



Turkish Red Crescent teams urgently responding to the needs in the earthquake affected areas Source: Turkish Red Crescent

Appeal №: MDRTR004	Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 120 million¹	
Glide №: EQ-2023-000015-TUR	People affected: 13,5 million people	People to be assisted: Approximately 300,000 people
DREF loan: CHF 2M	Appeal launched: 07/02/2023	Appeal ends: 31/12/2023

¹ Detailed breakdown of respective Secretariat and Federation-wide funding requirements will be updated as needs assessments and resource allocations are finalized.

SITUATION OVERVIEW



According to data from AFAD² (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority), a magnitude 7.7 earthquake occurred in Türkiye at 4:17 am on 6 February 2023. Eighty-three aftershocks at a maximum level of 6.7 followed the initial earthquake, and an additional separate earthquake of 7.6 occurred at 1:24 pm the following day in the same region. The additional earthquake has exacerbated the situation and may have caused serious issues in rural hard-to-reach areas in the Toros mountains and inner Anatolia. AFAD reports² state that 3,432 people lost their lives, 21,103 people were injured and 5,606³ buildings were destroyed in ten provinces. The process of damage detection is currently being fulfilled by AFAD and all related official organisations.

The epicentre of the earthquake was Pazarcık, district of Kahramanmaraş, and the earthquake occurred seven km below the ground. The earthquake was also felt in the neighbouring cities of Adıyaman, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Adana, Osmaniye, Gaziantep, Malatya, Batman, Bingöl, Elazığ, Mardin, Siirt, Şırnak, Van, Bitlis, Hakkari and Hatay provinces; and the neighbouring countries of Syria, Cyprus, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Georgia and Armenia.

AFAD declared this earthquake as a Level 4 earthquake within the scope of Türkiye Disaster Response Plan. Officials from AFAD also indicated that aftershocks are expected to continue for a long time, perhaps at least a year. The same officials asked citizens not to enter any damaged buildings and to stay away. Officials also warned against drinking mainline water until further instruction. The

Minister of National Education announced a two-week break from education in Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Adıyaman and Malatya provinces, and a one-week break in Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana, Osmaniye and Kilis.

This is the second largest earthquake in Türkiye in the last century, and the most significant to strike the country's southeast region in hundreds of years. The fact that the earthquake occurred during the early hours of the day, its extensive coverage area and the harsh winter conditions all contribute to the severity of the humanitarian conditions.

Urgently responding to the needs arising after the earthquake, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) is the sole host and implementing Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actor in Türkiye. As the largest humanitarian organization in the country and as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field with a wide reach to vulnerable communities, TRC utilizes its extensive in-country assets and human resources, as well as government and civil society relations for effective and efficient implementation of activities across all sectors including disaster management, blood services, social services, and migration services. At the same time, TRC has a leading role in nutrition activities. Accordingly, in recently conducted research on TRC capacities, TRC reached a total of 26,016,591 people through a budget of TRY 6,555,381,420 by 2020⁴.



² [AFAD Press Bulletin No:10](#)

³ [AFAD Press Bulletin No:8](#)

⁴ [Localization of Humanitarian Action in TRC.](#)

TARGETING

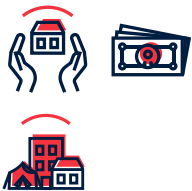
According to the Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate change, more than 13.5 million people live across the 10 provinces affected by the earthquake in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Hatay, Adiyaman, Malatya, Osmaniye, Kilis, Adana, Sanliurfa and Diyarbakir.⁵ Through this Emergency Appeal (EA), TRC is aiming to expand their support to around 300,000 people in 10 cities who have been severely affected mainly due to the demolition of their houses in the earthquake.

