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EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT FOR TÜRKİYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

FEBRUARY 14-17, 2023



ABOUT US

Doctors of the World (DoTW) Türkiye/Medecins du Monde(MdM) Türkiye registered as Dünya Doktorları Derneği (DDD) is a Türkiye-based humanitarian non-governmental organization that facilitates access to healthcare for populations affected by armed conflict, violence, natural disasters, disease, famine, poverty and exclusion.

DoTW Türkiye collaborates with partners and key stakeholders to implement projects that facilitate access to primary and secondary healthcare services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to respond to the medical needs of the affected populations.

DoTW Türkiye is the 16th member of the Doctors of the World (Médecins du Monde) International Network that is committed to meeting the health needs of vulnerable people globally. DoTW Türkiye also has years of experience safely providing access to health care and support to vulnerable populations in Türkiye and Syria in collaboration with local and national authorities and in coordination with other humanitarian actors.

CONTEXT

On the night of February 6, 2023, at 4:17 a.m. local time, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Türkiye and Syria resulting in more than 36,070 at the time of this report Türkiye has announced a three-month state of emergency in 10 provinces worst affected by the earthquake.

This marks the most powerful earthquake recorded in Türkiye since 1939. The quake was followed by 78 aftershocks, and it hit the region a second time in the afternoon on the 6th of February at 13:24 p.m. with a magnitude of 7.5 in Ekinözü/Kahramanmaras province.

More than 15 million people are affected. In Syria, at least 6,000 people (4,400 in NWS) are reported dead as of 13 February with the majority of victims recorded in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia and Tartous. In Türkiye, the authorities count at least 38,0044 dead. More than a thousand buildings have completely collapsed, raising fears of even higher human losses.



NEEDS

Türkiye

Earthquake survivors need winterization, NFI, emergency kits, heaters, hygiene kits, food, medicine, more services points and emergency health response. In addition, people are injured on the streets and hospitals are damaged.

There are some shelters provided but more people need tents because of the high number of homeless. It is imperative to take proactive measures to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses in the affected areas. Sahra hospitals are working below their capacities, and state hospitals with less damage are being activated.

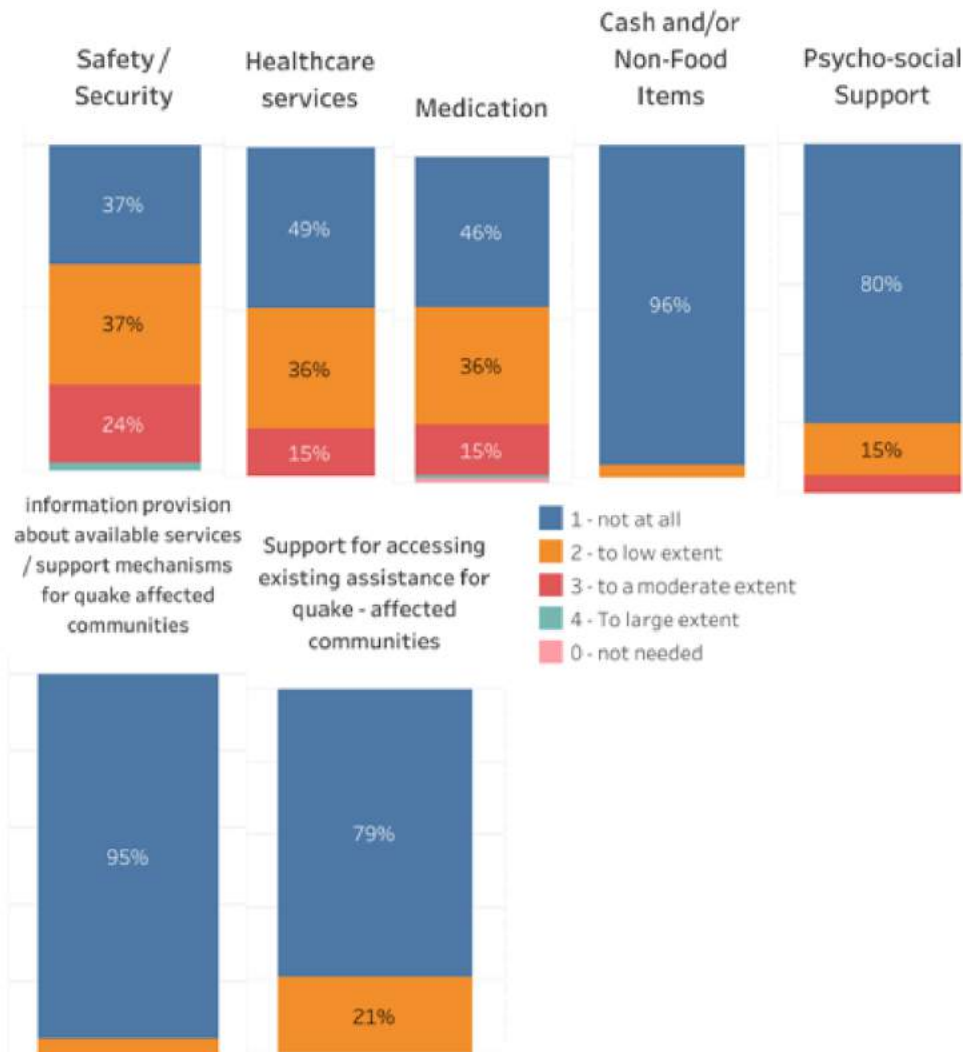
DDD has initiated a rapid assessment to accurately determine the needs and promptly deliver efficient services. DDD interviewed 77 quake – affected community members in more than 10 sub – districts of Antakya, Defne and Samandag districts.

