The fallout of the February earthquakes continues to impact communities across Türkiye and Northwest Syria. Due to the level of destruction and loss of life, Türkiye’s Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) declared six additional provinces as disaster areas in the past week, namely Bingöl, Kayseri, Mardin, Tunceli, Niğde and Batman. This brings the total of disaster areas to 17 provinces and the Gur district of Sivas province.

The damage in the affected provinces goes beyond homes and buildings, with industry also being greatly affected. Initial assessments indicate significant impact on agriculture, including billions of dollars in losses to the sector and a possible reduction of approximately 20 per cent in food production. However, some industries are adapting to the current situation. For example, the Ministry of Family and Social Services is working with women’s cooperatives from all around Türkiye to open textile production ateliers in temporary settlements in Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman and Malatya.

Poor weather conditions have worsened conditions for communities already impacted by the earthquakes. In Northwest Syria where the humanitarian situation was already dire prior to this disaster, over 3,000 tents were damaged at varying degrees by flooding and windstorm incidents in March. Many were sheltering families displaced by the earthquakes. Given the increase of needs in Northwest Syria over the past two months, the international community has come together to support the affected communities. However, while the earthquake response flash appeal has been generously funded, the 2023 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has only received 5 per cent of the needed funds. As part of the humanitarian community’s response in both countries, IOM appealed for USD 161 million in February. For the Türkiye portion of the flash appeal, vital sectors remain largely underfunded, such as the health, temporary settlement support and early recovery sectors.

KEY MESSAGES

1. IOM has been scaling up in Türkiye and Northwest Syria, particularly in the areas hardest hit and where needs are highest.
2. Despite millions 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. Additional provinces in Türkiye have been classified as disaster areas, highlighting the need for strong international support to recovery efforts.
4. The international community must show the same support to the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) as it has done for the earthquake flash appeal, given the level of needs in Northwest Syria prior to the current disaster.

In Türkiye and Syria since 06 February 2023
In support of the Government of Türkiye’s response, IOM has focused its shelter and non-food item activities in some of the most affected areas, including Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya and Şanlıurfa. Based on the needs, the teams dispatch shelter items, namely tents and resistant shelter units, as well as materials to build or improve a shelter, which were vital for families affected by recent heavy rains and flooding. IOM’s water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) team have been working with government partners to improve access to hygiene items and clean water. To date, more than 21,414 hygiene kits have been dispatched. In the past week, IOM’s protection team continued to provide counselling services, mental health and psychosocial sessions, awareness raising sessions and translation services. In response to possible fire risks, IOM’s temporary settlement support team are providing fire safety trainings and dispatching 400 fire extinguishers. IOM teams and partners are operating in temporary settlements. IOM continues to provide shelter materials that can be used for health facilities and to accommodate health workers. Additionally, the varied needs of those affected continue to guide IOM’s response in both countries and in Türkiye specifically, the Organization leads the Disability and Inclusion Task Force.

1.4 Million estimated individuals reached
1.1 Million relief items dispatched
9,581 shelter dispatched

51% of USD 110 million funding target reached

- 290,036 Blankets
- 230,448 Mattresses and Bedding sets
- 91,804 Tarpaulins
- 400 Fire Extinguishers
- 57,210 Kitchen sets
- 21,414 Hygiene Kits
- 15,819 Heaters
- 12,513 Pallets

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1 Estimated figure based on National Average Household Data and number of Shelter and NFI dispatched
2 Tents: 9,231, Relief Housing Units: 350
3 To help mitigate water seepage from flooding inside shelters
IOM continues to receive essential aid items and dispatch them into Northwest Syria. Working with local partners, IOM is responding to the devastating earthquakes and floods that have affected and displaced populations by dispatching tents, tarps, blankets, winter kits, hygiene kits and other essential items. In the past week, IOM transhipped over 260,000 S-NFI items through 11 trucks across two borders points, namely Bab al Hawa and Bab al Salam. As Cholera continues to be a major concern in Northwest Syria, IOM has become a major supplier of medical supplies for the region, which are being distributed to key hospitals and primary health care centres. To help recovery efforts, IOM is supporting 500 individuals in Idleb and Aleppo Governorate with short term income generating opportunities through cash-for-work, with earthquake affected families being prioritized. IOM is working with partners to provide WASH support in 43 displacement sites across Northwest Syria, sheltering persons affected by the earthquakes. Protection teams continued to support vulnerable persons, including unaccompanied and separated children, with MHPSS support and case management.

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192% are indirect beneficiaries reached through health support provided to medical facilities

4,085 tarpaulins, 3,257 comprehensive shelter kits, 567 emergency shelter toolkits, 2,098 tents and 111 tent accessories
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 and Flexport.

“We are warm and have everything we need. Before [this support], we had to live in a makeshift tent for three days with 15 people in -8°C weather.”

Necati is from Hassa, Hatay province. His house collapsed in the earthquake. After moving a few times, Necati and his family have found shelter in an AFAD-run temporary settlement. The settlement consists of 90 relief housing units that help people stay warm in cold weather, yet cool in the sweltering heat. IOM has partnered with Better Shelter, a humanitarian non-profit organisation, to deliver 350 shelters to Hatay, helping people like Necati find some comfort and stability in this difficult time.

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