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Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

Thousands killed in earthquake across Türkiye and Syria

In the early hours of Monday morning, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Turkey (officially known as Türkiye) and Syria. So strong was the earthquake that it was also felt hundreds of miles away in Lebanon, Iraq and Israel. Just hours later with rescue efforts underway, a second, 7.7 magnitude earthquake also hit the region. Since then, over 100 aftershocks have been reported.

Reports suggest that over 17,000 people have been killed in the disaster across Türkiye and Syria so far – but the death toll is increasing by the hour. Over 52,000 people have been reported injured and many are still trapped under destroyed buildings. Search and rescue efforts are being hampered by ongoing aftershocks, as well as snow and bad winter storms. With the temperature in some areas below freezing, many people are at further risk out in the cold.

The full extent of the damage is not yet clear. Thousands of buildings have collapsed, and homes have been destroyed. Right now, the priority is rescuing people from the rubble, but bridges, roads and hospitals have been damaged and power is down, making it more difficult to reach and help those in need. In Syria particularly, years of conflict have already devastated local infrastructure, making it harder to access the machinery and tools needed for rescue efforts.

Red Crescent teams reaching those in need

Local Red Crescent teams are on the ground responding to the disaster across the region. We are working together as a Movement to support search and rescue efforts, provide first aid and medical treatment to those who have been injured and deliver critical humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable.

Over 500 staff and volunteers from the Turkish Red Crescent are already reaching those in need. Red Crescent teams are supporting with search and rescue, providing basic relief items, including 29,934 blankets and 6,000 tents so far. They have also deployed 77 catering trucks and five mobile kitchens to provide emergency food to people in need. In the coming hours, Red Crescent teams are aiming to deliver over 50,000 blankets, 10,000 electric heaters, 25,000 sleeping bags, and 25,000 beds to the region, as well distributing cash support to 25,000 people so that they can buy essentials like food or blankets. A blood shipment has also been sent in anticipation of the need for blood transfusions.



In Syria, Red Crescent teams have deployed over 4,000 staff and volunteers to pull people from the rubble across Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia districts. 23 Red Crescent ambulances are supporting rescue attempts. By 2pm local time, Syrian Arab Red Crescent emergency medical staff had transported 143 people to hospital. Teams are also providing first aid, emotional support, helping to reunite family members, establishing community shelters, and providing food and relief items like mattresses and blankets.

Elsewhere in Lebanon, where the earthquake was also felt, 16 disaster response teams have been sent to the north of the country to support those affected and critical response staff will fly to Türkiye to join search and rescue efforts.

As families' needs become clearer in the days and weeks ahead, we'll be doing all we can to scale this support and provide the humanitarian assistance they require.

How you can help

Alongside the member agencies of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), we have launched an emergency appeal to support the people of Türkiye and Syria. We have also allocated funding to the emergency from our Disaster Fund so that our partners in Türkiye and Syria can respond as quickly as possible. People urgently need our support, but we cannot do this alone. As a member of the DEC, a donation to our Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal will help provide life-saving humanitarian assistance across the region.

£20,000 could help to provide financial support to 75 families so they can buy essentials like food and blankets

£30,000 could help to provide electric heaters to help keep people warm

£50,000 could help to provide emergency tents for families who have lost their homes in the earthquake

Please consider a donation to our Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. Every pound will help reach someone in need. Thank you.

