

TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA 2023 EARTHQUAKES – RESPONSE UPDATE

18 JULY 2023



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Syrian women in Nizip, Gaziantep, are reclaiming their sense of home and forging connections through a sewing activity organized by IOM. The activity not only helps them overcome the challenges after the earthquakes but also provides a platform for socialization and empowerment.



2.5 Million

relief items, including shelter materials, dispatched¹



22 Million USD

In-kind contributions



29,282

shelter-related items provided across Türkiye and Northwest Syria



72%
of IOM
emergency
appeal funded

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Five months after the earthquake, the consequences of the disaster continue to strain the capacities of national and international actors in addressing humanitarian needs and undertaking early recovery efforts. To mitigate the additional costs incurred on the country's budget in response to the earthquakes, the Ministry of Treasury and Finance has increased the Special Consumption Tax on fuel products.

Enhancing the economic resilience of earthquake-affected populations remains one of the key priorities. According to the Turkish Red Crescent's [report on the resilience of refugees in Türkiye amidst pre-disaster struggles](#), debt levels in the Southeast region account for 41 per cent of household expenditure.

International aid continues to provide additional support for the government's recovery efforts. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is offering loans of up to USD 90 million and USD 110 million to two banks respectively, which will then on-lend the funds directly to businesses and individuals affected by the earthquakes. This assistance aims to assist those in disaster-hit cities to rebuild their lives and businesses, and expand their financial opportunities.

To mobilize further resources for recovery efforts, as well as to assess early recovery needs on the ground and evaluate current activities, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has initiated a joint mission to the Southeast region. This one-week visit involves officials from the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

The Security Council was unable to reach an agreement on extending the authorization of UN cross-border relief operations in Northwest Syria. However, the Syrian Government unilaterally granted permission for the UN to continue cross-border operations through the Bab al-

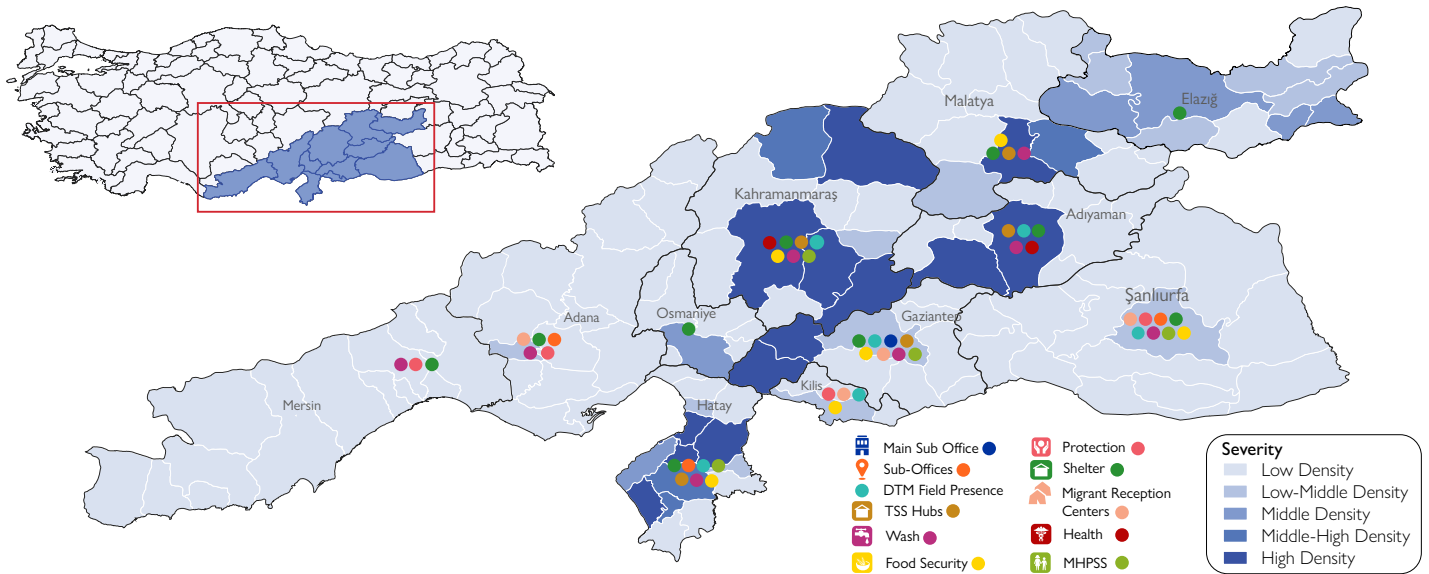
Hawa crossing for six months, starting on 13 July. The work of the Security Council continues to focus on reaching an agreement regarding the continuation of these operations. Pre-positioning of vital relief items in Northwest Syria is one of the key focuses of UN agencies involved in cross-border operations.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Adequate access to healthcare services and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) resources and facilities in post-earthquake provinces in Türkiye remains crucial, especially with persisting high summer temperatures.
2. Where possible, the authorities support communities in informal temporary settlements to transition to formal sites in which multisectoral services are centralized.
3. In parallel to humanitarian assistance, scale up of recovery and reconstruction activities calls for heightened coordination and cooperation among the parties involved.
4. The UN cross-border aid to Northwest Syria should be extended to the maximum duration possible to provide much-needed relief assistance to populations displaced by the conflict and the February earthquakes.
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 72% of its funding target. Specifically, the earthquake response in Türkiye has received 52% of the requested funding, while the response in Northwest Syria has reached 114% of the funding goal.

