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EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT FOR TÜRKİYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

FEBRUARY 17-22, 2023



ABOUT US

Doctors of the World (DoTW)/Medecins 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.

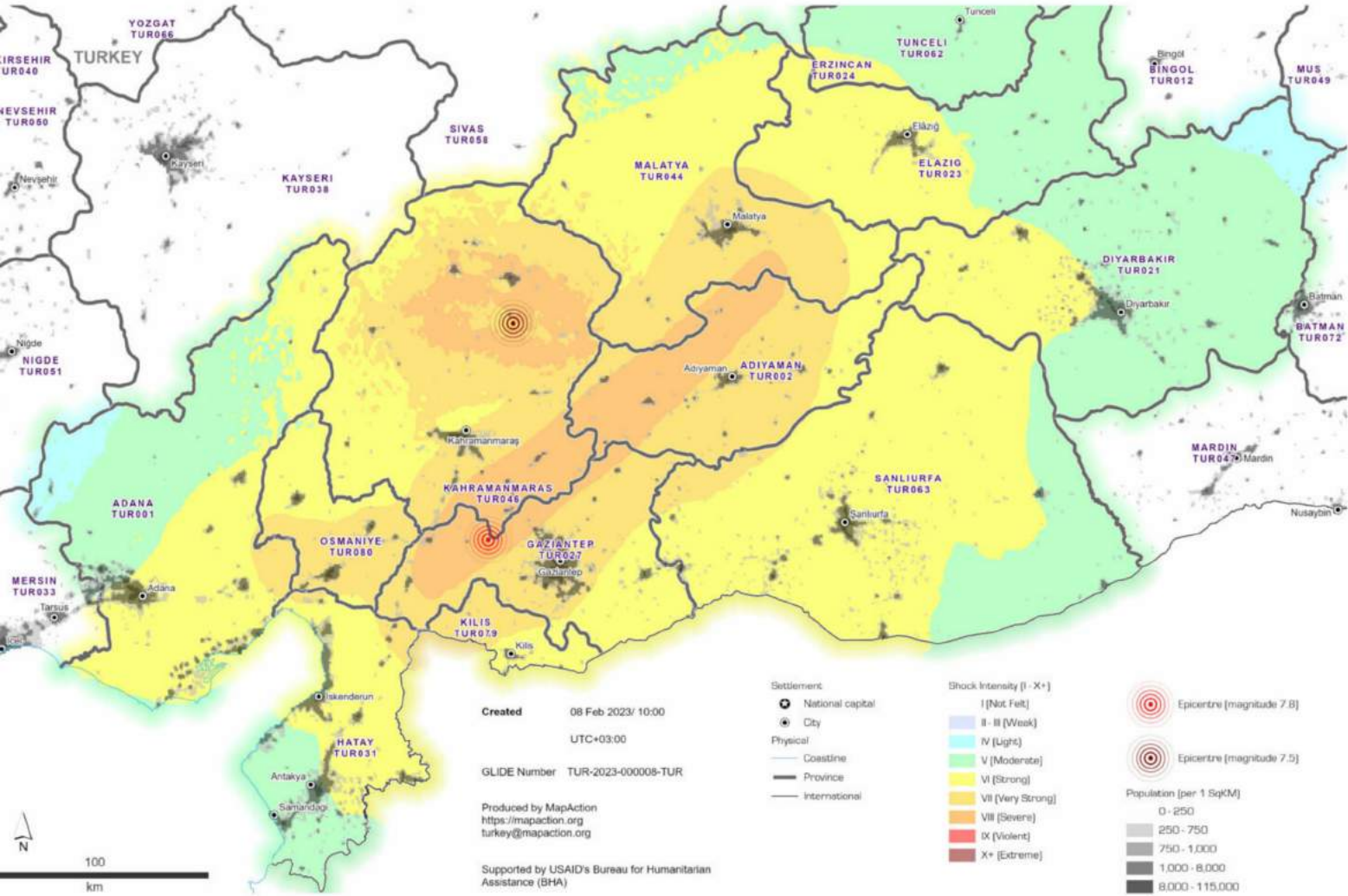
DoTW Türkiye is the 16th member of the Doctors of the World (Médecins du Monde) International Network that is committed to meeting the health needs of vulnerable people globally. DoTW Türkiye also has years of experience safely providing access to health care and support to vulnerable populations in 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 resulting in more than 50,000 at the time of this report 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/Kahramanmaras province. More than 15 million people are affected.

