies for the region. In just the past week, IOM transhipped 21,044 kits, including kitchen sets, tents, beds, mats, blankets and other essential items, and completed the distribution of nearly 1 million health items, including medicines and equipment, to clinics and hospitals across Northwest Syria. With Cholera continuing to be a major concern due to a nationwide outbreak, IOM delivered 45 Cholera treatment kits in the past week and is supporting various hospitals with further medical items. IOM is procuring. To increase access to clean water and sanitation, IOM has been assessing needs among the displaced population in Northwest Syria and is in the process of supporting targeted settlements with WASH infrastructure repairs, desludging, solid waste management and hygiene kit distribution. During a recent visit to Idleb Governorate, the protection team conducted a focus group discussion in which the need for health care and rehabilitation of housing was raised. The main findings of the discussion were that the impact of the earthquake has amplified protection concerns, particularly in relation to gender-based violence, child protection, mental health issues and loss of civil status and housing, land and property documentation. Since the earthquakes, IOM partners have increased the number of protection-oriented sessions, including psychological first aid and sessions on protecting children during crises, as well as increasing referrals to services.
‘SOUP KITCHENS’ PROVIDE HOT FOOD TO EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

“The soup kitchen has been a great help since it was set up. The food is delicious and well-distributed, and it’s made a big difference for us,” said Ezgi, who has been living in a temporary settlement since the earthquake hit, leaving her without home.

IOM and the World Food Programme (WFP) has partnered with local authorities to open seven soup kitchens in temporary settlements in earthquake-affected areas such as Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Adiyaman. IOM provided the physical structure for each kitchen, which can provide up to 2,000 hot meals per day, increasing affected families’ access to food.

“They cater to my children’s needs. My son had Rotavirus, so whenever we needed additional food for him, they prepared it,” said Çagla, a mother of two, who has also found shelter for her family in a temporary settlement.

IOM is grateful to partners that have enabled our rapid response in affected areas and further extends its appreciation for the ongoing support towards our Türkiye and Northwest Syria appeals, including Ikea Foundation, Better Shelter, Flexport and UPS.