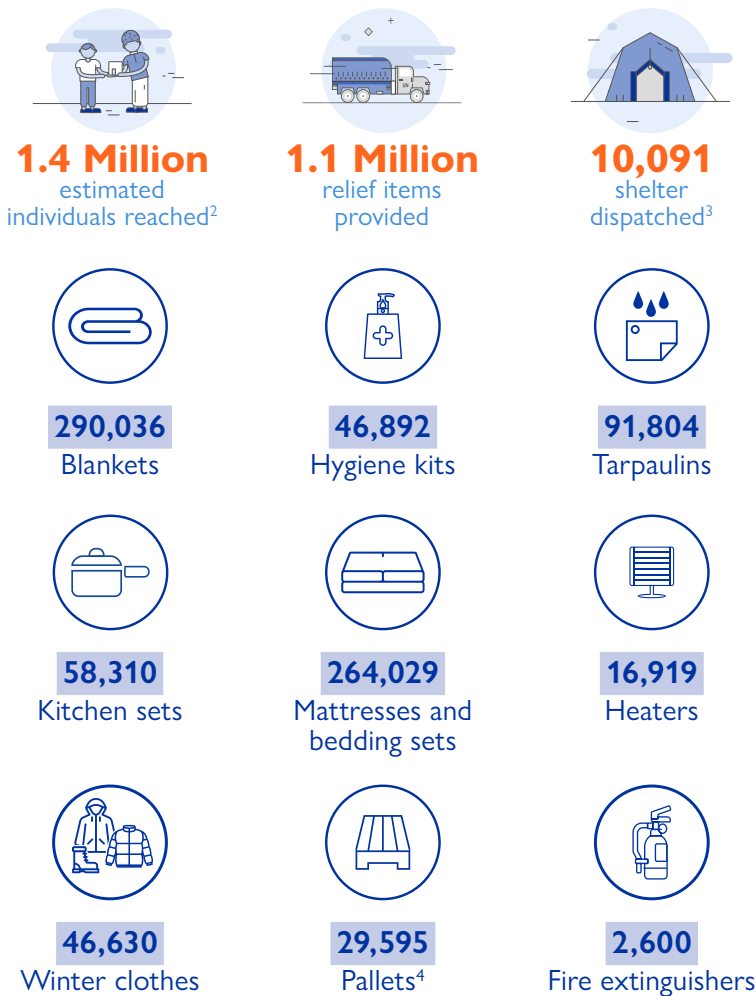
¹In Türkiye and Syria since 06 February 2023

TÜRKİYE RESPONSE



Additional food security, S-NFI and protection support for earthquake affected populations has been provided in Ankara, Aydın, Edirne, Izmir and Kayseri provinces, and is not shown in this map. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

52% of USD 110 million funding target reached



Over the past two weeks, IOM Türkiye's Shelter and Non-Food Items Teams collaborated with local partners in Defne, Hatay, to distribute 1,180 pallets and 800 sleeping mats. Additionally, IOM handed over 115 kitchen sets to local partners for distribution in formal container cities. In Adana, IOM teams delivered 2,000 hygiene kits to the municipalities and the governorate, who will further distribute them to those in need. In order to promote proper waste management, IOM's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) team provided 120 garbage containers along with cleaning kits to the respective local authorities in Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya.

