In the aftermath of a devastating earthquake, the Turkish Government is steadfast in its commitment to recovery efforts, seeking to rebuild communities and restore normalcy in the affected regions, inter alia with the support of the international community. The World Bank has approved one billion USD fund to aid in the reconstruction of rural housing and essential utilities. It will primarily focus on the restoration of municipal infrastructure, healthcare services, and the enhancement of rural dwellings.

As the summer temperatures rise, access to proper Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities becomes critical in the earthquake-affected areas. In addition, the layout and population density of some container and tent sites pose specific risks to vulnerable populations, especially women and girls, who face heightened threats of exploitation and abuse.

The recovery process faces challenges regarding the availability of cash in some affected areas, particularly in ATMs. Compounded by the loss or lack of essential civil documentation, and needed de-registration, accessing much-needed cash assistance proves to be an obstacle for those who require it most. Additionally, economic inflation has reduced the purchasing power of individuals, impacting the effectiveness of cash-based aid.

In mist of the recovery efforts, food security remains a pressing concern. As the Turkish Red Crescent concluded its food assistance for 80,000 people, there is a gap to be addressed by involved food security actors: there are still areas where individuals struggle to prepare their meals. The future of cross-border aid to Northwest Syria relies on a decision on the renewal of the UN Security Council Resolution for another 12 months, as it expires on 10 July. Meanwhile, UN agencies, including IOM, continue their regular cross-border operations and missions, as well as pre-position humanitarian supplies in Northwest Syria. However, the public health situation demands immediate attention, with a surge in lab-confirmed cholera cases prompting the launch of a crucial vaccination campaign targeting 1.1 million people.

1 In Türkiye and Syria since 06 February 2023
Over the past two weeks, IOM Türkiye’s Shelter and Non-Food Items (S-NFI) teams continued to provide crucial support to the earthquake-hit provinces: 571 kitchen sets were delivered to Hatay, catering to the immediate needs of the displaced population.

IOM continued to distribute hygiene kits in Hatay, where 2,000 hygiene kits along with 1,200 jerry cans were distributed, while 5,000 more are stored and will be distributed based on the demand. At the same time the establishment and connection of toilets and showers is underway, with 102 toilets and 23 showers connected so far.

For vulnerable individuals, planned cash assistance is awaiting completion of the verification phase, aiming to benefit 5,000 people severely affected by the disaster. IOM Türkiye’s Psychosocial Support Teams conducted counselling services, awareness-raising sessions, and socio-cultural activities for 652 individuals in Adana, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Mersin, and Sanliurfa in the last two weeks.

IOM’s Temporary Settlement Support Team organized a three-day thematic training for partners on core camp coordination and camp management responsibilities and tools to enhance effective response in displacement sites in line with humanitarian standards. The Displacement Tracking Matrix Team has been actively assessing protection needs in earthquake-hit Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya. It targets both Turkish and migrant populations, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, elderly individuals, and persons with disabilities. During the reporting period, a total of 626 interviews were conducted with female-headed households, 1,034 with elderly people, and 671 with persons with disabilities.

Over the last two weeks, 15 foldable stretchers donated by the German government were added to the mobile clinic vehicles that had been handed over earlier to the Ministry of Health. To address gaps in food security, IOM is actively engaged in close coordination with local authorities and sector representatives to identify additional community needs and offer necessary support.
IOM Türkiye’s Cross-border team has received the final batch of in-kind donations, which will be distributed in the coming weeks. The replacement of 2,020 tents with prefabricated dignified shelter units in ten camps in Idlib is now 80% complete. Through its local partner, IOM completed the construction of 1,855 Transitional Dignified Shelter (TDS) units, while 1,580 TDS units were handed over to the beneficiaries.

During the reporting period, 2,535 individuals benefited from medical consultations, including 700 individuals who received Sexual and Reproductive Health services, and 151 women have given birth to healthy babies at an IOM-supported hospital. IOM’s implementing partners completed the verification process for beneficiaries of Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs) in five reception centres. Under the new e-voucher project, 750 households with pregnant and lactating women and children under two years old were selected to receive cash for nutrition assistance, the distribution will begin from 6 July onwards.

Regarding Water, Sanitation And Hygiene (WASH) support, 65,353 m³ of chlorinated water was distributed to populations affected by earthquakes in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as in reception and collective centres. Additionally, 2,782 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. Around 1,905 beneficiaries in IDP camps and reception centres benefitted from hygiene promotion sessions, and 114 women and girls participated in menstrual hygiene-related awareness sessions. Nearly 2,000 hygiene kits were distributed over the last two weeks.

Lastly, over 2,000 beneficiaries have accessed protection services through mobile teams and protection help desks operated by IOM’s local partners across Northwest Syria.

3 92% are indirect beneficiaries reached through health support provided to medical facilities
4 8,646 tarpaulins, 3,275 comprehensive shelter kits, 711 emergency shelter toolkits, 6,344 tents and 215 tent accessories
WHISPERS OF RESILIENCE: HEVIDAR’S PATH THROUGH EARTHQUAKE AND CONFLICT

“When we arrived at the rural house, we faced a scarcity of essential supplies - food and clothing. The provided assistance has been and continues to be invaluable to us,” says Hevidar.

Displaced after the earthquake, Hevidar, her husband, and three children lost their belongings and access to basic needs.

Recognizing the critical situation, IOM has been working swiftly and tirelessly, dispatching blankets, clothes, heaters, and other essential materials, to help people like Hevidar, improve their living conditions and build the resilience of the communities in post-earthquake provinces.

Despite the hardships, Hevidar remains determined to create a better life for her family. In the midst of adversity, IOM’s support offers hope and relief to those in need.

Read Hevidar’s story