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# EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT FOR TÜRKİYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 2, 2023



## ABOUT US

Doctors of the World (DoTW)/Médecins du Monde (Mdm) Türkiye registered as Dünya Doktorları Derneği (DDD) is a Türkiye-based humanitarian non-governmental organization that facilitates access to healthcare for populations affected by armed conflict, violence, natural disasters, disease, famine, poverty and exclusion.

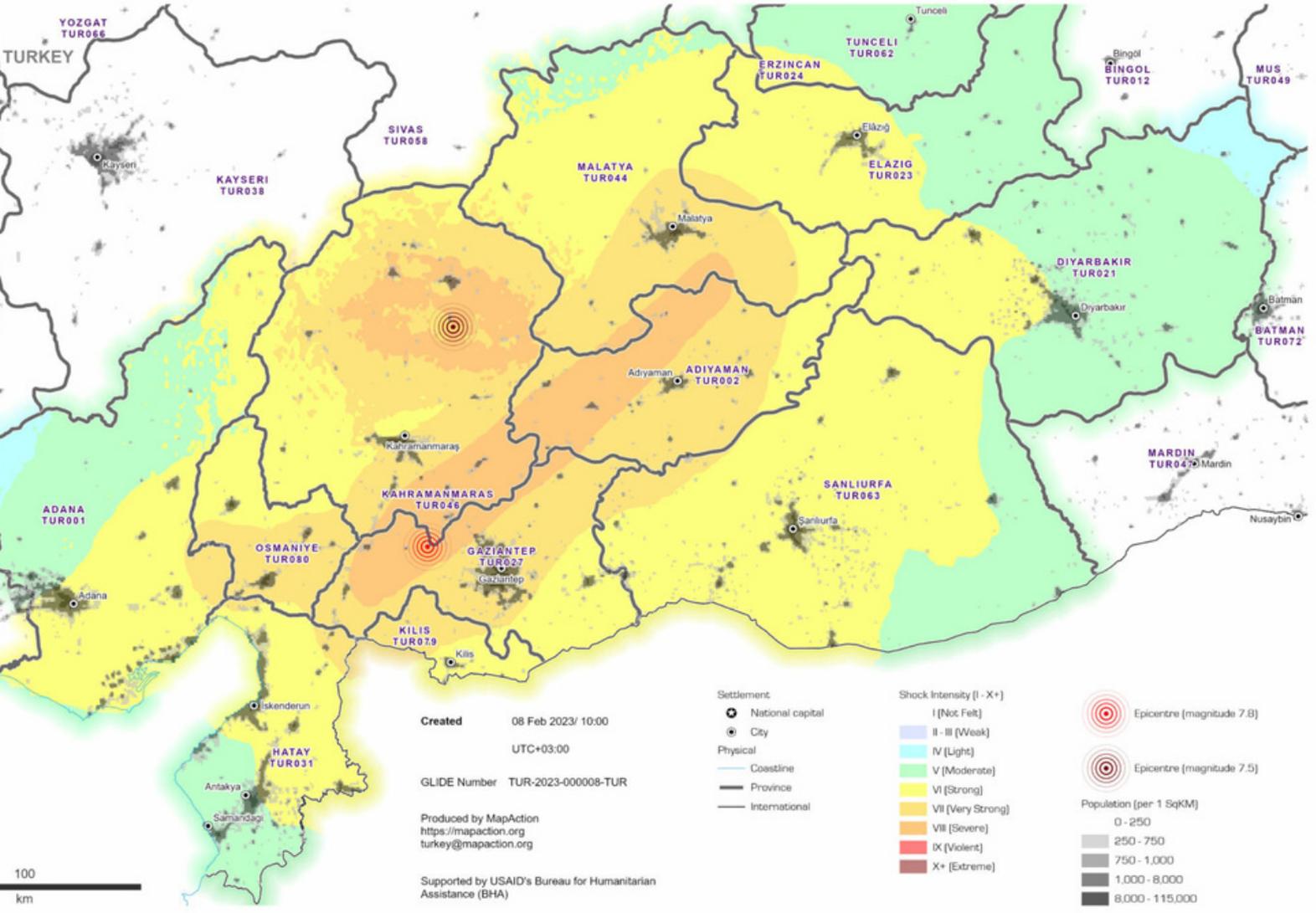
DoTW Türkiye collaborates with partners and key stakeholders to implement projects that facilitate access to primary and secondary healthcare services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to respond to the medical needs of the affected populations.

