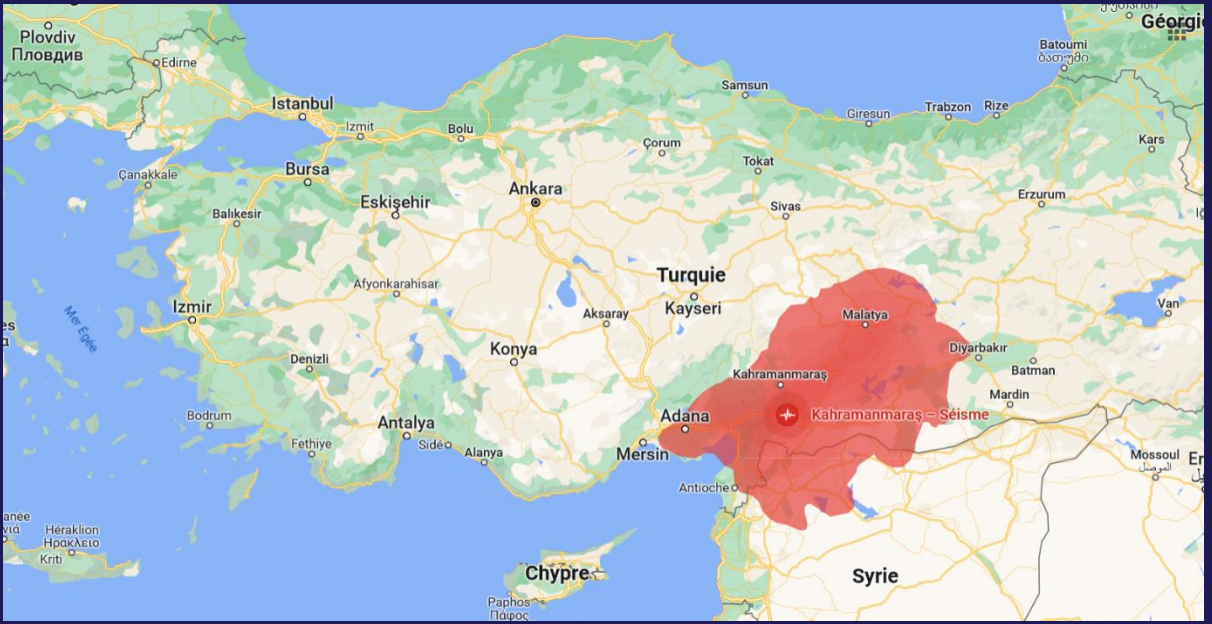


# EARTHQUAKES IN TURKIYE AND SYRIA



## Emergency Response

8 February 2023

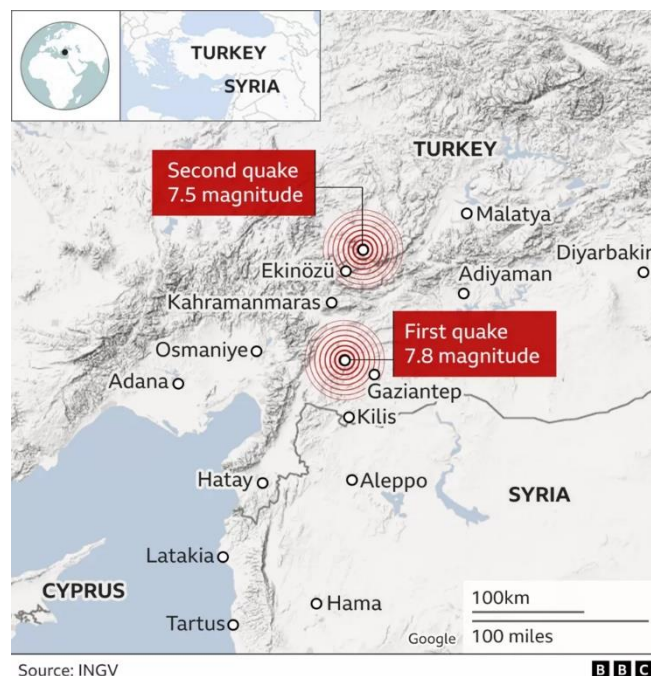


In the wake of the violent earthquakes that have just hit Türkiye and Syria, causing thousands of people injured and dead, Doctors of the World's teams present on the ground are assessing the damage and needs and are rolling out an emergency response. The first emergency support of 250,000€ has already been allocated. Doctors of the World is currently raising funds to prepare scaled-up response after ongoing needs assessments. In advance, many thanks for your present attention and possible support.