In Syria, at least 8,000 people (4,500 in NWS) are reported dead as of February 22 with the majority of victims recorded in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia and Tartous. In Türkiye, the authorities count at least 43,556 dead. More than a thousand buildings have completely collapsed, raising fears of even higher human losses. On February 20th 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. 6 people are reported death and over 294 individuals injured in Türkiye while it is foreseen that more than 500 people were injured in NWS. The earthquake led to the collapse of a number of cracked walls and buildings in the regions struck by the previous earthquake.

After the earthquake on February 20, Turkish Medical Association (Türk Tabipler Birliği) had announced that there is no longer a public hospital in the Hatay region that could provide health services.



NEEDS

Türkiye

Earthquake survivors need winterization, NFI, emergency kits, heaters, hygiene kits, food, medicine, more services points and emergency health response. In addition, people are injured on the streets and hospitals are damaged and evacuated.

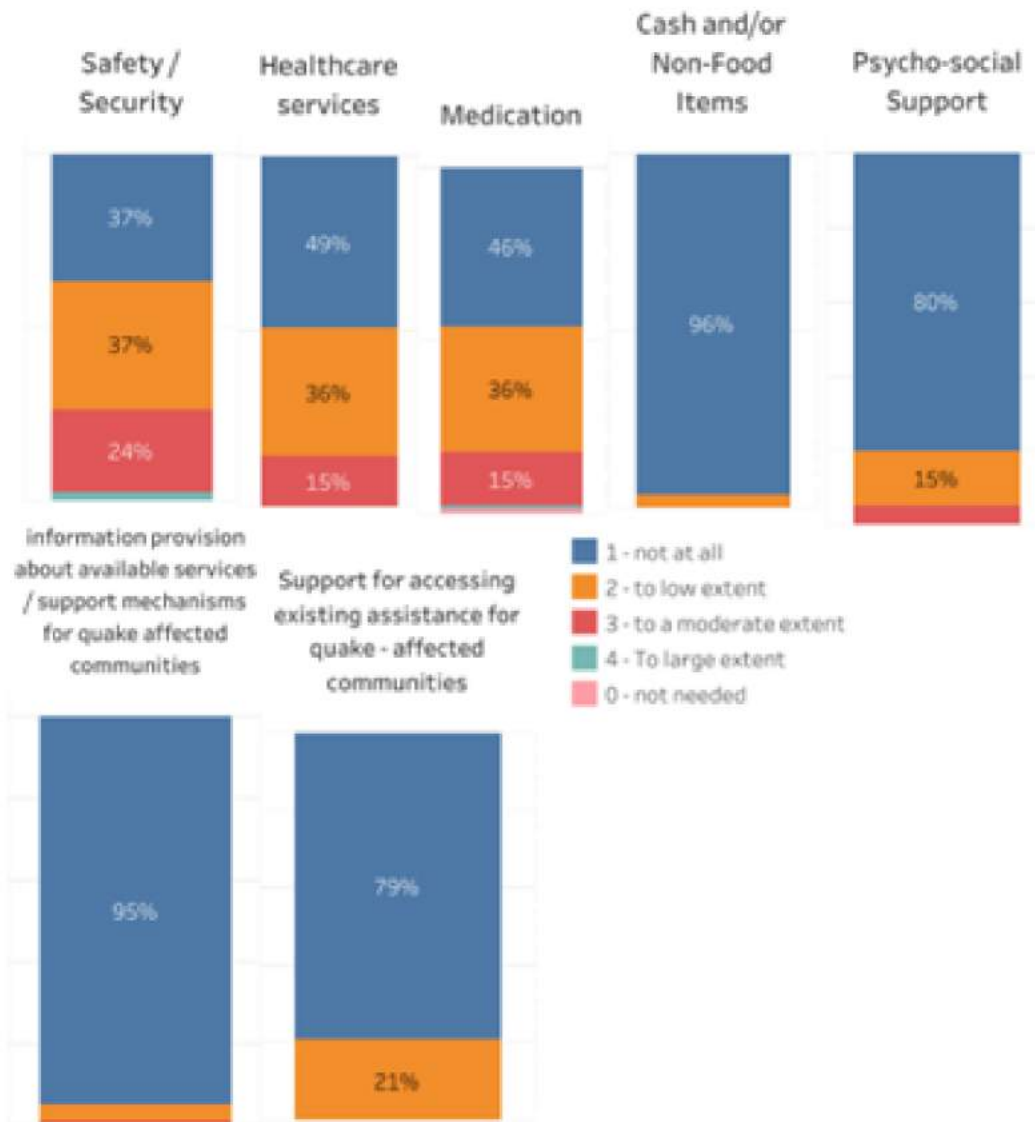
There are some shelters provided but more people need tents because of the high number of homeless. It is imperative to take proactive measures to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses in the affected areas.