As lead agency in key operational areas, the TRC is in close coordination and communication with AFAD, governmental and municipal agencies, and other stakeholders for integrated and effective support to the most affected areas. According to preliminary evidence, the earthquake had an impact on practically all of the population in the impacted areas, either directly or indirectly. Reaching the population that is directly impacted - due to loss of life, shelter and/or possessions - will be the main goal of the response strategy.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the TRC in the response to the Kahramanmaraş Earthquake Operation. The strategy of the IFRC's response will be to meet the immediate and early recovery needs of approximately 300,000 people affected in Kahramanmaraş province and the surrounding provinces and will focus on the following areas:

Integrated assistance ***(Shelter, Livelihoods and Multi-purpose Cash)***



The TRC immediately mobilised tents and other shelter items including blankets, sleeping bags, bed chairs and mattresses from its contingency stocks and in-kind donations to meet the urgent shelter needs of the people whose houses were demolished in the earthquake area across ten provinces. There is a projected continued need for shelter assistance, and to replenish stocks to cover surges in demand and potential compound emergencies and aftershocks. Immediate shelter assistance by the TRC includes winter family tents, blankets, heaters, tarpaulins, sleeping bags, bed chairs, roll beds, lanterns and kitchen sets to cover immediate needs and promote early recovery. As TRC staff and volunteers on the ground are also affected themselves, there is a need for support with their basic needs, accommodation and orientation as they continue to respond to the disaster. As a response to the risk of prolonged shelter needs, TRC is considering a hybrid approach making use of collective shelter and tents, especially family type tents.

As part of the immediate response to basic needs the TRC is providing hot food, and is planning to distribute food parcels, to be followed by cash support through the Kızılaykart platform (debit card). Details regarding the materialisation of the cash support will be specified at a later stage based on continued assessment and coordination with authorities.



Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) ***(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support / Community Health)***

The TRC is mobilising 10 ten PSS teams from their social services department to the ten affected areas to ensure the provision of urgent Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) to the different groups of the affected population, such as children, due to the trauma caused by losing loved ones, their homes and the sheer experience of such a devastating earthquake. For this purpose, the TRC Community Centres are erecting PSS tents to support people affected by this disaster. Under this

⁵<https://www.trthaber.com/haber/gundem/bakan-kurum-deprem-dogrundan-135-milyon-vatandasimizi-etkiledi-744107.html>

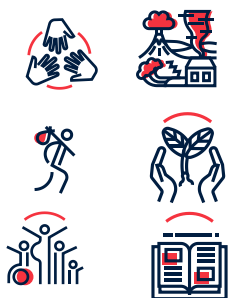
Emergency Appeal, the IFRC will support the scale-up of these efforts and the teams will also benefit from the rapid PSS in emergencies trainings to be provided by the IFRC.

To respond to basic needs in water and hygiene, the TRC is planning to distribute hygiene kits across the ten devastated areas and conduct hygiene promotion campaigns among the affected population coinciding with the distribution. Additional WASH needs are expected to become evident in the coming days with continued assessments.

Protection and Prevention

(Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability, Migration, Environmental Sustainability, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Education)

Through its network of staff and volunteers present on the ground (in the field offices and community centres) and deployed to support the devastated areas, the TRC employs the community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach in its response. Information provision, risk communication and feedback collection are regularly conducted through staff and volunteers utilising the TRC's 168 call centre, crisis coordination centre and community committees already established as part of the community centres (available in nine affected provinces out of 10, namely Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Osmaniye, Adana, Hatay, Kilis, Sanliurfa, Adiyaman, Malatya). The TRC has also communicated informative SMSs to its ESSN applicants. Through this EA, the IFRC will support the continuation and enhancement of CEA activities.



TRC protection teams are on the ground to effectively and systematically handle the special needs of the most vulnerable groups including women, adolescent girls and boys, children and victims of Gender Based Violence. The TRC already has a protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy in place in addition to its protection activities and measures, and this will be included as part of the trainings to be provided for staff and volunteers to ensure no unintentional harm takes place on the field. Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC will support the scale-up of the PGI activities as needed.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

Coordination and Partnerships



The TRC is closely coordinating its response efforts both on the national level, with AFAD, and at the district level with district administrations. The IFRC and TRC are also coordinating their efforts with UN organisations and INGOs for an efficient response. As for Movement coordination, both the TRC and the IFRC are maintaining open channels of communication with Movement partners to share information on the situation and the needs. Cross-country coordination is supported via the IFRC Secretariat Country Delegations, Regional Offices for Europe and MENA, as well as the global HQ in Geneva.

Shelter Cluster Coordination



As the lead body for shelter cluster coordination, the TRC is part of the government's shelter coordination mechanism. The TRC is in close contact with the authorities on shelter needs, while AFAD is continuously updating and sharing the shelter needs based on the status of buildings and the people affected by their loss of housing. Therefore, the TRC's shelter response is highly coordinated and well monitored.