DoTW Türkiye is the 16th member of the Doctors of the World (Médecins du Monde) International Network that is committed to meeting the health needs of vulnerable people globally. DoTW Türkiye also has years of experience safely providing access to health care and support to vulnerable populations in Türkiye and Syria in collaboration with local and national authorities and in coordination with other humanitarian actors.

## CONTEXT

On the night of February 6, 2023, at 4:17 a.m. local time, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Türkiye and Syria and Türkiye has announced a three-month state of emergency in 10 provinces worst affected by the earthquake. This marks the most powerful earthquake recorded in Türkiye since 1939. The quake was followed by 78 aftershocks, and it hit the region a second time in the afternoon on the 6th of February at 13:24 p.m. with a magnitude of 7.5 in Ekinozu/Kahramanmaraş province. On February 20, a 6.4-magnitude earthquake and a second measuring 5.8 also hit Türkiye's southern province of Hatay, terrifying those left in a region devastated by twin earthquakes two weeks ago.

After the earthquake on February 20, Turkish Medical Association (Türk Tabipleri Birliği) had announced that there is no longer a public hospital in the Hatay region that could provide health services. On February 27, another 5.6-magnitude earthquake hit Türkiye's southern province of Malatya. The earthquakes have been followed by 9,990 aftershocks in total. The earthquakes led to the collapse of a number of buildings in the affected regions. More than 15 million people are affected and resulting in more than 53,000 at the time of this report. In Syria, at least 7,259 people (4,600 in NWS) are reported dead with the majority of victims recorded in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia and Tartous. In Türkiye, the authorities count at least 45,089 dead. More than a thousand buildings have completely collapsed, raising fears of even higher human losses.



## NEEDS

### Türkiye

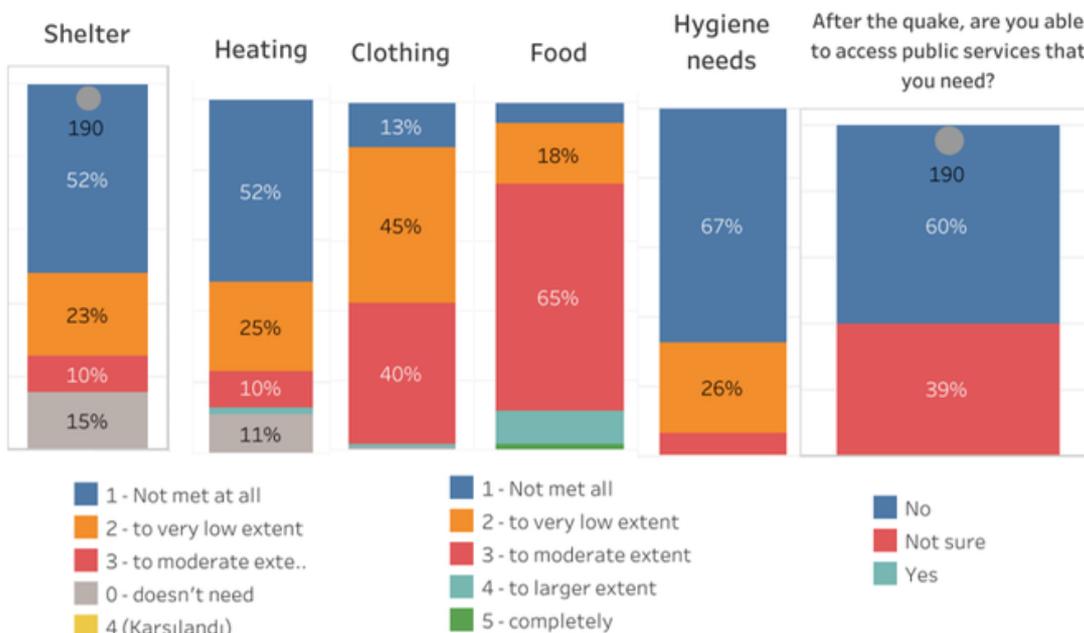
**Overall needs:** According to DoTW Türkiye's rapid assessments, the most important needs were winterization, hygiene kits, shelter, clothing, and food. Earthquake survivors still need winterization, NFI, emergency kits, heaters, hygiene kits, food, medicine, more services points and emergency health response. Hatay, and Antakya are still very hard to reach.