75% of the sample consists of females and 25% are males. The initial findings of the assessment conducted in Hatay indicate that the most pressing needs in the region are related to accessing public services, which was identified as a challenge by 86% of participants. The most important needs identified in the survey were winterization, hygiene, shelter, clothing, and food.

The shelter assistance is almost not existing, and the shelter conditions of the communities are very poor that 38% reported residing outdoor anywhere in their neighborhoods, 11% in vehicles and another 11% in backyards of the houses.

Only 23% reported residing in a tent and only one respondent reported staying in a container that is private and not provided by state or non-state actors. Furthermore, the first results of the assessment of basic needs among the population affected by the earthquake is also given below:

To what extent your basic needs in the post - quake settings are met?

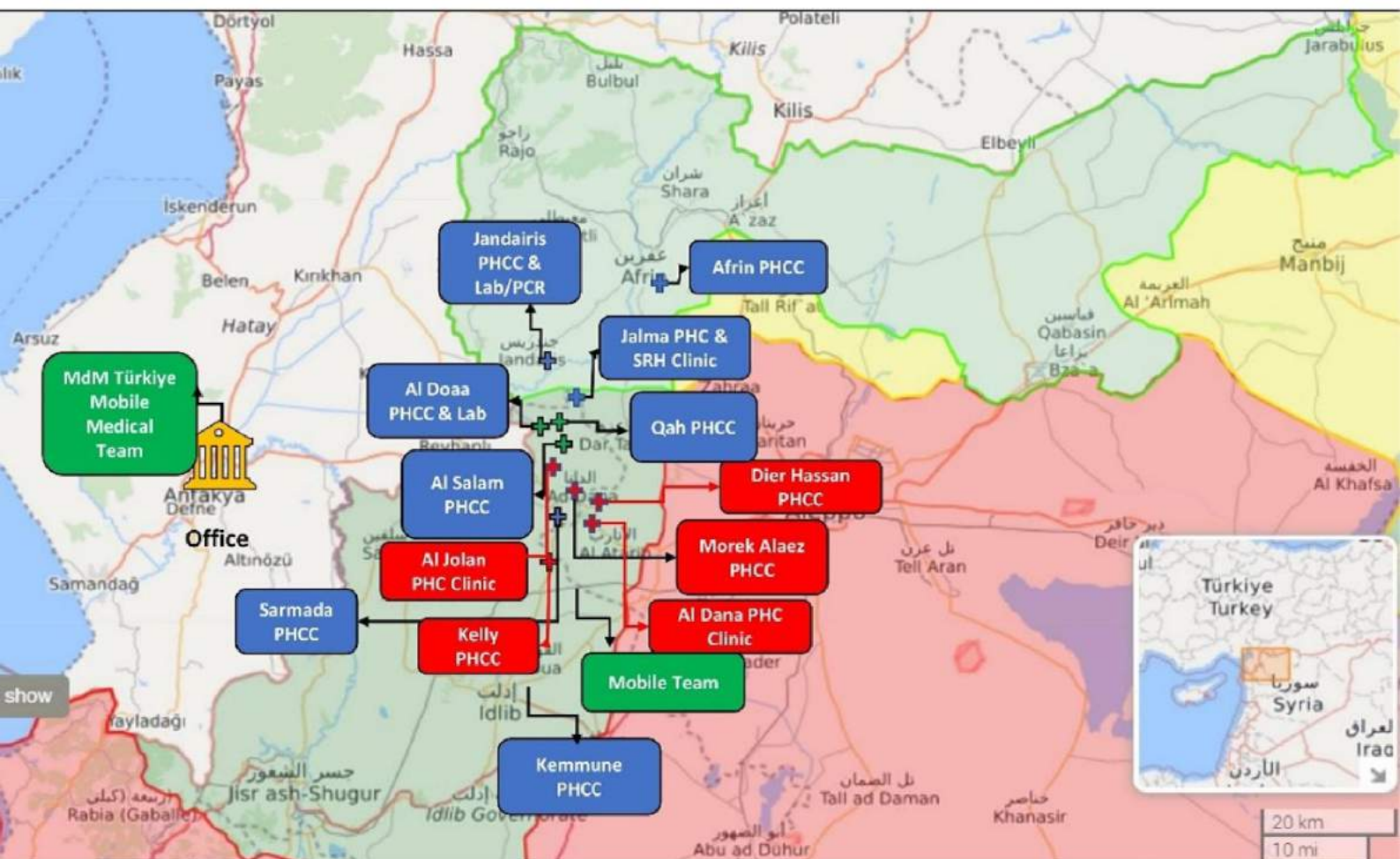


On the other hand, the earthquake in Turkey has caused refugees to relocate to İzmir and Istanbul. DDD’s İzmir team urgently needed to support the growing number of refugees and host community in fulfilling their basic needs such as basic medicines and creams, baby formulas, furniture, rent assistance, cash assistance, clothes, winterization, hygiene kits, market cards, and PSS. Many people are in need of shelter in Izmir, but there are currently no available shelter services to accommodate them.

Syria

For Syria, people must travel to Afrin to the hospitals for care which is over 20 km away by car. Hospitals are damaged. Many health care providers have suspended services. There is a high need for emergency medical response due to the high level of damage to the hospitals.

To elaborate; medical kits, hygiene kits, first aid kits that includes dressing supplies, surgical consumables, bed covers, and mattresses are among the most needed. OCHA's rapid assessment shows that access to key services was reportedly low, with no access to healthcare reported in 20% of assessed communities, which were directly impacted.



DoTW-T Türkiye response. Primary Health Care Clinics (PHCCs) in red have been suspended due to funding cuts in July 2022

DOCTORS OF THE WORLD TÜRKİYE'S RESPONSE