IFRC Secretariat Services



The IFRC will support the TRC with membership coordination, resource mobilisation, external communications and technical knowledge in the relevant thematic areas, together with overall operation coordination and coordination with other international organisations. Other areas of support include planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) and information management. This will be conducted through the IFRC Country Delegation Team present in Ankara, supported by the IFRC Regional Office in Budapest. The IFRC secretariat will support a coordinated and effective Federation-wide approach.

National Society Strengthening



The IFRC is committed to supporting the TRC to further strengthen its capacity to respond to disasters of such magnitude. The IFRC will support the TRC in the delivery of rapid disaster response training to 15 teams of volunteers, which will cover the basics of needs assessments, PFA, distribution, monitoring, and coordination. In addition to these trainings, rapid PSS in emergencies training will take place. The IFRC is available to support the National Society with surge deployments as needed, covering operations management and other technical expertise.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation Wide approach which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY



Turkish Red Crescent

Core areas of operation



Number of staff:	11,000
Number of volunteers:	+200,000
Number of branches	264

Through its ongoing programmes including ESN and those under the community-based migration programme, the TRC has established community relationships in the affected locations through local staff, volunteers and branches which has been allowing them to reach out to the most vulnerable. This will also allow for a more effective response considering possible scenarios. At the beginning of the emergency, 174 vehicles and 1,870 personnel were transferred from the TRC, including 81 catering vehicles, 16 mobile kitchens, one mobile soup kitchen, five field kitchens, two mobile ovens, and 80 service vehicles.

The TRC has both a presence and access to all areas affected by the earthquake mainly via its branches.

[Please see the FDRS data related to the reach of the TRC: https://data.ifrc.org/FDRS/national-societies](https://data.ifrc.org/FDRS/national-societies)

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC Türkiye Country Delegation (CD) and the IFRC Europe Regional Office are providing technical support to the TRC. The IFRC has scaled up its capacity and that of TRC with technical and coordination profiles through the rapid response system regionally and globally and will be supporting the TRC in coordinating a Federation-wide response. A membership coordination mechanism will be supported to ensure an efficient and coordinated response, avoid duplication, and to strengthen membership coordination that reinforces the auxiliary role of the TRC. The IFRC will produce Federation-wide Situation Reports, demonstrating the collective support of the IFRC membership towards providing humanitarian assistance to the affected population. Written and audio-visual content will be produced, along with relevant social media and digital products, as appropriate. Communications content will be promoted on regional and global IFRC channels, including social media, and shared with National Societies in the IFRC network. A Federation-wide data collection framework will be established to underpin data-driven coordination efforts.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The IFRC will support the coordination between the RC/RC Movement partners operating inside and outside Türkiye while Turkish Red Crescent is in charge of the coordination mechanism. It has established a number of coordination mechanisms at multiple levels, including the sharing of timely information about the earthquake response operations in Syria and Türkiye through informative meetings and briefings about the situation and TRC`s response plan. The coordination of response information will be supported through the IFRC`s Country Delegation in-country, which in turn are supported by relevant coordination channels at IFRC`s Europe Regional Office and headquarters.

External coordination

The Turkish authorities lead the overall coordination and management of humanitarian assistance for disasters, with the TRC continuing to work closely with AFAD, relevant ministries, security authorities and other relevant agencies as and when required. The Ministry of Family and Social Services announced that 250 million Turkish lira in cash aid was transferred to 10 cities affected by the earthquakes through the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations. AFAD announced that international assistance was called for in the field of urban search and rescue through the Emergency Response Coordination Center (ERCC) during the meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. International support has been offered by NATO, MSF, and 45 individual countries including Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Israel, Bulgaria, and Romania. TRC has been approached for inquiries and offers of support by several other external partners including the UN (more specifically IOM and UNHCR) and INGOs. The TRC`s migration department is coordinating these efforts. Over the last years, the Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC have been always closely coordinated with humanitarian, development and national coordination mechanisms, including interagency working groups and 3RP structures, as an integral part of our humanitarian and developmental activities. We will continue with this approach taking part in the coordination mechanisms to be established for the Earthquake response in the coming weeks.

After 31 December 2023, the IFRC Emergency Appeal response activities to this disaster will continue under the Türkiye Plan for 2024. IFRC Country Plans show a holistic view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country action. This process aims to streamline activities under one plan while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met. Information will be shared in due course should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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