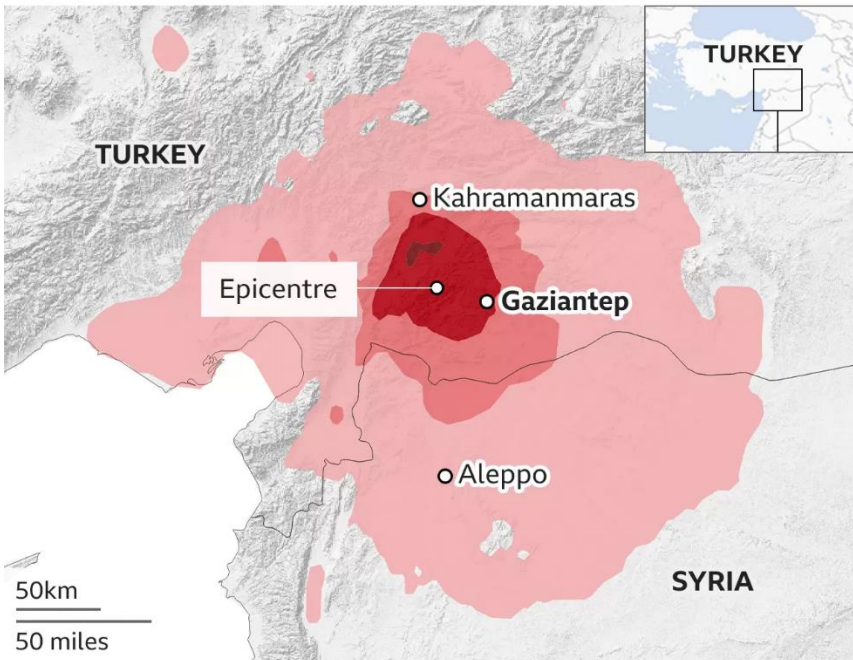


Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

Areas exposed to shaking which is:

■ Severe ■ Very strong ■ Strong ■ Moderate



Source: Joint Research Center of the European Commission

B B C

Search and rescue teams are continuing their efforts in Turkey and Syria, hampered by aftershocks and frigid temperatures, after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake ripped through the region in the early morning hours of February 6. This powerful earthquake was quickly followed by a second, 7.5-magnitude tremor hours later, resulting in one of the worst earthquake-related disasters to hit the area in the past century.¹ The series of quakes was followed by at least 78 aftershocks, many over 6-magnitude. As of February 7, more than 7,200 casualties have been reported—including more than 5,400 in Turkey and more than 1,800 in Syria—and more than 22,000 injured.² These numbers are expected to rise as recovery and relief operations continue. Additionally, freezing temperatures are forecasted for the coming days.

In Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has declared a three-month state of emergency in the affected provinces, including Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay and Karamanmaras. More than 11,300 buildings in these provinces were partially or fully destroyed, and an estimated 13.5 million people have been affected. The government is requesting international assistance and has deployed more than 50,000 search-and-rescue personnel, as well as more than 150,000 beds, tents and other relief materials, to the affected regions.

FAST FACTS

- 7.8- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes struck southern Turkey on February 6.
- More than 7,200 are reported dead and thousands injured, with more than 5,400 deaths in Turkey and 1,800 in Syria.
- As many as 23 million people—including 1.4 million children—are likely to have been impacted in Turkey and Syria, according to WHO.
- Rain and snow are predicted over the next few days, hampering rescue efforts and putting survivors and rescuers at risk.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has been present in **Syria** since 2008.
- We are currently working in 10 governorates across the country, supporting 33 health facilities that provided more than 620,000 health consultations and supported 6,850 mental health cases in 2022.
- 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.

OUR RESPONSE

- Deployed three trucks carrying 15 metric tons of medications, medical supplies and cholera kits to support facilities in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia in **Syria**.
- Establishing three mobile medical units to provide primary health, trauma and sexual and reproductive health services to some 1,000 patients per week.
- In **Turkey**, International Medical Corps is working with local partners to procure and distribute food and non-food items to support affected communities.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/eq-2023-000015-tur>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2023/feb/07/turkey-earthquake-syria-in-turkiye-2023-live-updates-latest-news-map-magnitude-7-8-scale-quake-tremor-death-toll-gaziantep-kahramanmaras>

In Syria, the earthquake was felt in Aleppo, Idlib, Lattakia and Northern Hama, along with other parts of the northwest. The devastation has brought further misery to a country already ravaged by a 12-year civil war, and by food shortages, economic collapse and a recent cholera outbreak. The country's national infrastructure has been at a crisis point for years, barely able to support the nation's war-weary population. The quake toppled hundreds of buildings—including 40 in Aleppo and 53 in Lattakia—and damaged hundreds more.³ International Medical Corps' initial assessments indicate that some 170 health facilities have been directly or indirectly impacted by the event.