Sahra (field) hospitals are working below their capacities, and state hospitals with less damage are being activated. DoTW-T has initiated a rapid assessment to accurately determine the needs and promptly deliver efficient services. DoTW-T interviewed 138 quake - affected community members in more than 10 sub - districts of Antakya, Defne and Samandağ districts. 75% of the sample consists of females and 25% are males. The initial findings of the 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 86% of participants.

The most important needs identified in the survey were winterization, hygiene kits, shelter, clothing, and food. The shelter assistance is almost not existing, and the shelter conditions of the communities are very poor that 38% reported residing outdoor anywhere in their neighborhoods, 11% in vehicles and another 11% in backyards of the houses.

Only 23% reported residing in a tent and only one respondent reported staying in a container that is private and not provided by state or non-state actors. Furthermore, the first results of the assessment of basic needs among the population affected by the earthquake is also given below:

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



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. In particular, children 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.

On the other hand, 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 İzmir, 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

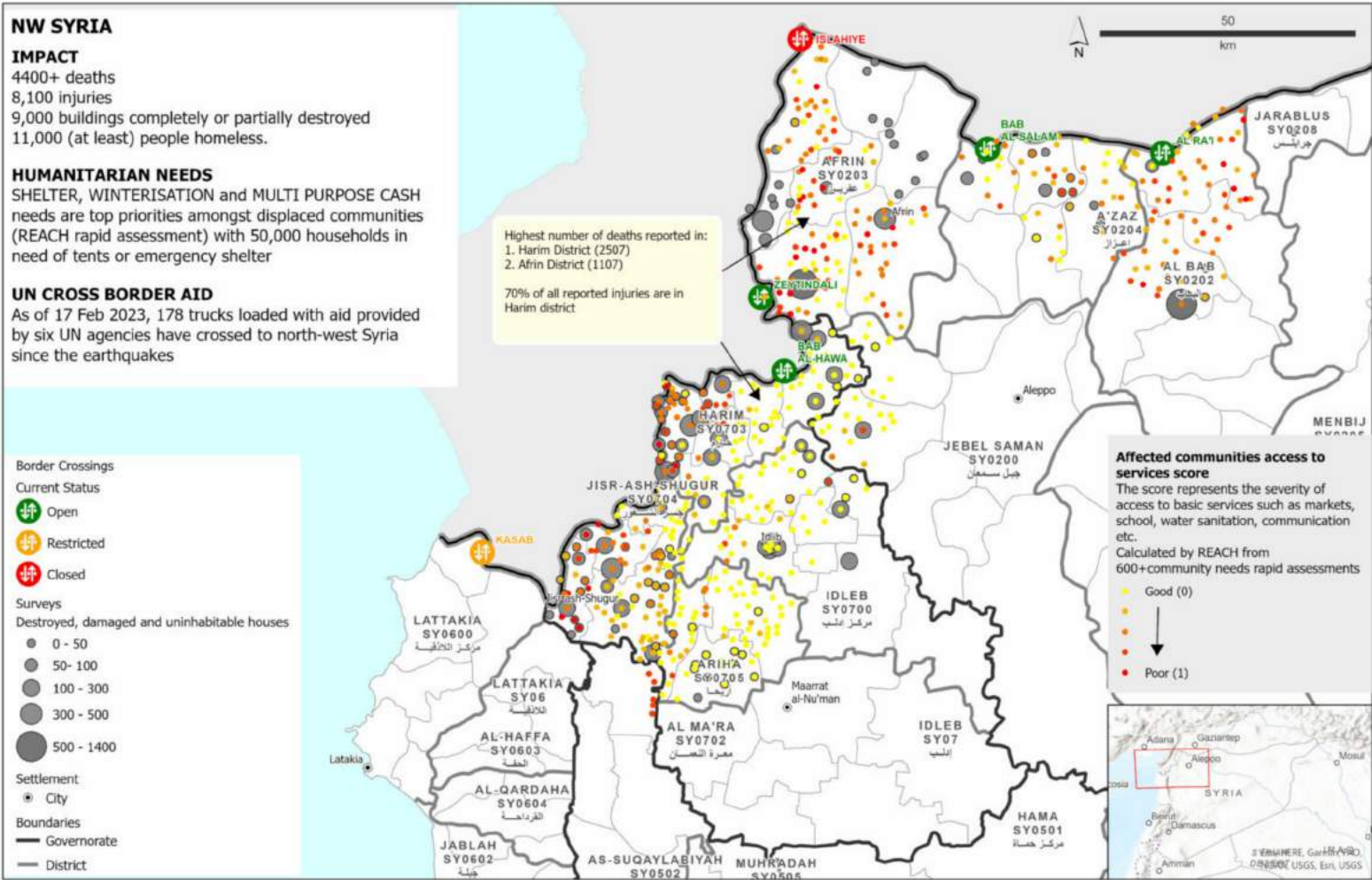
Service Needs: Protection (including language assistance, legal assistance to registration and referrals to school-Child Protection etc.), Legal Assistance, MHPSS, awareness raising, Information sessions (Services Mapping also important), Health: SNF etc.

Syria

For Syria, people must travel to Afrin to the hospitals for care which is over 20 km away by car. Hospitals are damaged. 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. To elaborate; 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, which were directly impacted .