The initial assessment phase of the small-business support project is currently underway in Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş. So far, out of the targeted 5,000 households, 1,619 vulnerable households have been identified as eligible for unconditional/unrestricted cash assistance. During the reporting period, IOM's mobile teams organized psychosocial support activities that benefited 433 individuals in Gaziantep, Hatay, Izmir, Kilis, Mersin, and Şanlıurfa.

Regarding Temporary Settlement Support (TSS) activities, respective IOM teams are planning the distribution of fire extinguishers and communal lights in all hubs, as well as assessing potential specific interventions in Kahramanmaraş. Furthermore, TSS partners have been contracted to conduct mobile TSS in the three most affected provinces.

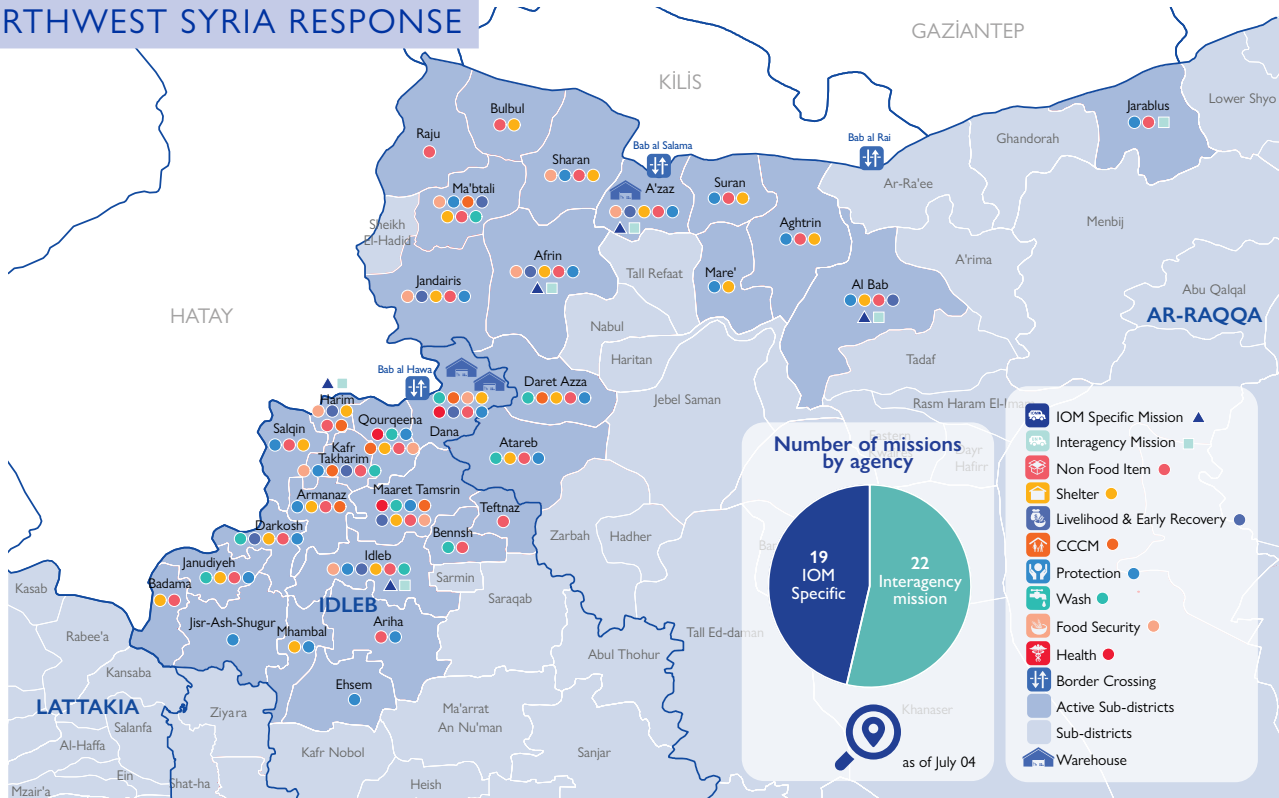
IOM Türkiye's Displacement Tracking Matrix team conducted a protection needs assessment in post-earthquake Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya on July 11th. The assessment targeted Turkish and migrant populations, including female-headed households, older people, and persons with disabilities. In total, 1,159 interviews were conducted with female-headed households, 1,737 interviews with older people, and 1,142 interviews with persons with disabilities. IOM's health team also conducted a site visit to Kahramanmaraş to assess the remaining gaps.

