



Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria Appeal

DONOR UPDATE - MAY 2023



In the early morning of February 6, 2023, millions of people in Türkiye and Syria awoke in fear as the world around them shook violently. The buildings where many of them slept, and life as they knew it, had collapsed.

Two of the most powerful earthquakes in over a century rocked the region, followed by thousands of aftershocks. In the immediate aftermath, family members, neighbours, and emergency workers sifted through the remnants of homes in search of survivors. Stories of great heroism, but also great loss, emerged from the rubble.

In both countries, local Red Crescent branches mobilized moments after the first earthquake hit. Our local partners, the Turkish Red Crescent and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, worked around the clock to help search for survivors and transport injured people to medical facilities. They provided warm blankets, hot food, and shelter to those stranded in the frigid temperatures outside.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you from across the country, as well as support and matching funds from the Government of Canada, we mobilized emergency stocks, humanitarian experts, and funding to the disaster zone as quickly as possible to support our partners on the ground.

Over three months after the earthquakes impacted Türkiye and Syria, the humanitarian needs are still immense, with the most urgent needs being shelter, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, food, and access to mental health and psychosocial support.

Today, the Canadian Red Cross and our Red Cross Red Crescent partners continue to support those affected in these incredibly challenging circumstances. For the survivors, the journey to recovery has only just begun, but because of your generosity, we can continue to be by their side.

Sincerely,

Conrad Sauvé
President & CEO
Canadian Red Cross

THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION



9.1 million people impacted in Türkiye



6.5 million people impacted in Syria



In Syria, **more than 90%** of the population was already living in poverty



2.7 million people in Türkiye are still living in tents

Cover Photo: Turkish Red Crescent



Since the earthquakes struck, the Turkish Red Crescent has provided over 300 million hot meals to people impacted. As the leading partner in the country's National Disaster Plan, the Turkish Red Crescent provides food services through mobile kitchens, soup kitchens, catering trucks, and food parcels. Photo: Turkish Red Crescent

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT IMPACT IN TÜRKIYE



320 million hot meals served



600,000 people helped with multi-purpose cash assistance



142,000 people provided with mental health and psychosocial support

Figures as of May 5, 2023.

Response in Türkiye

The Turkish Red Crescent has mobilized tens of thousands of personnel to respond to the crisis across eleven affected provinces.

This includes distributing hot meals and clean water, food, and cooking supplies. Closely coordinating with health authorities, the Turkish Red Crescent provides healthcare through eight mobile clinics in hard-hit rural areas and temporary shelters.

Where markets are functioning, the Turkish Red Crescent distributes multi-purpose cash assistance and cash vouchers, helping give those impacted the freedom and control to meet their needs in the way they prefer. Teams have also supported tens of thousands of people with mental health and psychosocial support services, including through child-friendly spaces.



The Syrian Arab Red Crescent operates Mobile Health Units in the impacted areas. These units provide free health consultations and medications in high-need communities. Mobile Health Units have provided over 69,000 people with healthcare since the earthquakes struck. Photo: Syrian Arab Red Crescent

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT IMPACT IN SYRIA



3.7 million relief and medical items distributed



1.7 million healthcare services provided



251 planes delivering international aid received by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent

Figures as of May 2, 2023.

Response in Syria

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent is working to help people impacted by the earthquakes in the Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Tartous governorates and has mobilized 4,000 personnel to respond. In Syria, the humanitarian situation is especially dire, with more than 90 per cent of people living in poverty. The country is now in its 13th year of armed conflict, adding complexity to the response. Even so, Syrian Arab Red Crescent teams have been on the ground since the earthquakes struck, and have assisted millions of people with relief and medical items. Teams are also providing a wide range of health-care services in clinics and mobile units, including community health and first aid, maternal and newborn health, physical rehabilitation, and psychosocial support.



The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is the world's largest humanitarian organization. When a disaster of this scale and scope occurs, the local National Society—the Turkish Red Crescent and Syrian Arab Red Crescent in this case—send out the call for international support. Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world, including the Canadian Red Cross, are there to answer. Because they often face earthquakes themselves, the Mexican Red Cross was one of multiple National Societies that sent specialized search and rescue teams, which included canine units. Photo: Mexican Red Cross



Chiran Livera (pictured left) is a Canadian Red Cross humanitarian expert who supported the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement operations in Syria as Head of Emergency Operations. In Syria, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is overseeing the delivery of international aid via cargo planes in Damascus. This includes items like tents, beds, blankets, heaters and generators, food, medical supplies and more. The aid is being delivered to people most in need in impacted areas of Syria. Photo: IFRC

“Many of the damages caused by the earthquake are not visible. In Syria, people have suffered more than a decade of conflict which has already affected their mental health and wellbeing. This earthquake adds another layer to that. We also have seen that psychological wounds won’t always appear right away. That is why we need to provide continuous support, not only right now but for years to come.”

- **Gwen Eamer**, Red Cross Health Coordinator in Syria

Your generosity in action

With thanks to the generosity of donors like you and the Government of Canada, as of May 11, 2023, the Canadian Red Cross shipped 22,200 relief items—including family tents, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, and hygiene kits—from our international warehouses; deployed 13 humanitarian experts in areas such as operations management; healthcare, public health, psychosocial support; shelter; and Protection, Gender and Inclusion; and contributed funding for winterized tents, medications, cholera kits, cash assistance, and many other initiatives.

Thanks to donors like you, the Canadian Red Cross will continue to support our local partners in both Türkiye and Syria as they help impacted people and communities on their long road to recovery.



The Turkish Red Crescent is providing critical mental health support to people in distress as well as managing child-friendly spaces, which provide children with a safe place to play and process the trauma they have endured. Photo: Turkish Red Crescent.

“I cannot describe the feeling we had when we rescued a pregnant woman and her child from under the rubble. I never imagined I would feel so joyous and thankful amid such devastation. Everyone who witnessed this moment erupted in celebration. We celebrated hope. The power of humanity is what gave us hope and kept us going non-stop; it kept us going in sub-freezing temperatures, and it kept us full despite barely eating anything for four days straight.”

- **Abdallah Zgheib**, Lebanese Red Cross Search and Rescue Team

Thank you for delivering hope

The Canadian Red Cross wishes to thank our donors, businesses, organizations, provincial governments, and the Government of Canada for contributing more than \$44.5 million towards our Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria Appeal as of May 11, 2023.

As of May 11, 2023, over \$29 million has been contributed in response to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. The cost of fundraising—such as processing donations, issuing receipts, or reporting back to donors—will not exceed five per cent.

Working with the international Red Cross Movement, including the Turkish Red Crescent and Syrian Arab Red Crescent, your support has already reached millions of people across the two impacted countries with vital aid such as shelter, food, health, and mental health support.

The scale and scope of this tragedy means the Red Cross Movement must be there for survivors for the long-term. Because of your generosity, we can continue to support people in Türkiye and Syria as they continue their recovery journey. **Thank you for being by their side.**



**Thank you for delivering hope
in Türkiye and Syria**