The vast majority of the city and buildings are destroyed and blocking roads. Some roads have been completely destroyed in the earthquake. People, including our staff, are sleeping in the freezing cold. Numerous collective tent sites are currently being established throughout the city. Regardless, even within the tents there is a high need for heaters.

The Antakya district, in particular, has been widely evacuated, with the remaining inhabitants relocating to designated tent sites managed by AFAD. The excessive buildup of dust in the city has reached levels that jeopardize the health of the public. However, residents in other districts remain steadfast in their desire to remain in their homes.

Additionally, although the government has made progress in establishing electricity and water infrastructure in Hatay, there are still some individuals who are unable to access this vital service. There are multitude protection-related risks due to poor and overcrowded tent/shelter conditions which exacerbate child labor, GBV, SGBV, lack of access to education etc.

To what extent your basic needs in the post - quake settings are met?



**Health needs:** The initial findings of DOTW's assessment conducted in Hatay indicate that the most pressing needs in the region are related to accessing public services, which was identified as a challenge by 60% of participants. Hospitals are damaged and evacuated.

It is imperative to take proactive measures to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses in the affected areas. Numerous cases of individuals suffering from bites and mange have been reported, underscoring the urgent need for action, particularly the hygiene needs.

The dense dust emanating from the buildings destroyed by the earthquake also poses a significant threat to the public health in the region, elevating the risk of respiratory illnesses and other related health complications caused by poor air quality and pollution. Sahra hospitals are working below their capacities, and state hospitals with less damage are being activated.

Refugees are more vulnerable than the local community, as many are hesitant to engage with and share their needs. While the local population may not face significant challenges in reaching food, refugees still report difficulties accessing this necessity on a consistent basis. Syrians are crossing from Hatay to northwest Syria due to fears of the ongoing aftershocks and to stay with relatives.

**Mental Health Needs:** The psychological traumas that individuals experience after disasters can have a profound and lasting negative impact on their lives, often leading to impairments in mental health. Children in particular, and other vulnerable populations can be greatly affected by ongoing aftershocks and the risk of further collapses of already-damaged buildings. As a result, there is a critical need for effective and comprehensive psychosocial support to address the significant emotional and psychological needs of the affected individuals.

**Refugees:** The earthquake in Türkiye has caused refugees to relocate to İzmir and Istanbul. One of the significant challenges faced by refugees residing in the earthquake-affected cities is the lack of accommodation options in different cities. As a result, many refugees are forced to remain undocumented and without access to basic services such as education and healthcare. Legal support on registration and information sessions on services are critical.

Additionally, even if refugees are registered and approved for relocation, they will be responsible for their own expenses during the relocation period, including transportation and food. This can create significant financial burdens for already vulnerable refugees, making it even more challenging for them to rebuild their lives.

There are multitude of protection-related risks due to poor and overcrowded shelter conditions which exacerbate child labor, GBV, SGBV, lack of access to education etc. Additionally, another significant concern pertains to the mental health of affected individuals, which may manifest as PTSD, anxiety, depression, and difficulty in recognizing emotions. Furthermore, the host community also faces significant challenges in fulfilling their fundamental necessities, including PSS needs. In the current situation, **hate speech** has been on the rise in Türkiye, posing a significant threat to refugees.

To support refugees who relocate to Istanbul and Izmir, the following needs must be addressed:

1. Shelter,
2. Furniture; refrigerator, tube, stove, cooker, bed, heater etc.
3. Market cards; foods, hygiene, cleaning equipment, and basic equipment,
4. Clothes,
5. Baby Kits,

**Service Needs:** Protection (including language assistance, legal assistance to registration and referrals to school-child protection etc.), legal assistance, MHPSS, awareness raising, Information seasons (services mapping also important), health: SNF etc.