² Estimated figure based on National Average Household Data and number of Shelter and NFIs dispatched

³ Tents: 9,417, RHU: 500, Shelter Container: 156, Rub Hall: 18

⁴ To help mitigate flood water seepage inside shelters

NORTHWEST SYRIA RESPONSE



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114% of USD 51 million funding target reached



IOM Türkiye's Cross-Border team continues to deliver much-needed assistance to displaced populations in Northwest Syria. The replacement of the planned 2,020 tents with dignified prefabricated shelter units in 10 camps in Idlib is now 85 per cent completed.

As of 14 July, IOM, through its implementing partner, has completed the construction of 1,930 Transitional Dignified Shelters (TDS) units. A total of 1,828 TDS units have been handed over to the beneficiaries. Over the last two weeks, a total of 2,000 NFI kits were delivered to households affected by the earthquake in 11 camps. At an IOM-supported hospital, 1,856 individuals benefited from medical consultations, including 823 individuals who received Sexual and Reproductive Health services and 135 women who gave birth to healthy babies, in the past two weeks. The distribution of cash for nutrition to selected 750 households with pregnant and lactating women and children under two years old will start from 20 July onwards.

As a result of WASH activities, 64,895 m³ of chlorinated water was distributed to earthquake-affected populations in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and various reception and collective centres. Additionally, 2,716 m³ of solid waste was removed and transferred to the landfill, and 9,673.5 m³ of wastewater was de-sludged from existing cesspits and septic tanks. Furthermore, the WASH infrastructure was successfully established in nine informal settlements. IOM, through its implementing partners, has completed the establishment of WASH infrastructure in 10 informal settlements. As part of WASH activities, 1,710 beneficiaries in IDP camps and reception centres have benefited from hygiene promotion sessions, and 110 women and girls have benefited from menstrual hygiene-related awareness sessions.

A total of 2,595 individuals affected by the earthquake have benefited from mental health and psychosocial support services provided by IOM-supported mobile teams and help desks.

⁵ 92% are indirect beneficiaries reached through health support provided to medical facilities
⁶ 8,646 tarpaulins, 3,275 comprehensive shelter kits, 711 emergency shelter toolkits, 6,344 tents and 215 tent accessories

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Kotana shows around an informal settlement in Northwest Syria where she has been living with her husband and their children for four years. As part of its CCCM activities, IOM will rehabilitate wells, roads, latrine groups and establish light poles across the settlement, which now also hosts earthquake-affected families.

**HOPE SHINES THROUGH:
HOW HUMANITARIAN AID SHAPES
LIVES AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE**

“We hosted many families who lost their homes in the earthquake. We invited them to our tents because they came empty-handed, deprived of even the most basic necessities”.

For the past four years, Kotana, her husband, and their children have been living in an informal settlement in Northwest Syria. It used to accommodate nearly 200 families displaced by the conflict. Today, it has become a sanctuary, housing an additional 85 families who tragically lost their homes in the devastating earthquake.

IOM, through implementing partners, plans to rehabilitate two wells within the settlement, installing solar panels to ensure a reliable water supply. They will also work on rehabilitating roads, installing light poles, repairing existing latrine groups, and establishing new ones. In addition, the residents of the settlement will receive cash for food assistance.

IOM manages 56 similar sites, along with five reception centres that host families affected by the earthquake, providing essential assistance to those in need.

[Read more on IOM Türkiye's website](#)

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.