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

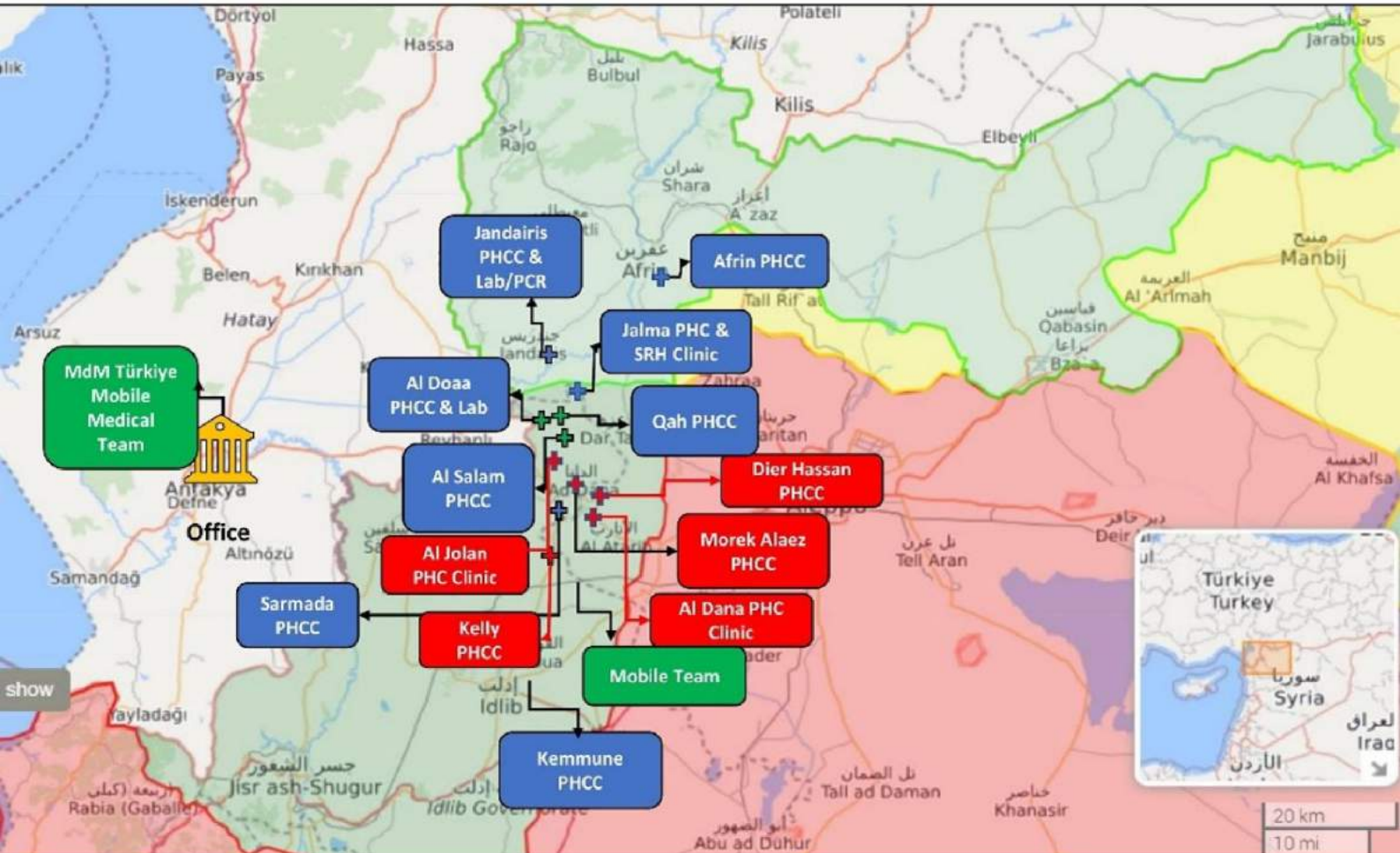
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Data Sources: OSM, NaturalEarth, UNOCHA, Esri, USGS, REACH, ACU

Map created by MapAction (17 Feb 2023). For Humanitarian Use Only.

DOCTORS OF THE WORLD TÜRKİYE'S RESPONSE



DoTW-T Türkiye response. Primary Health Care Clinics (PHCCs) in red have been suspended due to funding cuts in July 2022

Türkiye Response

DoTW-T's Syria Program Coordinator lost his life in Hatay. DoTW-T office in Antakya has been demolished. The office has been strengthened by the support and collaboration of the field teams based in Istanbul and Izmir but after the earthquake on February 20, it was extremely damaged again and unfortunately no longer available for use.

DoTW-T has 13 different containers established in order 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.

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-T continued providing critical services to the affected communities as DoTW-T's staff is already in the region. Even the containers were affected by the second earthquake on February 20.





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(DoTW Türkiye Mobile Team providing psychosocial support and primary health care services in the field in Hatay. February 2023.

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. There is no electricity everywhere, therefore the city is in darkness at night and the weather condition is unbearably cold. 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, the contamination of water sources poses a significant risk of waterborne illnesses.

DoTW-T'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-T provides first aid response, health screening, medication distribution, psychological first aid for trauma, and in the process of creating safe spaces.



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In Izmir, Manisa and Istanbul, to manage the relocation process and decrease the vulnerability of refugees to language barriers, financial and other challenges, the DoTW-T is providing health-oriented protection services including Protection (including language assistance, legal assistance to registration and referrals to school-Child Protection etc.), Legal Assistance, PSS, awareness raising, Information seasons, Health: SNF etc.