## Syria

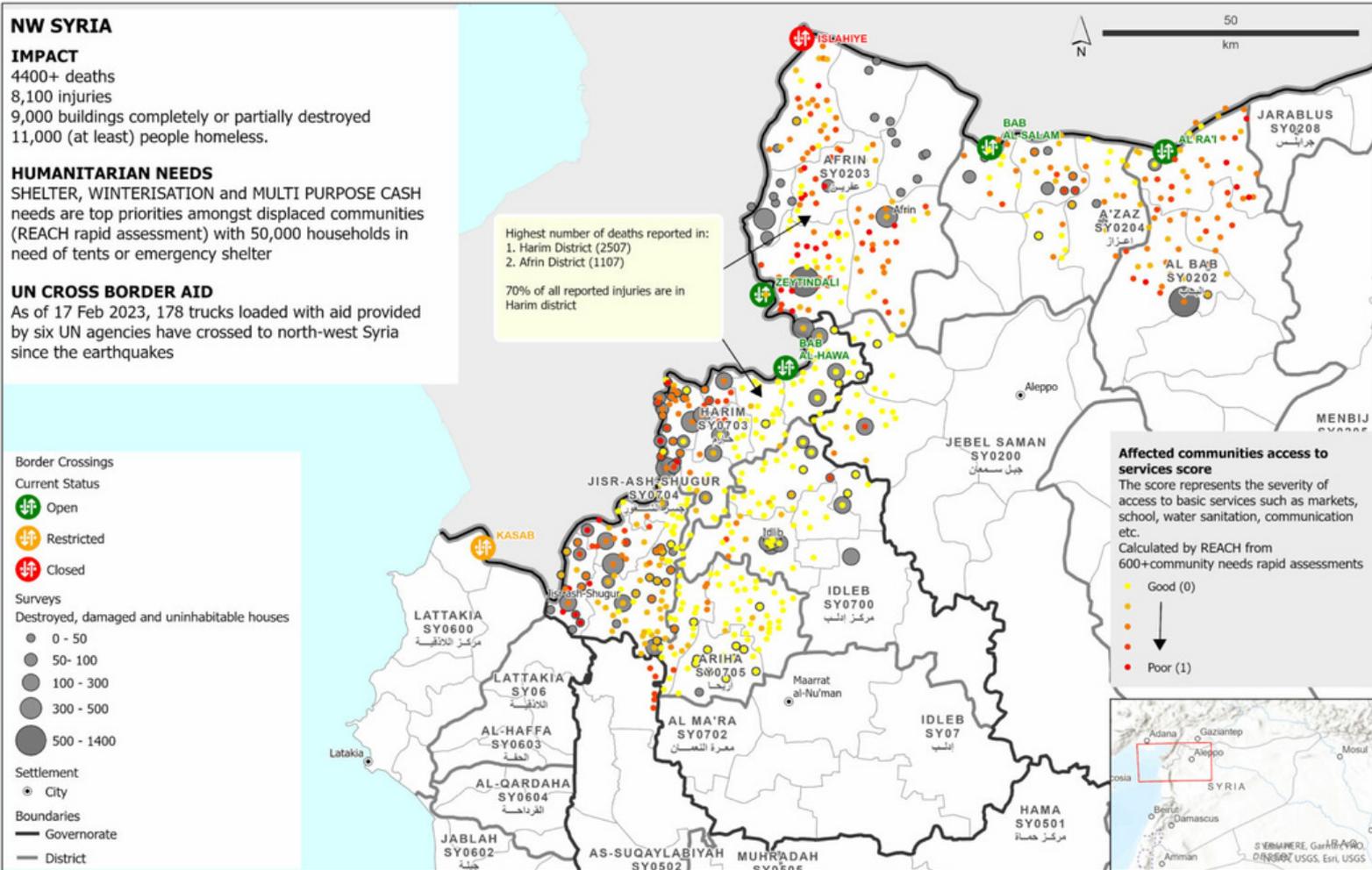
**Overall needs:** There has been significant damage in Northwest Syria (western Aleppo and northern Idlib) to housing, administration and health infrastructure. The situation is catastrophic. Equipment to clear the area is slow to arrive.

