



FEBRUARY 2024

## Türkiye Earthquake: One-Year Report

### RESPONSE AT A GLANCE



Food, water, health care, cash and other essentials to some **14 million people** in Türkiye and Syria.



More than **426 million hot meals** to earthquake survivors in Türkiye.



Mental health and psychosocial support to more than **207,000 people** in Türkiye.



Cash assistance to more than **460,000 families** in Türkiye — and over **167,000 people** in Syria — for critical needs.

\*Cumulative figures reflecting Red Cross-Red Crescent-supported responses led by the Turkish Red Crescent and Syrian Arab Red Crescent, as of January 31, 2024.

### Turkish and Syrian Arab Red Crescents Lead Massive Response, Supported by the Red Cross-Red Crescent Network

In February 2023, people in Türkiye and neighboring areas of Syria suffered unimaginable losses when a devastating earthquake and thousands of aftershocks struck the region, claiming more than 55,000 lives, injuring countless others and destroying hundreds of thousands of homes, leaving millions of people homeless.

With funding, technical and logistical support from the global Red Cross and Red Crescent network, the Turkish Red Crescent and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) immediately launched massive relief operations, and they continue to deliver vital aid today.

Since day one, more than 76,000 Turkish Red Crescent volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide vital support. Thanks to their efforts, and the generosity of compassionate donors, the Red Cross-Red Crescent network has been able to deliver critical relief and recovery assistance to millions of people across Türkiye who lost almost everything. This aid has included ongoing shelter for displaced families, food, other relief items, cash assistance and vouchers to meet day-to-day needs and help rebuild livelihoods. It also has included health and mental health services, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene supplies to ensure more dignified, safer and healthier living conditions.

In neighboring Syria, over 4,000 dedicated volunteers from the SARC remain actively engaged in supporting people affected by the earthquake. Many of them are among the approximately 8 million people in Syria who were directly impacted by the destruction. The SARC has delivered critical humanitarian relief and recovery services to affected individuals, families and communities in Syria, including medical transport and first aid, ensuring access to essential health care and psychosocial support, legal aid, water and sanitation services, cash assistance to help with urgent needs, and support for people who lost livelihoods and income in the quake's aftermath.

Above: It's been a year since the devastating earthquake that rocked Türkiye and Syria. As it is winter in Türkiye, the Turkish Red Crescent team is providing warm clothes to families in Hatay who are still recovering from the earthquake's impact. Photo by Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC

**Red Cross-Red Crescent cash assistance helps disaster survivors care for their families based on their own priorities and needs, while also helping to boost local economies.**

## Cash Assistance Helps Earthquake Survivors Meet Their Urgent Needs

Cash assistance allows responders to better put the needs and capacities of affected people at the heart of humanitarian action. For the Red Cross-Red Crescent network, it has become an integral part of our disaster relief and recovery support. Cash and voucher assistance helps disaster survivors prioritize and take care of their families based on their own preferences and decisions.

Funded in part by generous American Red Cross donors, the Red Cross-Red Crescent network has provided cash and cash vouchers to more than 460,000 families in Türkiye, as well as over 167,000 people in Syria, helping them meet their most urgent daily needs, which could include rent and food, as well as education and health care costs. It also helps support the recovery of their livelihoods and businesses, boosting local economies in the earthquake-affected regions.

**ZAHIDE ÇELIKYÜREK:** Before the earthquake struck on February 6, 2023, Zahide and her husband, Mehmet, lived a relatively quiet life with their children in Türkiye's southernmost region, Hatay. After the quake, their lives were forever changed as they lost their home and livelihoods, as well as their community and friends.

As they begin to rebuild their shattered world, the cash assistance program, funded in part by generous donations to the American Red Cross and provided by the Red Cross-Red Crescent network, has been a huge help.



Zahide Çelikyürek (center) and her husband, Mehmet, received cash assistance from the Red Cross-Red Crescent network after losing their home and livelihoods to the quakes. Photo by Onur Işık Cantürk/IFRC

**GAZI DEĞDAŞ:** Gazi is a father, husband and earthquake survivor from Malatya, Türkiye. After the earthquake damaged his home, car and business — a musical instrument shop — he was forced to leave his hometown.

While they were able to save a few belongings, Gazi and his family are starting over in the capital city of Ankara, nearly eight hours away. The family was grateful to receive cash assistance from the American Red Cross and our partners in the Red Cross-Red Crescent network, which has enabled survivors like Gazi and his family to purchase food and other essentials that best suit their needs.



Earthquake survivor Gazi Değdaş and his family meet with Red Cross-Red Crescent workers in Ankara, Turkey. Photo by Onur Işık Cantürk/IFRC

**The needs of people affected by the February 2023 earthquake remain great, and the road to recovery will be long.**

## One Year Later: Red Cross-Red Crescent Network Response Continues

One year later, the needs of people affected by the February 2023 earthquake remain great, and the road to recovery will be long. Across both countries, millions lost their homes and livelihoods, leaving them unable to meet basic needs. And in Syria, the humanitarian situation remains particularly challenging, as the country's resources have been severely depleted in the wake of this destructive disaster and years of armed conflict.

