Following Türkiye’s second round of elections, Recep Erdogan has been re-elected to serve a third term as President. President Erdogan has formed a new cabinet to address these pressing issues in response to the country’s challenges, including inflation and the Syrian question. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is actively collaborating with the government and other humanitarian actors to support the ongoing recovery efforts. While IOM is working on a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction strategy, it utilizes existing programmes to assist micro and small businesses through small cash grants. Moreover, by leveraging current partnerships with provincial chambers of commerce and industry in the region, IOM aims to enhance employment opportunities and bridge market gaps in the earthquake-affected provinces.

To further reinforce its support, IOM is working towards strengthening its cooperation and partnership with the Directorate-General of the International Labor Force, as well as providing assistance to local employment agencies (ISKUR) in the affected region. The earthquake-stricken region in Türkiye, accounts for around 14.5 percent of Türkiye’s agricultural GDP and almost 20 percent of Türkiye’s agricultural production, according to the recent data of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Consequently, the earthquake has disrupted rural life, leading to the loss of crops, livestock, food supplies, agricultural inputs, and damage to irrigation networks, stock tanks, and farm buildings. IOM continues its community farming programme to contribute to the recovery of the sector in the region.

Despite transitioning to the recovery stage, the demand for shelter and improved access to healthcare and basic needs remains critical. In response, IOM plans to expand its presence in the earthquake-ravaged provinces by establishing dedicated offices and deploying teams to scale up assistance.

Shifting focus to Northwest Syria, IOM will be participating in the 7th Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region. Scheduled for June 14-15, the conference aims to reaffirm the European Union’s commitment to the Syrian people and mobilize humanitarian and financial support to meet the escalating needs of Syrians within Syria and neighbouring countries, including Türkiye.

IOM continues to conduct missions in Northwest Syria to assess evolving needs and monitor intervention progress. As current informal sites for displaced populations have to host earthquake-affected families, the burden of meeting basic needs has intensified. Consequently, public health risks remain high, challenging the international community to increase support for healthcare facilities and carry out awareness-raising campaigns to prevent disease outbreaks and mitigate these challenges effectively.

1. IOM has been scaling up in Türkiye and Northwest Syria, particularly in the areas hardest hit and where needs are highest.
2. Rising temperatures will further affect displaced persons, posing public health risks and increasing the needs for adequate access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) resources and facilities.
3. Where possible, the authorities support communities in informal temporary settlements to transition to formal sites in which multisectoral services are centralized.
4. In parallel to humanitarian assistance, scale up of recovery and reconstruction activities calls for heightened coordination and cooperation among the parties involved.
5. IOM is strengthening its presence in post-earthquake provinces through establishing field offices and deploying dedicated teams.
6. IOM’s consolidated appeal for earthquake response, totalling USD 161 million, has reached 55% of its funding target. Specifically, the earthquake response in Türkiye has received 41% of the requested funding, while the response in Northwest Syria has reached 85% of the funding goal.
IOM Türkiye’s Shelter and Non-food Items (Shelter/NFI) teams are actively assisting earthquake-affected populations by providing support in various areas. Over the past two weeks, they delivered 45,000 litres of water to Malatya and seven pallets of water to Hatay. In Hatay, IOM facilitated the delivery of 35 containers to support affected families.

To address public health risks, the WASH teams focused on distributing 10,000 hygiene kits to municipalities in Adana, Adiyaman, Gaziantep, and Malatya. Site assessments for WASH interventions are ongoing in Kahramanmaras and Hatay. Over 3,000 pallets were delivered to the affected provinces to help families improve their shelters. In addition, IOM teams supported an earthquake-affected orphanage in Gaziantep through the delivery of kitchen sets and supplies.

As part of the recovery efforts, IOM Türkiye collaborated with Qatar Charity to promote the establishment of micro, small, and medium-sized businesses catering to the needs of affected populations in Gaziantep. This partnership includes providing prefabricated modules and in-kind grants of up to USD 3,000. IOM teams have assessed 9,000 families to identify 5,000 most vulnerable ones eligible for one-off unconditional and unrestricted cash assistance.

IOM Türkiye’s Psychosocial Support Teams continue to provide protection services that include counselling, socio-cultural activities, and awareness-raising sessions benefiting 493 individuals in Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Kahramanmaras, Mersin, and Sanliurfa. Temporary settlement support (TSS) activities are ongoing, including site and neighbourhood profiling. Following the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health (MoH), IOM is assisting in the establishment of 15 mobile clinics. In addition, MoH and IOM’s implementing partners will receive 1,407 foldable beds for primary health services.
IOM Türkiye's cross-border teams continue to deliver and coordinate the distribution of in-kind donations. Over the last two weeks, more than 11,800 donated blankets, tarpaulins, solar lamps, kitchen sets, shelter tools, hygiene kits, and emergency shelter kits were distributed among beneficiaries through partners. The Shelter/NFI team is halfway through completing the replacement of 2,020 tents with dignified shelter units in 10 camps in Idleb. As of June 6, IOM’s implementing partner completed the construction of 624 transitional Dignified Shelter units (TDSs) and handed over 339 TDSs to beneficiaries. IOM continues to support healthcare facilities in Northwest Syria: over 2,300 individuals benefited from consultations at the IOM-supported hospital, and over 400 individuals benefited from the services IOM-supported mobile clinic. IOM’s Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) teams have completed the identification of gaps in 56 internally displaced persons (IDP) sites and five reception centres. Through IOM’s implementing partners, IOM has completed the distribution of multi-purpose cash assistance in Aleppo Governorate. In addition, in total more than 1,400 households have benefitted from e-voucher assistance. Both interventions give beneficiaries the flexibility to buy food items most needed in the household.

The cross-border WASH teams continue to work on improving access to clean water and hygiene promotion through implementing partners. In addition to the distribution of thousands of cubic meters of chlorinated water, solid waste removal, wastewater de-sludging, 200 garbage bins were distributed in 17 IDP camps. Furthermore, WASH infrastructure is being established in nine informal settlements. IOM, through its implementing partners, conducted over 850 hygiene-themed sessions, and over 150 women and girls participated in menstrual hygiene awareness sessions in the last two weeks. Over the same period, through its local partners, IOM reached 3,815 individuals with various types of protection services through mobile teams and protection help desks.
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 relied on our neighbour’s generator for one and a half months. As a woman, it was challenging to navigate in the dark when I needed to use the bathroom at night. Given that there’s no lighting in our tents, the distribution of solar-powered lamps will be incredibly valuable for us,” says Vahide, a resident of a temporary settlement in Samandag, Hatay.

IOM has distributed 4,000 solar-powered lamps for personal use and 1,000 streetlights for communal use among residents of temporary settlements across four provinces: Kahramanmaras, Adiyaman, Malatya, and Hatay. Additionally, 3,300 fire extinguishers were provided to ensure fire safety in the settlements.

These distributions are part of the TSS efforts that IOM co-leads in earthquake-affected Türkiye. The objectives of these efforts are twofold: 1) to address immediate needs and refer individuals to other sectors for comprehensive assistance if necessary, and 2) to improve sites by mitigating safety and protection risks, as well as enhancing living conditions. Moreover, IOM TSS teams facilitate community consultations to bridge the communication gap between beneficiaries and national and local actors, fostering inclusive decision-making.