Jandairis town in Western Afrin district has been destroyed. People in Jandairis must travel to Afrin to the hospitals for care which are over 20 km away by car.

There is an urgent need for additional tents, as a significant number of individuals in the region are currently without adequate shelter. The stores are mostly open and operating in Syria after the earthquake but in order for the affected population to be able to purchase their needs, cash support also becomes essential.

**MAP ACTION** Syrian Arab Republic: Earthquake  
Situation overview as of 17th Feb 2023

MA224 v01  
Scan for latest maps



## Syria

**Health needs:** Many health care providers have suspended services. There is a high need for emergency medical response due to the high level of damage to the hospitals.

There are not enough medications and supplies. Health services need medical kits, Hygiene Kits, first aid kits that includes dressing supplies, surgical consumables, bed covers, and mattresses are among the most needed.

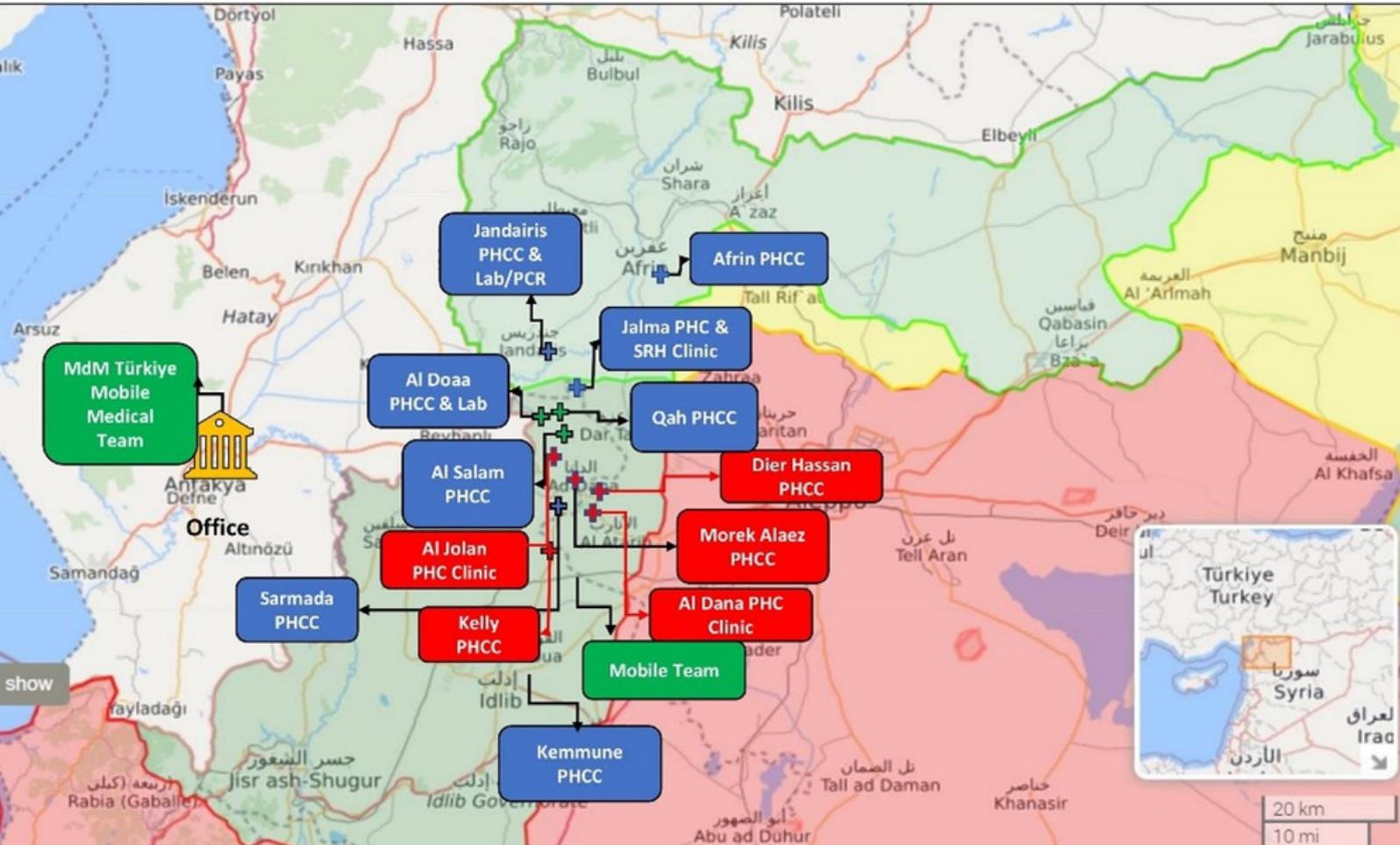
OCHA's rapid assessment shows that access to key services was reportedly low, with no access to healthcare reported in 20% of assessed communities in Western Aleppo and Northern Idlib, which were directly impacted.

