As the international community marked World Health Day on 7 April, communities in Türkiye and Northwest Syria recognized the vital contribution of health care workers to the earthquake response while grappling with its direct impact on their colleagues and places of work. In Northwest Syria, at least fifty-five health facilities were damaged with services suspended in many of them, severely limiting people’s access to health care. In Türkiye, an estimated 500 health care workers were among those who tragically lost their lives; hundreds more have been injured and thousands left without a place to call home.

In both Türkiye and Northwest Syria, the situation continues to be presently characterized by displacement. In Türkiye, persons affected by the earthquake are sheltering in temporary settlements, with thousands of formal sites being run by the Government. While in Northwest Syria, communities have been living in displacement for years, with the current disaster forcing people to be displaced for the second or third time. With each displacement, a person’s coping ability diminishes, causing needs to continue to soar in an already dire humanitarian situation.

Despite the Government of Türkiye recently declaring six additional provinces as disaster areas and while the shelter and non-food item sector has received generous support from the international community as a result of the urgent need to accommodate millions of people, some key sectors of the emergency and recovery response remain underfunded, including IOM’s early recovery, protection and health responses. In February, IOM appealed for USD 161 million to respond to the urgent needs of those affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Northwest Syria. As urgent funds are needed, IOM calls on the international community to back its multisector operations in both countries.

1. IOM has been scaling up in Türkiye and Northwest Syria, particularly in the areas hardest hit and where needs are highest.
2. In both countries, health workers and facilities have been greatly affected by the disaster.
3. IOM’s early recovery, protection and health responses in Türkiye remain greatly underfunded.
4. The majority of those displaced by the earthquakes in Northwest Syria are being displaced for the second or third time, further driving the need for support.
5. In February, IOM appealed for USD 161 million to respond to the urgent needs of those affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Northwest Syria.

1In Türkiye and Syria since 06 February 2023
In addition to the dispatch of millions of shelter and non-food items (S-NFI), IOM is supporting shelter sector coordination at the hub level in Adiyaman, Malatya and Hatay to ensure an effective system-wide response. The S-NFI team continued its flood response and, in the past week, distributed over 4,500 pallets to raise shelters above groundwater. Also in the past week, the team dispatched 150 relief housing units in Kahramanmaras, which will provide improved, dignified accommodation. With health workers and facilities greatly affected by the earthquakes, IOM dispatched 60 tents that will be used as accommodation for health workers in Hatay. Also, in Hatay, IOM has supported electrical infrastructure to improve conditions in a temporary accommodation centre which shelters persons affected by the earthquake. As water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are among the top needs, IOM continues to distribute drinking water, with more than 140,000 litres provided to communities in Adiyaman, Hatay and Malatya during 03 to 09 April, bringing the total number of litres provided since the earthquake close to 1 million. In addition, IOM has provided 40 mobile latrines and showers to address sanitation and hygiene needs in temporary settlements. With mental health and psycho-social needs also high, the protection team has been providing counselling services, cultural activities and other mental health related support. In the past week, IOM provided counselling services to more than 100 people across seven provinces. Temporary Settlement Support (TSS) site visits are ongoing in Kahramanmaras and Hatay to identify sites with high levels of needs, particularly among informal settlements. The team is working with local Fire Departments at the hub level to organize fire safety training in formal and informal settlements, in addition to the distribution of fire extinguishers. IOM continues to co-lead the TSS Sector to ensure that activities are well coordinated and are complementary to the Government’s response leadership.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blankets</td>
<td>290,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattresses and Bedding</td>
<td>230,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarpaulins</td>
<td>91,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Extinguishers</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen sets</td>
<td>57,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene Kits</td>
<td>21,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heaters</td>
<td>15,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pallets</td>
<td>14,777</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Estimated figure based on National Average Household Data and number of Shelter and NFIs dispatched
2. Tents: 9,231, Relief Housing Units: 350
3. To help mitigate water seepage from flooding inside shelters
The S-NFI team continued its response to the devastating earthquakes and floods affecting displaced populations in Northwest Syria by dispatching tents, tarps, blankets, hygiene items, medical items and clothes, working with over 10 partners. In the past week, IOM transhipped 247,000 items, including vital medical supplies, hygiene items and clothes to populations in need. With displacement ongoing in the region for over a decade, camps are in need of improvement and rehabilitation. IOM, through its partners, is replacing tents with dignified shelter units in nine camps in Idleb governorate. The camps will also receive infrastructure upgrades and enhanced WASH services. Displaced persons are involved in the project through a cash for work programme. IOM partners continued an assessment of displacement sites in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates to identity those most in need of camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) support. As food security remains a key concern for displaced persons, IOM is conducting cash and e-voucher assistance to help address these needs. IOM and partners are providing emergency WASH activities across 43 displacement camps and multiple collective and reception centres, while improving WASH infrastructure in 34 displacement camps. Cholera and other communicable diseases remain a threat for displaced persons in Northwest Syria. To help communities better protect themselves, IOM has organized 345 hygiene promotion sessions across 23 informal displacement sites since the start of the earthquake. From 03 to 09 April, IOM with its partners reached more than 3,000 people in displacement camps in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates through MHPSS services, legal counselling and protection case management, with a focus on reaching unaccompanied and separated children.
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.

RESPONDING TO HEALTH CARE NEEDS IN NORTHWEST SYRIA

“When we asked whether there was a health centre nearby, we learned there was a mobile clinic where we went immediately. My grandchildren got the treatment and medicines they needed, and now their conditions are improving,” said Kateba.

Kateba and her family were displaced by the earthquakes in Northwest Syria. They spent hours in the cold and rain before reaching a displacement camp. Her grandchildren then fell ill. To ensure access to medical services in remote areas, IOM supports a primary health care centre, a hospital and two mobile clinics, one of which treated Kateba’s grandchildren.

“Since the recent earthquakes that struck Syria, there has been a significant increase in the number of patients at our mobile clinic. People fled to camps out of fear that their homes would collapse,” said Doctor Abdalset.

IOM has also delivered more than 1.5 million medicines, medical consumables, and equipment to various hospitals, clinics and centres to increase their capacity to treat more people. IOM is committed to expanding its health support, providing essential services and responding to emerging needs in the region.

A woman receives a check up from a doctor at the IOM-support mobile health clinic in Northwest Syria.