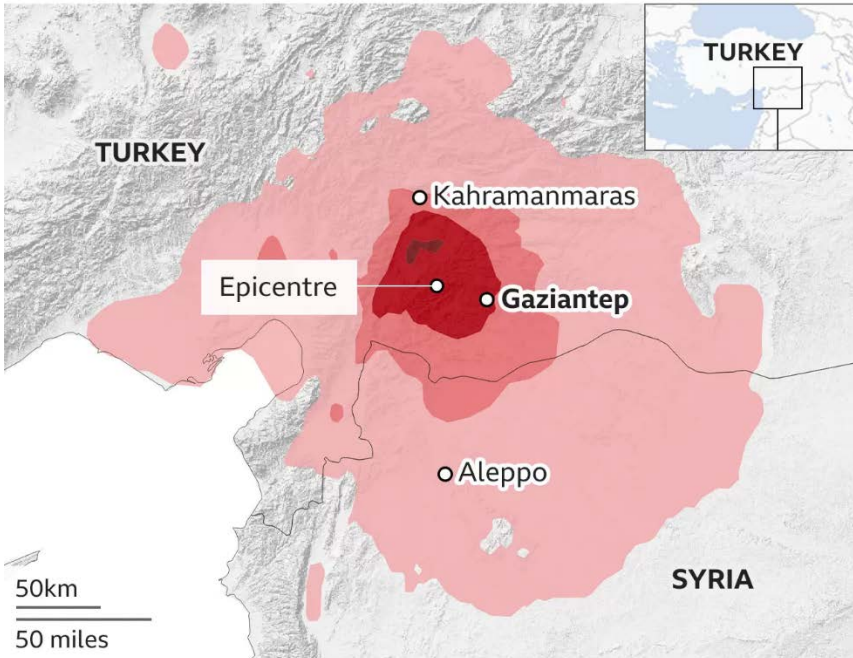


SITUATION UPDATE

Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

Areas exposed to shaking which is:

■ Severe ■ Very strong ■ Strong ■ Moderate



Source: Joint Research Center of the European Commission



At 4:17 a.m. local time on February 6, a massive 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit the south of Turkey close to the town of Gaziantep, affecting thousands of communities in southern Turkey and northern Syria. Just 11 minutes later, the region was struck by a powerful 6.7-magnitude aftershock. Hours later, at 1:24 p.m. local time, a 7.5-magnitude quake hit just outside Ekinozu—100 km to the north of the previous one.

Early estimates report that more than 2,300 people have been killed across Syria and Turkey, with many thousands injured. Casualties are expected to increase exponentially because the impact of the second earthquake have not been fully established yet, because aftershocks of magnitude 6 and over are still taking place in the affected areas and because search-and-rescue efforts are still underway. The impact of the earthquakes on the physical infrastructure has also been dire and is likely to increase, as aftershocks continue to damage buildings that were already degraded by years of conflict.

The global community expects humanitarian needs in many areas, including health, shelter and mental health. So far, a few International Medical Corps facilities have been damaged by the earthquakes, while others remain operational and ready to support the immediate response. International Medical Corps continues to assess the situation as it evolves, as additional needs could arise as a result of the aftershocks.

FAST FACTS

- 7.8- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes struck southern Turkey on February 6.
- Tremors were felt in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Cyprus, Greece.
- At least 2,300 are reported dead and thousands injured, with more than 1,500 deaths in Turkey and 800 in Syria.
- Significant infrastructural and other physical damages is reported, with Turkey reporting more than 3,000 buildings destroyed as well as disrupted communication lines.
- Rain and snow are predicted over the next few days, hampering rescue efforts

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has been present in **Syria** since 2008.
- Currently working in in 10 governorates across the country, supporting 33 health facilities that provided more than 620,000 health consultations in 2022.
- Supported 6,850 mental health cases in 2022 and 25,000 people through psychosocial support activities.
- Provides GBV prevention and response programs, child protection programs and nutrition programs across Syria.
- Providing medicines and NFIs in response to earthquake; also working with local partners to assess damage and provide further response throughout the country.
- International Medical Corps worked in **Turkey** from 2012 until 2018, with extensive programs in southern areas (including Gaziantep, Hatay, Sanliurfa, Kilis and Mersin) providing health, MHPSS, GBV and child protection programs.
- Currently have an emergency response team in Turkey carrying out assessments to support local and national partners providing humanitarian response.

International Medical Corps Response

As a classified [Emergency Medical Team \(EMT\)](#) Type 1 provider, International Medical Corps currently is in discussion with the World Health Organization regarding a potential EMT deployment in either Turkey or Syria.

International Medical Corps is a lead health actor in **Syria**, having worked for years across different governorates. International Medical Corps' programs in the country include health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and protection, focusing on child protection and GBV (gender-based violence).

As a lead humanitarian response organization, International Medical Corps initially is deploying teams to undertake urgent assessments in Aleppo and Hama governorates—the two areas that are identified to be the most affected, with a combined initial count of around 600 deaths and thousands of injured. Other significantly impacted communities include Latakia and Tartous. As assessment teams establish a more detailed account of damages and needs, International Medical Corps is working with the Damascus INGO forum and public authorities to coordinate the response, and to ensure that support efforts are not duplicated. International Medical Corps is currently the only international NGO in Syria with direct medical deployment capacity.



A child-protection and psychosocial support center in Syria that collapsed due to the quake.

International Medical Corps is planning to allocate medications and medical supplies procured through current programs to support primary healthcare centers and public health facilities in Aleppo, Hama and Latakia, including antibiotics for wound coverage, asthma medication and a range of appropriate trauma-related supplies based on the list of essential medication prepared by International Medical Corps and Hama Directorate of Health. In addition, we will divert all IV fluids that we had planned to use to respond to an anticipated surge in cholera in the spring to Aleppo, where trauma incidence is particularly high. International Medical Corps also is organizing psychological first aid training of trainers to help health staff and case managers support patients affected by the quakes. Finally, as requested by the Directorate of Health, given the sub-zero temperatures and harsh weather conditions in impacted locations, International Medical Corps is planning to distribute a range of basic supplies to public hospitals, including blankets, clean water, hand sanitizers and sanitary pads.

International Medical Corps will continue to evaluate medical needs resulting from the large-scale displacement that this disaster has created. International Medical Corps also will work with partners to collect information on the full extent of the damage throughout the country, especially areas such as Idlib and Aleppo, which are thought to be among the worst affected.

In **Turkey**, International Medical Corps has deployed staff in Ankara who are working with partners to assess the full extent of the damages, despite communication lines that have been seriously disrupted. Due to the severity and impact of the earthquake, further compounded by deteriorating weather conditions, it will be difficult for support to reach many affected settlements. International Medical Corps and its partners are conducting rapid needs assessments to understand the most crucial and immediate needs on the ground.

Due to the significant damages to infrastructure and buildings in the area; as well as the constantly evolving situation (including regular aftershocks), it is still hard to fully gauge the extent of the needs, but initial assessments reveal that most urgently needed supplies are focused around winter clothing, food, hygiene supplies and basic supplies, such as blankets, stoves and portable toilets. International Medical Corps is currently looking to provide support for local partners in Turkey to purchase and distribute those needed supplies.



An aerial view of damage to residential buildings in Hatay province, Turkey.

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