

Situation Report: Description of Emergency Situation and Context

Hatay Province, Türkiye
February 24, 2023



On Monday, February 6 at 12:17 EDT, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southeastern Türkiye, destroying homes and collapsing more than 6,000 buildings throughout southeastern Türkiye and parts of northern Syria. The death toll has now surpassed 47,000. A second strong earthquake just eight hours later and a third a week later have added to the now more than 100,000 injured.



Map of Türkiye; earthquake epicenter near Gaziantep

In the hours and days shortly following the earthquakes, aid was heavily focused on search-and-rescue, saving lives by rescuing survivors trapped beneath the rubble. The situation in Türkiye has changed dramatically over the past two weeks, and aid organizations are now focused on delivering emergency relief items to survivors in temporary shelters.

Millions of Turkish and Syrian people have been displaced from their homes and are now living in shelters amid the harsh winter. Temporary shelters, which were scattered throughout the disaster-stricken areas, have now been consolidated into larger emergency shelters. As with many emergency situations like these, there is the challenge of coordination to deliver goods to the populations in greatest need, and the Turkish government has limited the movement of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) within the country. There are only a few local NGOs and even fewer INGOs in remote areas most impacted by the earthquakes.

Main Humanitarian Needs

Temporary shelters are in desperate need of everyday essentials for survivors including food, water, personal hygiene products, baby supplies, pet supplies, blankets, and bedding. At the same time, the scene in small and large shelters alike is chaotic, lacking organization, with donations coming in and evacuees trying to find a place to sleep amid the crowd of supplies and people. Many end up sleeping in chairs, on the hard floor, or even outside.

As the situation in Türkiye and Syria evolves, humanitarian aid shifts from a focus on search-and-rescue to a focus on supporting injured survivors in field hospitals. Doctors and nurses are treating hundreds of patients per day, and hospitals are in need of medical supplies, which often need to be airlifted due to the barriers posed to vehicles by the rubble of collapsed buildings.

Summary of Peace Winds' Activities in Türkiye

Immediately following the disaster, Peace Winds dispatched our flying search-and-rescue medical team, ARROWS, and staff members are currently on the ground in Türkiye providing assistance. Peace Winds partnered with GEA, a volunteer search-and-rescue, ecology, and humanitarian aid group present in Türkiye. In the early days after the earthquakes, ARROWS and GEA team members worked together to rescue 30 survivors from the rubble.



Peace Winds staff members work alongside local partners to perform search-and-rescue operations

Day five after the disaster, Peace Winds worked with partners to airlift medical supplies to a field hospital in Gaziantep, a city in southeastern Türkiye located about 285 miles from the border with Syria. Much-needed supplies include bandages, tourniquets, rubber gloves, socks, and antibiotic ointment.

This week, Peace Winds is planning to treat patients in Antakya, a city in Hatay Province, with ARROWS medical personnel. Peace Winds is also working with local partners to set up tents for survivors in Adıyaman, northeast of Gaziantep. The need for tents like these is widespread as many hospitals and shelters have limited space for sleeping.

How You Can Help

Donate to Peace Winds' fundraiser for Türkiye and Syria by going to GlobalGiving.org and searching for "Peace Winds America." Any amount helps, and your donation will go toward Peace Winds' efforts to provide medical support to survivors at the field hospital.

You can also stay up-to-date on relief efforts in Türkiye and around the world by following Peace Winds on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn or by subscribing to our newsletter at peacewindsamerica.org. Thank you for supporting Peace Winds and the people of Türkiye and Syria in this time of great need.



Turkish earthquake survivor hugs Peace Winds staff member