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Türkiye Response

DDD's Syria Program Coordinator has lost his life in Hatay. DDD's office in Antakya has been demolished. The office has been strengthened by the support and collaboration of the field teams based in Istanbul and Izmir.

DDD is the leading NGO working in Hatay. It has made the lead agency for the Health Working Group, the MHPSS Working Group and the Protection Working Group in Hatay. DDD has 13 different containers established in order to create a safe space (shelters) for the staff in the short term and serve as a functional facility for providing services in the long term.

Some containers are already planned as PHCCs, activity rooms, and pharmacy. DDD planned two teams to response needs. The stationary unit comprises of a physician, a midwife, and a clinical psychologist. In contrast, the mobile unit is segregated into two distinct groups, each consisting of a psychologist, a nurse, a case worker, and a physician. These mobile teams offer on-site assistance on a tent-to-tent basis in areas where governmental and other aid entities are unable to provide services. Inter-group referrals are made based on the needs of the recipients.

Hatay, and Antakya are still very hard to reach. The vast majority of the city and buildings are destroyed, blocking roads. Some roads have been completely destroyed in the earthquake. There is no electricity, therefore the city is in darkness at night and the weather condition is unbearably cold. People, including our staff, are sleeping outside in the freezing cold. Numerous collective tent sites are currently being established throughout the city. Regardless, even within the tents there is a high need for heaters. The Antakya district, in particular, has been widely evacuated, with the remaining inhabitants relocating to designated tent sites managed by AFAD. The excessive buildup of dust in the city has reached levels that jeopardize the health of the public.

However, residents in other districts remain steadfast in their desire to remain in their homes. Additionally, the contamination of water sources poses a mentioned illnesses. As of now, DDD is providing first aid response, health screening, medication distribution, psychological first aid for trauma, and in the process of creating safe spaces.