Alongside our partners in the international Red Cross-Red Crescent network, the American Red Cross will continue to assess the evolving needs of hard-hit individuals, families and communities, and we will support ongoing efforts to help them rebuild their lives in the weeks and months ahead. These continuing relief and recovery operations will be focused on six critical areas of concern:

- **Cash Assistance:** Earthquake victims not only lost their homes, but also their sources of income — shops, offices and agricultural businesses were destroyed. It will take years for them to become self-sufficient again. To help, the Turkish Red Crescent and SARC, with support from the American Red Cross, the Red Cross-Red Crescent network and the United Nations World Food Programme, continue to deliver cash assistance to meet the critical needs of survivors.



## Mass food delivery continues to be the top priority.

- **Feeding:** Mass food delivery continues to be the top priority. While many displaced residents have transitioned to container camps outfitted with kitchen equipment, others still remain in tent settlements where hot meals must be provided.
- **Health:** Access to medical treatment and medical equipment will remain a key need. In addition, we will work to enhance community-based health prevention practices, improving hygiene conditions and access to sanitation and safe water facilities. Other priorities include care for newborn babies and their mothers, as well as people with disabilities, and alleviating health risks in camps for displaced residents.
- **Housing:** Nearly 2,900 furnished containers have been installed in earthquake-affected areas to provide temporary shelter for thousands of people. Anticipating weather hazards is essential to ensure that these housing solutions remain safe, and the Turkish Red Crescent has helped to support container camp residents with winterization efforts and cooling equipment for the hot summer months.
- **Protection:** Living conditions in camps, especially in the informal ones, present risks for the most vulnerable groups. We will mainstream cash assistance to help reduce these risks. Those experiencing specific protection risks will be provided with various levels of financial support, helping them access legal and human rights services and choose the best alternatives for avoiding physical harm.
- **Psychosocial Support:** Psychological and emotional support are among the most important needs of disaster survivors. Turkish Red Crescent and SARC psychosocial support teams responded immediately to the earthquake and have been actively aiding earthquake survivors ever since. Offering their services in tents, mobile child-friendly spaces and vehicles, these teams are working to improve the mental well-being of the affected population and facilitate access to safe spaces for at-risk survivors.

Above: Turkish Red Crescent teams survey massive damage following February's devastating earthquake. Photo by Susan Malandrino/IFRC

## Generous Supporters Fund Critical Aid for Earthquake Survivors

Red Cross-Red Crescent societies from around the world, including the American Red Cross, have joined together with the International Federation of Red Cross-Red Crescent societies (IFRC) to provide millions of dollars in funding, technical and logistical support, and more to help the people in Türkiye and Syria.

Thanks to generous support from the American public, the American Red Cross has raised \$21.21 million to help survivors of the Türkiye earthquake. As of January 6, 2024, the American Red Cross had already spent or made firm commitments to spend approximately \$16.33 million to support emergency relief and recovery efforts for people impacted by this deadly earthquake. The remaining funds will be used to support ongoing relief and recovery services that will help the most vulnerable and severely affected individuals and families with urgent needs.

Türkiye Earthquake Spent and Committed (in millions)					
As of January 6, 2024 (\$21.21 million raised)					
Expense Categories	Food, Shelter and Relief Items	Financial Assistance	Health Support	Total	Expense %
Grants to support financial assistance, food and other relief items	\$3.88	\$10.00	\$0.67	\$14.55	89.1%
Deployment and maintenance of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$0.02	—	—	\$0.02	0.2%
Other program and program support costs	\$0.12	—	—	\$0.12	0.8%
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$4.02</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$0.67</b>	<b>\$14.70</b>	<b>90.0%</b>
Management, general and fundraising <sup>1</sup>				\$1.63	10.0%
<b>Total Spent and Committed</b>				<b>\$16.33</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Program Dollars Remaining				\$4.39	
Management, general and fundraising remaining to be applied				\$0.49	
<b>Total Budget</b>				<b>\$21.21</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Management, general and fundraising expenses support our work at its core and are indispensable to running the organization and helping people in need. They include the people and systems to maintain our enterprise-wide computer and telecommunications, HR and payroll systems to support our nearly 18,000 employees and more than 265,000 volunteers, fundraising and communications functions, and other support services across all program lines. Ninety cents of every dollar received for the Türkiye earthquake will be spent to support Türkiye Red Crescent- and SARC-led assistance to help people affected by this crisis.

*Thank you!*



**American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross responds to disasters and other crises around the world by mobilizing cash support, pre-positioning relief supplies, deploying disaster response experts and, in some cases, implementing recovery and preparedness programs. The remarkable generosity of our supporters — individuals, corporations and foundations — drives our ability to provide relief and assist our partners in the Red Cross-Red Crescent network. We are grateful for your trust.