## 1. SITUATION AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES

Both Turkish and Syrian governments have appealed for international assistance.

The human death toll is expected to rise further since hundreds of people are still believed to be trapped under rubble as rescue workers searched mounds of wreckage in cities and towns across the area.



### In Türkiye

- An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 occurred in the Pazarlık district of Kahramanmaraş (southern Türkiye). The intensity of the earthquake that took place at 04:17 in the morning also shook the surrounding provinces. A second massive earthquake with 7.6 magnitude, hit Kahramanmaraş once again approximately at 1:24 p.m, followed by several aftershocks.
- Buildings were destroyed in Kahramanmaraş, Adiyaman, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakir, Adana, Osmaniye, Gaziantep, Malatya, Hatay (Antakya).
- The situation is very serious in Antakya, and Doctors of the World is still trying to get news from all staff, as some colleagues are still missing.
- **NEEDS:** The survivors need winterization, NFI, emergency kits, food, and emergency health response. In addition, people are injured on the streets and hospitals are damaged. People need tents because of the high number of homeless.

## In Syria

- On 7 February, the Syrian Ministry of Health (MoH) reported thousands of casualties mainly, in Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama, Idlib countryside and Tartous.
- The Syrian government has announced a state of emergency, with all resources mobilized for the earthquake response.
- The Ministry of Health reports that essential health services, such as childbirth, including caesarean sections, are not affected as specialized health facilities are operating separately. The Ministry of Health has not yet decided to open the new emergency hospital in Aleppo. The decision may be reconsidered depending on developments.
- All private hospitals are instructed to accept all affected patients, especially as public hospitals are already overcrowded even before the earthquake.
- The risks and side effects on the health of the population in Syria after the earthquake are numerous: hypothermia (due to inadequate displacement/shelter), faecal-oral disease (e.g., cholera) due to disrupted water systems and/or crowded conditions, respiratory disease (e.g., influenza, COVID-19) due to crowded conditions, disruption of routine health services.
- The earthquake has caused less impact in the area on Northeast Syria, some damages have been recorded in the city of Kobane, Alep governorate (but assessment not yet available).
- **NEEDS:** For Syria, people must travel to Afrin to the hospitals for care which is over 20 km away by car. Hospitals are damaged and overwhelmed. Many health care providers have suspended services. There is a high need for emergency medical response due to the damage to hospitals. To elaborate; medical kits, first aid kits that includes dressing supplies, surgical consumables, bed covers, and mattresses are among the most needed.

## 2. DOCTORS OF THE WORLD'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE SO FAR

**Doctors of the World's teams are on the ground in most areas of Türkiye and Syria and are currently assessing the most urgent needs as rapidly as possible and are mapping the worst hit areas. Even if some of healthcare staff have lost close relatives, many other members are still unreachable or many of health facilities have been hit, damaged or even destroyed (such as in Hatay, Afrin or Idlib), Doctors of the World is doing everything to support teams on the ground and is taking parts in rescue operations in the worst affected areas in coordination with the local authorities and the international organizations present in the region.**

So far Doctors of the World has allocated 250.000€ to support its emergency response and meet the multiple needs of the affected population (care, food, shelter, etc.) in both Türkiye Syria, and it is expected to be topped up after extra info from ongoing needs assessments.

## In Türkiye

- Immediately after the disaster on February 6, Doctors of the World's team composed of **Psychotherapists, PSS Counsellors, Drivers, Sexual Reproductive Health, Health Counsellors (Health Counsellors), Case Workers, Translators and Field Coordinator, Logistics/Admin Manager** from Izmir and Istanbul have been mobilized and sent to the region of **Antakya**, in close cooperation with the relevant governmental authorities.

- Reaching the area is currently very complicated due to transport limitations in this context and winter weather.
- Doctors of the World has started to **provide services** including individual and group sessions (psychological first aid) to the people who are affected by the earthquake as well as conducting a needs assessment study in the field to better estimate the future needs in the region in accordance with Doctors of the World's field of activity.
- **A search and rescue team** (including 3 experts and 3 dogs) is sent from Spain to support the search for the victims in Hatay in coordination with AFAD (Türkiye Ministry of Interior – Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency). They are about to start the search for injured people under the debris.
- The vast majority of individuals need **psychological support**. Psychological traumas after disasters negatively affect the lives of individuals and impair mental health. So much so that when necessary psychological support is not provided, individuals can see psychopathologies in many different ways.
- The main purpose of Doctors of the World's psychologists is to identify and meet the physical and psychological needs of individuals in this event, where a large number of people were affected.
- Relevant team should be technically strengthened for Doctors of the World's work to be sustainable. It is very important to maintain the sustainability of psychological first aid; training is provided to the staff working voluntarily and assigned from other provinces.