**New Displacements and Syrians from Türkiye:** There are newly displaced people within NWS, and from Türkiye to Syria. According to recent displacement trends, people have been displaced from Western Afrin district to Afrin city as well as IDP dense locations in Idlib (Dana sub-district) where it is safer with tents. People from the Turkish border area of Salqin have been displaced to Idlib districts.

The Turkish Minister of National Defense has reported that approximately 42,000 Syrian refugees have returned to Syria as a result of the earthquake and difficult living conditions in Türkiye. Many individuals have relocated to Idlib due to the lower percentage of damaged buildings in that region. The anticipated increase in the number of returnees, which is expected to exceed at least 150,000 individuals, will result in a significant demographic shift in the region.

As a consequence, the humanitarian needs of the area are also projected to rise significantly, with estimates indicating a surge of no less than 22% in the level of assistance required. This situation is putting more pressure on health services with Syrians displaced from Hatay presenting at DoTW Idlib PHCCs.

# DOCTORS OF THE WORLD TÜRKİYE'S RESPONSE



DoTW Türkiye NWS Operations. Of its original 13 Primary Health Care Clinics (PHCCs), two have been closed permanently, while another three remain suspended due to funding cuts in July 2022.

## Türkiye Response

DoTW Türkiye office in Antakya has been damaged. The office had been strengthened by the support and collaboration of the field teams based in Istanbul and Izmir but after the earthquake on February 20th, it was extremely damaged again and unfortunately no longer available for use.

DoTW Mobile Medical Teams are on the ground in rural and urban areas of Hatay province providing primary health care consultations and medications, psychosocial support, and basic WASH.



Olivier Papegnies/Médecins du Monde

(DoTW Türkiye Mobile Medical Units in camps and during tent visits. February 2023, Hatay)



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**Static and Mobile Teams providing health and PSS services:** DoTW Türkiye has 13 different containers established to create a shelter and a safe space for the staff in the short term and serve as a functional facility for providing services in the long term. Some containers are already planned as PHCCs, activity rooms, and pharmacy.

DoTW has a two pronged approach: stationary and mobile. DoTW's stationary team is comprised of a physician, a midwife, and a clinical psychologist and they use the containers. In contrast, the mobile unit is segregated into two distinct groups, each consisting of a psychologist, a nurse, a case worker, and a physician. These mobile teams offer on-site assistance on a tent-to-tent basis in areas where governmental and other aid entities are unable to provide services. Inter-group referrals are made based on the needs of the recipients.

Following the occurrence of a second earthquake, which struck the region just two weeks after the initial tremor, DoTW Türkiye continued providing critical services to the affected communities as DoTW Türkiye's staff is already in the region. Even the containers were affected by the second earthquake on February 20.

The contamination of water sources poses a significant risk of waterborne illnesses. DoTW Türkiye's plan is to provide information sessions and kits to prevent the mentioned illnesses. The continuing aftershocks in the region pose a significant threat to individuals, as they continue to experience the traumatic impact of the initial earthquake. There is a critical need for effective and comprehensive psychosocial support to address the significant emotional and psychological needs of affected individuals.