Moreover, DoTW-T 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 20th in Hatay, as well as the anticipated earthquakes in Adana and Kibris, 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: 3/3 DoTW-T PHCCs operating. Jandairis PHCC is open over the weekend for patients.

Afrin/Western Aleppo:

We have three confirmed staff dead. Most of our staff in Jandairis town are homeless.

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. Our staff estimate more than 800 dead around Jandairis town alone. Our Jandairis PHCC's entrance is partially damaged, but it is operating. The earthquake that struck the region on February 20th, resulting in widespread panic and fear. As a result, many people spent the night on the streets and Afrin was more affected than Idlib.

Regardless, Our Afrin PHCCs are open and contributing to emergency response. Our 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. We deployed a mobile medical team (MMT) around the region. We also have an MMU in Afrin that provides first aid response, health screenings, medication distribution and psychological first aid. In addition, DoTW-T needs more medications, emergency aid, etc. and tents or containers for homeless staff to allow them to continue working.

Idlib:

In Idlib, most of our staff are operational. We have no confirmed dead or any missing staff. Some staff have lost homes and have missing relatives. All 5 PHCCs are operational and respond to the needs.

In addition, an MMU that provides first aid response, health screenings, medication distribution and psychological first aid.

PHCC: Our 5 open PHCCs in Dana sub-district in Idlib have been operating: Sarmada, Al Doaa, Al Salam, Qah, and Kemmune. Our 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-T in Idlib are safe. While there were some minor damages sustained, such as light cracks in the walls of several DoTW-T clinics, including the Al-Salam clinic in Qah, there were no significant injuries or major structural damage.

Our staff are coordinating with Idlib Health Directorate and others including distribution of medications and services. Our remaining PHCCs in the area (Dana, Jolan, Dier Hassan, Kelly) remain suspended as we do not have funds to reopen.

DoTW-T need more medications, emergency aid, etc. We have a temporary mobile medical team (doctor, nurse, midwife, pharmacists etc), already in the area but we need funding for the MMT and medications to continue. We will be 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 shelter 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.



(Afrin – Feb. 14, 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-T 's two incinerators are now receiving medical waste from most of the medical facilities in Idlib, and DoTW-T staff are working tirelessly to intensify their efforts to safely and effectively burn and dispose of this waste.



Incinerators in Idlib – February 14, 2023

Türkiye

DoTW-T Mobile Team supported by Izmir field team staff are present in the area. DoTW-T team responded to an emergency in previous earthquakes that took place in Elazig and Izmir back in 2020 and conducted psychological first aid. Therefore, it has the necessary experience and coordination capacity in emergency situations following an earthquake.

Moreover, DoTW-T holds permission to operate in the regions as it is coordinating with National Disaster Response Platform (AFAD). DoTW-T is the leading NGO working in Hatay.

DoTW-T is also the lead agency for the Health Working Group, the MHPSS Working Group and the Protection Working Group in Hatay. DoTW-T also has collaborations with different NGOs in the region such as Hayata Destek(Support to Life), Ihtiyaç Haritası, Save the Children, and Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent).

Furthermore, DoTW-T 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-T, as a member of the platform, participates in the daily meetings held by the Disaster Platform (Afet Platformu).

Moreover, NGOs responding to the massive earthquakes in Türkiye organized a coordination meeting on the 15th of February hosted by DoTW-T, assessing the gaps in Hatay and discussing the ways for an effectively coordinated humanitarian intervention to the affected people.

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-T is joining the NGO coordination meeting, held daily at 9:00 am that arranged by UNDAC. Additionally, communications have been initiated with the Altınözü district governorship and health directorate, to see the ways of possible collaborations.

Syria

In Syria, we 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.

Moreover, we collaborate with Independent Doctors Association (IDA), they have a temporary mobile surgical room next to our clinic in Jandairis and we are providing them with electricity. They are also referring their PHC cases to us. We are also in coordination with the local authorities such as the Idlib Health Directorate, and Aleppo Health Directorate.