## In Syria

- Doctors of the World is deploying a **mobile clinic** in **Hama**, north side, to provide **emergency care to families and individuals** affected by the collapse of buildings.
- Doctors of the World has launched a **rapid assessment of needs in primary health centers** in **Aleppo** to identify centers capable of receiving patients (inventory of collapsed structures, with severe and minor damage), as well as medical resources in terms of equipment and materials. Based on this assessment, the support will be provided to our partners will be adequate and complete.
- The community centers in Aleppo, as well as physical structures permitting, will be ready to continue to provide **mental health services and psychosocial support and psychological first aid**. These centers are also active in livelihood services and gender-based violence issues. In addition, mobile medical teams will be moved to these community centers, to increase the population's access to health services.
- In **North East Syria**: Preparedness and response plan is drafted to deal with earthquake emergency (first draft on 9th Feb); Topics such as coping with **anxiety, stress, depression, and other effects** of earthquake are included in routine awareness and PSS sessions in the community and PHCCs by CHWs; Procurement process for **IEC material (First aid, MHPSS, nutrition, hygiene related to earthquake)** has started; **Health staff will be trained on First Aid, trauma case management**, prevention of communication diseases, refresher on hygiene promotion, IYCF, MUAC screening during next week. Refresher on relaxation exercises for stress and anxiety, remote PFA, and identify PTSD (Post traumatic stress disorders).
- In **Kobane**, as closest area to the epicenter: Started an emergency night shift in Mishtanauer PHCC that is inside Kobani City. Key staff such as doctor, Nurses, pharmacist, etc. are ensured in the shift. **Ambulance service** is ensured during night for emergency referrals. Medical supplies are increased for first aid services; Psychological First Aid (PFA) sessions have started with people who are living in tents around the city (approx. 400 people in 7 tents) through CHWs. Awareness on Hygiene promotion, IYCF, and prevention from communicable diseases.
- Doctors of the World also provides psychosocial support to the teams in Syria for their well-being and to strengthen their capacities for an optimal response as part of the affected communities themselves.

- **MAIN AREAS OF INTERVENTION: Afrin, Aleppo, Idlib, Kobane**

Doctors of the World, either in collaboration with local partners or through direct implementation, will respond to the emergency by providing quality **free-of-charge healthcare services in both countries.**

The intervention will ensure to reduce the morbidity and the mortality of the earthquake-affected population Doctors of the World's main activities will focus on

- 1) the provision of emergency primary health care services by qualified medical and paramedical human resources through primary health facilities and mobile medical units, and
- 2) the provision of psychological support and psychological support to the earthquake-affected population.

The intervention could aim to respond to the most urgent health needs of a population of **approximately 200,000 individuals**. But ongoing assessment needs will define more in detail the exact intervention, the number of individuals that are expected to benefit directly or indirectly and the financial support that will need to be mobilized.

### **3. DOCTORS OF THE WORLD'S PREVIOUS OPERATIONS OF IN THE AREA**

#### **In Türkiye**

- Since 2015, Doctors of the World has been implementing programs in **Antakya** providing refugees and undocumented migrants with free access to healthcare, protection, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.

#### **In Syria**

- Since 2018, Doctors of the World has been working in Syria providing primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, nutritional programs, epidemics control, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services across **14 health centres in the North East and 12 health centres in the North West, and one basic emergency obstetric and new-born care centre**, covering a global population of **more than 2 million people**.
- Since August 2022 Doctors of the World has been working in areas controlled by the Syrian government and in areas under Kurdish control, through several partners, providing them technical and financial support in primary health care, psychosocial support, PHCs and mobile clinics/teams.

# This is an emergency within a critical long last emergency.

*“Surely there will be a need for material help for reconstruction because this earthquake, as violent as we have ever seen before, has caused so many buildings to collapse. But first and foremost, we ask all this suffering and war lasting for years to stop”.*

***Mariam, Syrian woman from Aleppo***



**Thank you for your help.**