On the other hand, the permission process for refugees has been streamlined to a 60-day period, and Istanbul has announced its readiness to welcome them. Relocated refugees will be able to access public healthcare services, while DDD will keep them regularly informed regarding the developments that are affecting their wellbeing. The main problem many refugees are grappling with is the housing issues and are unable to relocate. As of now, permission is solely granted to refugees with a viable shelter option in the destination cities or those with pressing medical concerns. DDD closely monitors the status of affected individuals and provides them with health-oriented protection services.



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Syria Response

PHCC Status: 3/3 DoTW-T PHCCs operating. Jandairis PHCC is open over the weekend for patients.

Afrin/Western Aleppo:

We have three confirmed staff dead. Most of our staff in Jandairis town are homeless.

Afrin city and Jandairis town are badly affected. Jandairis town is almost demolished and needs an emergency response. People are trapped in collapsed buildings but there is no equipment to pull them out. Our staff estimate more than 800 dead around Jandairis town alone. Our Jandairis PHCC's entrance is partially damaged, but it is operating.

Our Afrin PHCCs are open and provide emergency support. Our staff is coordinating with the Civil Defense and Hatay Provincial Health Directorate. We have seconded one of our Orthopedics Doctors to Afrin Hospital to help respond to the demand. Local authorities have also asked for our support in health services. We deployed a mobile medical team (MMT) around the region. We also have an MMT in Afrin that provides first aid response, health screenings, medication distribution and psychological first aid. In addition, DDD needs more medications, emergency aid, tents, and containers for homeless staff to allow them to continue working.



(Afrin– 14th 2023, Idlib: Sarmada's Mobile Team visit temporary shelter camp)

Idlib:

In Idlib most of our staff are operational. We have no confirmed dead or any missing staff. Some staff have lost homes and have missing relatives. All 5 PHCCs are operational and respond to the needs. An MMT also provides first aid response, health screenings, medication distribution and psychological aid in the region.

PHCC: Our 5 open PHCCs in Dana sub-district in Idlib have been operating: Sarmada, Al Doaa, Al Salam, Qah, and Kemmune.

Our staff respond to local needs and provide first-aid responses. Sarmada town was badly damaged by the earthquake. Our staff are coordinating with Idlib Health Directorate and others including distribution of medications and services. Our remaining PHCCs in the area (Dana, Jolan, Dier Hassan, Kelly) remain suspended as we do not have funds to reopen.

DDD needs more medications, emergency aid, etc. We have a temporary mobile medical team (doctor, nurse, midwife, pharmacists etc.), already in the area but we need funding for the MMT and medications to continue.

We will be redeploying more staff, but it needs support. The Sarmada clinic's mobile team has responded by visiting the Wadi al-Rasif Termanin camp and other shelter like Bardakli School to provide medicine and psychological support to those affected by the earthquake. Approximately 20 meters to the east of the Al-Kemmune Clinic, preparations are underway to establish a temporary shelter camp.

High number of people injured in the earthquake that hit Idlib has put significant pressure on the region's hospitals, which are striving to provide care and support to those affected by the disaster. However, this has led to a large amount of medical waste being generated in these hospitals.

DDD's two incinerators are now receiving medical waste from most of the medical facilities in Idlib, and DDD doctors are working tirelessly to intensify their efforts to safely and effectively burn and dispose of this waste.



Sarmada's Mobile Team visit temporary shelter camp, February 13-14, 2023, Idlib

Türkiye

DDD Mobile Team supported by Izmir field team staff are already present in the area. DDD team responded to an emergency in previous earthquakes that took place in Elazig and Izmir back in 2020, and conducted psychological first aid for the people affected by the disasters. Therefore, it has the necessary experience and coordination capacity in emergency situations following an earthquake. Moreover, DDD holds permission to operate in the regions as it is coordinating with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD). DDD has also collaborations with different NGOs in the region such as Hayata Destek (Support to Life), İhtiyaç Haritası, Save the Children, and Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent). DDD, as a member of the platform, participates in the daily meetings held by the Disaster Platform (Afet Platformu). Furthermore, NGOs responding to the massive earthquakes in Türkiye organized a coordination meeting on February 15 hosted by DDD, assessing the needs and gaps in Hatay and discussing the ways for an effectively coordinated humanitarian intervention to the affected people.

The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) has conducted assessments on the impacts of the recent earthquakes, identified service gaps, and evaluated the existing health capacities in Hatay's districts. The NGO coordination meeting, held daily at 9:00 am and arranged by UNDAC, will be attended. Additionally, communications have been initiated with the Altınözü district governorship and health directorate, with hopes of collaborating with DDD, and updates are being awaited.

