The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is responding to the needs of communities impacted by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Northwest Syria, through humanitarian and early recovery interventions. Last week, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) published the Humanitarian Needs Overview, which shows that strong progress has been made by the humanitarian community against the flash appeal for the earthquake response in Türkiye, but that needs in some sectors like health remain high.

Flash floods swept through the earthquake-hit provinces of Adıyaman, Şanlıurfa, Malatya, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş once again, affecting the tents of survivors. This is the second time heavy rains and floods have impacted earthquake-hit provinces. In mid-March, floods damaged infrastructure, temporary settlements and claimed 20 lives. People living in temporary shelters, particularly in tents and makeshift shelters in informal sites, remain vulnerable to extreme weather conditions.

The humanitarian situation in Northwest Syria remains dire. People are struggling to access essential health care, which is a major concern given the threat of cholera and other communicable diseases. Displaced communities often have the least access to health care despite needing more support as they live in crowded sites where water, sanitation and hygiene needs are high. However, a positive note for Northwest Syria is the resilience of local markets, highlighting the importance of cash assistance in the earthquake response. The need and opportunity for cash-based assistance is echoed in Türkiye as markets and businesses have reopened and banking systems are once again working in less affected areas.

In February, IOM appealed for USD 161 million to support response efforts in Türkiye and Northwest Syria. Although the appeal is more than 50 per cent funded, some sectors remain severely underfunded including the early recovery, protection and health sector. As urgent funds are needed, IOM continues to call on the international community to support its critical multi-sectoral operations in Türkiye and Syria.

1. IOM has been scaling up in Türkiye and Northwest Syria, particularly in the areas where needs are highest.
2. Interventions utilizing cash-based assistance should be prioritized to support communities in both countries.
3. Temporary settlements remain a critical component of the response and require continued coordination and management to ensure adequate multi-sectoral support.
4. In both countries, health needs remain high.
5. IOM’s early recovery, protection and health responses in Türkiye are greatly underfunded.
6. In February, IOM appealed for USD 161 million to respond to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Northwest Syria.

In Türkiye and Syria since 06 February 2023
The Shelter and Non-Food Items (S-NFI) team continued their efforts to help earthquake-affected communities improve their shelters and ensure that they are better protected from extreme weather conditions like heavy rains and floods. In the last week alone, they dispatched more than 24,000 mattresses to Adıyaman, Hatay and Malatya, and nearly 7,000 pallets to Gaziantep, Hatay and Malatya. While in Kahramanmaraş, the installation of 150 relief housing units (RHU), which provide dignified, solid shelter for displaced persons, was ongoing. As access to water remains a concern of people living in temporary settlements, IOM is supporting Government efforts by providing drinking water. Nearly 100,000 litres were distributed to communities in Adıyaman and Hatay last week, and more than 3,000 hygiene kits were dispatched. In Hatay, IOM is working with the municipality to support the installation of 20 latrines, 20 showers and 40 water tanks in temporary settlements. The early recovery team has provided the Turkish Employment Agency in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş with five containers, which will be used as office space. To help improve safety in temporary settlements, IOM’s temporary settlement support (TSS) team began distributing 8,000 solar lamps last week in addition to 3,000 fire extinguishers. The TSS Sector coordination team, which IOM co-leads, worked with partners to ensure coverage of the 15 districts with the highest numbers of individuals sheltering in informal settlements in the four most affected cities, namely Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman and Malatya. To enhance people’s access to services and entitlements, IOM’s protection team continued to hold awareness raising sessions in Adana, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Mersin and Şanlıurfa. This is in addition to the case management and socio-relational cultural activities that were also carried out.

1.4 Million estimated individuals reached
1.1 Million relief items dispatched
9,779 shelter dispatched

290,036 Blankets
230,448 Mattresses and Bedding sets
91,804 Tarpaulins
2,600 Fire Extinguishers

57,310 Kitchen sets
24,892 Hygiene Kits
16,419 Heaters
17,997 Pallets

**1** Estimated figure based on National Average Household Data and number of Shelter and NFIs dispatched

**2** Tents: 9,231, RHU: 500, Shelter Container: 30, Rub Hall: 18

**3** To help mitigate water seepage from flooding inside shelters
IOM continued its response to the devastating earthquakes and floods that affected and displaced populations, working with 10 partners. Ensuring essential items reached Northwest Syria over the past week, nine trucks were dispatched carrying nearly 4,500 items, including medical supplies, generators, children’s clothes, hygiene items and kitchen sets. The S-NFI team continued to work with partners who are replacing tents with dignified shelter units in nine camps across Idleb governorate, while also working on infrastructural upgrades and improved water, sanitation and hygiene services. The registration of persons who will work on their site improvements through a cash-for-work scheme was finalized last week. Early recovery partners implemented cash for work activities, including debris removal, rehabilitation of damaged roads and cleaning of public facilities, in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates. IOM remains a major supplier of health items into Northwest Syria. Additionally, the health team began supporting a new hospital as well as another mobile clinic, bringing the total number of supported health care facilities supported to four. Site management activities have been started in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates, targeting 56 sites. During the week, the camp coordination and camp management partners began targeting support to five reception centres where needs are urgent and high. IOM is in the process of beginning cash distributions for displaced communities affected by the earthquakes, and e-voucher assistance which began last week will reach 700 households. IOM is continuing emergency life-saving WASH activities in 43 displacement camps across Northwest Syria. The protection team proceeded with providing mental health and psychosocial services, protection case management, legal counselling and information sharing to vulnerable persons affected by the earthquake.
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.

IOM is dispatching blankets, clothes and electric heaters, along with materials to help improve shelters. Electric heaters like the one Ayten received are now helping hundreds of displaced families in Malatya - an earthquake affected province - stay warm during cold nights.

“When the cooking stove is off, it is freezing inside the tent. But, now with this electric heater, it will no longer be necessary for someone to sit and watch the stove until morning,” says Ayten Bazu, who lives with her husband in a temporary settlement in Malatya.

As cold and extreme weather conditions continue to affect displaced communities, IOM is dispatching blankets, clothes and electric heaters, along with materials to help improve shelters. Electric heaters like the one Ayten received are now helping hundreds of displaced families in Malatya - an earthquake affected province - stay warm during cold nights.