As of now, DoTW Türkiye provides first aid response (FPA), health screening, medication distribution, psychological first aid for trauma, and in the process of creating safe spaces.



*(February 2023, Hatay: Mobile teams in Camps)*

## **Earthquake displaced people to Istanbul, Izmir and Manisa**

As of February 24, based on the information from the Presidency of Migration Management, there were 6,700 refugees (around 10,000 refugees with, without registration) currently relocated to Izmir. Additionally, 600 refugees have been relocated to Manisa, with roughly 200 of them being Afghan refugees. The directorate has stated that local authorities will not be involved in providing basic needs (cash, kits, food, clothes, etc.) for the refugees as there is a huge demand from the local community, and only NGOs will be responsible for doing so.

In Izmir, Manisa and Istanbul, to manage the relocation process and decrease the vulnerability of refugees to language barriers, financial and other challenges, DoTW Türkiye is providing health-oriented protection services including language assistance, legal assistance to registration and referrals to school-child protection, PSS, awareness raising, information sessions, basic health services, including SNF.

Moreover, DoTW Türkiye is working on services mapping to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided to refugees. However, given the ongoing aftershocks and earthquakes in the region, it is expected that the number of refugees relocating to major cities will continue to increase. The recent earthquake on February 20 in Hatay, as well as the anticipated earthquakes in Adana and Cyprus, only highlight the importance of these efforts.

As more and more people are forced to leave their homes and seek shelter in unfamiliar places, it is essential that they receive the necessary support to rebuild their lives and to access basic services such as health care, education, and housing.

## Syria Response

**PHCC Status:** All DoTW Türkiye PHCCs are operating. DoTW Türkiye directly operates its health care facilities with its own staff and resources.

### Afrin/Western Aleppo:

Afrin city and Jandairis town are badly affected. Jandairis town is almost demolished and needs emergency response. People are trapped in collapsed buildings but there is no equipment to pull them out. DoTW Türkiye staff estimate more than 800 dead around Jandairis town alone. DoTW Türkiye Jandairis PHCC's entrance is partially damaged, but it is operating. The third earthquake that struck the region on February 20 resulted in widespread panic and fear. As a result, many people spent the night on the streets, and Afrin was more affected than Idlib.

Nonetheless, DoTW Türkiye's three Afrin PHCCs are open and contributing to emergency response. DoTW Türkiye staff is coordinating with the Civil Defense and Hatay Health Directorate. We have seconded one of our Orthopedics Doctor to Afrin hospital to help respond to the demand. Local health authorities have also asked for our support in health services.

**Needs and Planned Response:** Due to the increasing demand for its health facilities, medication is running low, and a mobile medical team (MMT) is needed to reach the most vulnerable. DoTW Türkiye needs funding to launch a mobile medical team to visit displaced and immobile people in the region. The MMT will provide first aid response, health screenings, medication distribution and psychological first aid particularly to displaced and earthquake affected people. In addition, DoTW Türkiye needs more medications, emergency aid, etc. and tents or containers for homeless staff to allow them to continue working.



(Afrin PHCC, February 2023)

## Idlib:

In Idlib most of DoTW Türkiye staff are operational. Some staff have lost homes and have missing relatives.

All 5 PHCCs are operational and respond to the needs. DoTW Türkiye has a MMT that provides first aid response, health screenings, medication distribution and psychological first aid. The MMT are overwhelmed.



*(DoTW Türkiye Mobile Medical Units in camps and during tent visits. February 2023, Idlib)*

**Health service response:** DoTW Türkiye's 5 open PHCCs in Dana sub-district in Idlib have been operating: Sarmada, Al Doaa, Al Salam, Qah, and Kemmune. These 5 PHCCs are in the most earthquake affected areas.

DoTW Türkiye staff respond to the local needs and provide first-aid responses. Sarmada town was badly damaged by the earthquake. After the earthquake on February 20, all employees of the DoTW Türkiye in Idlib are safe. While there were some minor damages sustained, such as light cracks in the walls of several DoTW Türkiye clinics, including the Al-Salam clinic in Qah, there were no significant injuries or major structural damage. DoTW Türkiye staff are coordinating with Idlib Health Directorate and others including distribution of medications and services.