Damage to roads, fuel shortages and harsh winter weather are expected to make search-and-rescue operations and the distribution of humanitarian aid challenging.

International Medical Corps Response

In response to the earthquakes, International Medical Corps is rapidly scaling up activities to address immediate needs and provide longer-term support to healthcare providers and facilities in the wake of the crisis. While International Medical Corps is in discussions with the World Health Organization (WHO) to deploy its [Emergency Medical Team \(EMT\) Type 1](#) to Turkey or Syria, International Medical Corps' existing presence and history of implementing integrated health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and protection services—including child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) support—has enabled our teams to quickly deploy resources to support affected communities.

In **Syria**, International Medical Corps has been providing services since 2008. As a lead health actor, our teams have worked across different governorates providing health, MHPSS and protection services. Less than 24 hours after the earthquake, International Medical Corps deployed emergency response teams to Aleppo and Lattakia, two of the most affected areas, where some of the worst structural damage has been recorded. The emergency response team—in coordination with local health authorities—identified essential medications, consumables and supplies needed to support healthcare providers, and rapidly scaled up activities to meet the increased needs in these areas. International Medical Corps has deployed three trucks carrying 15 metric tons of medications, medical supplies—including antibiotics, asthma medications and trauma-related supplies, such as bandages and gauze—and cholera kits that will be delivered on February 8 to primary healthcare centers and public health facilities in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia governorates. The team will also deliver intravenous (IV) fluids to healthcare facilities in Aleppo, where trauma incidence is particularly high.



Residents in Harim, Syria, dig through the rubble following the series of powerful earthquakes on February 6.

International Medical Corps is deploying three mobile medical units (MMUs) to Aleppo, Hama and Latakia to address urgent needs. These MMUs work along the principles of EMT Type 1 and will employ a comprehensive and integrated approach, including health services via primary healthcare (PHC) service delivery, with MHPSS case managers embedded in each team. The target population will be thousands of displaced people living in shelters and camps due to the impact of the earthquake. The health services will include triage; stabilization and referral of complicated cases; management of minor trauma cases, communicable and non-communicable diseases; and basic obstetric care, along with clinical care for children.

The MMUs are equipped with a mobile pharmacy providing free medication, along with a qualified pharmacist to dispense medication. The pharmacy will dispense PHC medications based on International Medical Corps' Essential Medication List (EML) and cover chronic and urgent care needs. In addition, each MMU will have a health educator who will raise awareness on health, mental health, preventive health and hygiene-related themes.

Along with the need for mobile health services, International Medical Corps is also working with local health authorities to assess the need for establishing longer-term static PHC clinics in the affected governorates. These discussions are ongoing, and International Medical Corps is poised to provide this support as needed.

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-humanitarian-country-team-hct-coordinated-response-flash-update-1-earthquake-6-february-2023>



Aerial view of the damage of a residential area in Antakya City in Hatay Province, Turkey, which borders Syria.

International Medical Corps will also deploy four members of our MHPSS team to provide emergency psychosocial support in the most affected areas, including Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia. These staff members will also organize and facilitate psychological first-aid training to support frontline healthcare workers and case managers working with patients affected by the quakes.

Finally, International Medical Corps is working with the Directorate of Health to provide critically needed non-food items and supplies to affected residents. Given the sub-zero temperatures and harsh weather conditions, International Medical Corps is procuring blankets, hand sanitizers, sanitary pads and clean water that can be distributed to affected civilians and public hospitals.

In **Turkey**, where International Medical Corps operated from 2012 until 2018, we have deployed three emergency response team members to conduct rapid needs assessments and meet with partners in Ankara. International Medical Corps previously worked extensively in the southern region of the country, including in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Mersin and Sanliurfa. Given the vast immediate needs—particularly those related to food and non-food items—International Medical Corps will work with a local partner to rapidly procure and distribute winter clothing, hygiene items, blankets, stoves, potable toilets and food to affected communities.

As recovery operations continue and the extent of damage and need continues to be assessed, International Medical Corps is working closely with public authorities and other intergovernmental organizations to ensure that our relief efforts are complementary.