DoTW's remaining PHCCs in the area (Dana, Dier Hassan, Kelly) remain suspended funding has not been received to reopen.

**Needs and Planned response:** DoTW Türkiye need more medications, emergency aid, etc. DoTW Türkiye have a temporary mobile medical team (doctor, nurse, midwife, pharmacists etc.), already in the area but it needs funding for the MMT and medications to continue.

DoTW Türkiye is redeploying more staff, but it needs support. The Sarmada clinic's mobile team has responded by visiting the Wadi al-Rasif Termanin camp and other shelters like Bardakli School to provide medicine and psychological support to those affected by the earthquake. Approximately 20 meters to the east of the Al-Kemmune Clinic, preparations are also underway to establish a temporary shelter camp.



*(February 2023 Idlib: Sarmada's Mobile Team visit temporary shelter camp)*

The high number of people injured in the earthquake that hit Idlib has put significant pressure on the region's hospitals, which are striving to provide care and support to those affected by the disaster. However, this has led to a large amount of medical waste being generated in these hospitals. DoTW Türkiye 's two incinerators are now receiving medical waste from most of the medical facilities in Idlib, and DoTW Türkiye staff are working tirelessly to intensify their efforts to safely and effectively burn and dispose of this waste.



*(Idlib – 14<sup>th</sup> 2023, Idlib: Incinerators)*

## Türkiye

DoTW Türkiye is the lead agency for the Health Working Group, the MHPSS Working Group and the Protection Working Group in Hatay.

UNDAC has conducted assessments on the impacts of the recent earthquake, identified service gaps, and evaluated the existing health capacities in Hatay's districts. DoTW Türkiye is joining the NGO coordination meeting, held daily at 9:00 am that arranged by UNDAC. As such DoTW Türkiye also has collaborations with different NGOs in the region such as Hayata Destek (Support to Life), İhtiyaç Haritası (Needs Map), Save the Children, and Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent).

Furthermore, DoTW Türkiye works closely with various INGOs in Hatay, such as CARE, Concern, WHH, IRC, DRC, ACTED, Samaritan's Purse, and the Spanish and Belgian embassies, among others. DoTW Türkiye, as a member of the platform, participates in the daily meetings held by the Disaster Platform (Afet Platformu).

## Syria

In Syria, DoTW Türkiye are collaborating with the Health Cluster which is leading the earthquake response in the area. We are joining the meetings and receiving email updates from them. We are also responding to their surveys and participating in their assessments.

DoTW Türkiye is collaborating with Independent Doctors Association (IDA), who have funding for a temporary mobile surgical room. IDA's Temporary Mobile Surgical Room has been placed next to DoTW's clinic in Jandairis and DoTW is providing them with electricity. They are also referring their PHC cases to DoTW Türkiye.

DoTW Türkiye is in coordination with the local authorities such as the Idlib Health Directorate and Aleppo Health Directorate.

## Press Releases

"Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde Türkiye in mourning for colleagues who lost their lives in Türkiye – Syria Earthquake"

Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria: Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde in solidarity with the people of Türkiye and Syria

## Social Media

All content regarding the earthquakes have been shared on DoTW Türkiye's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn).

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## Media Coverage and Interviews

[CLICK HERE](#) (Turkish) - Cumhuriyet (English: "Republic") is the oldest up-market Turkish daily newspaper. The newspaper was awarded the Freedom of Press Prize by Reporters Without Borders in 2015 and the Alternative Nobel Prize in 2016. This report about DoTW-T's emergency operations in the earthquake zone in Hatay has been published by many media channels, including Haber Global, İhlas News Agency, CNN Türk, Yeniçağ (New Era) Newspaper, Star, Akşam etc.

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## Advocacy

[Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde Türkiye urges to continue and intensify health measures to prevent earthquake-related epidemics of infectious diseases](#)

[Médecins du Monde International Network urges for unimpeded access and quick mobilization of funds after the earthquakes that hit Türkiye and Syria](#)

