



on February 6, 2023
Kahramanmaraş Earthquake / Türkiye

Rapid Market Assessment

A Dire Humanitarian Situation



DISCLAIMER

This report is prepared based on the most updated programme data collected before the earthquake. Although the findings of those analyzes are interpreted by taking into account field level observations, assumptions may differ after conducting more comprehensive studies, which are planned in the upcoming period.

INTRODUCTION

The earthquake disaster in Türkiye has had a severe impact on the people living in the area, causing 41,020 deaths, as of February 19, 2023¹, and thousands of injuries and relocations. A total of 16 million people have been affected in 11 provinces.²

Some 47,000 buildings were severely damaged³, as well as roads, limiting access to the affected areas, specifically remote districts and villages. Hatay airport and İskenderun port sustained serious damage inhibiting their use in the first week of the disaster^{4,5}. As a result, there has been widespread displacement and disruption to livelihoods and market systems. The purpose of this rapid market assessment is to understand the current market conditions, identify the most critical needs, and assess the potential impact of the crisis on supply and demand. Accordingly, the study aims to suggest targeted interventions, explore how resource allocation can be optimised and propose ways of improving coordination in the field for the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.



¹AFAD. (2023). Kahramanmaraş'ta Meydana Gelen Depremler Hk. Basın Bülteni – 33. <https://www.afad.gov.tr/kahramanmarasta-meydana-gelen-depremler-hk-basin-bulteni-33>

²IFRC. (2023). 2023 Türkiye Earthquake Disaster Brief. 2023 Türkiye Earthquake Disaster Brief - February 2023 | Glide N° EQ-2023-000015-TUR - Europe-Region - Türkiye | ReliefWeb

³AFAD. (2023). Cumhurbaşkanımız Sn. Erdoğan: "Hiçbir Vatandaşımızı Maddi-Manevi Açıdan Sahipsiz Bırakmayacağız".

<https://www.afad.gov.tr/cumhurbaşkanimiz-sn-erdogan-hicbir-vatandasimizi-maddi-manevi-acidan-sahipsiz-birakmayacagiz-merkezicerik>

⁴Habertürk. (2023). Hatay Havalimanı uçuşa hazır hale getirildi. <https://www.haberturk.com/hatay-havalimani-ucusa-hazir-hale-getirildi-3565028-ekonomi>

⁵Habertürk. (2023). İskenderun Limanı'ndaki yangında kullanılamaz hale gelen konteynerler kaldırılıyor.

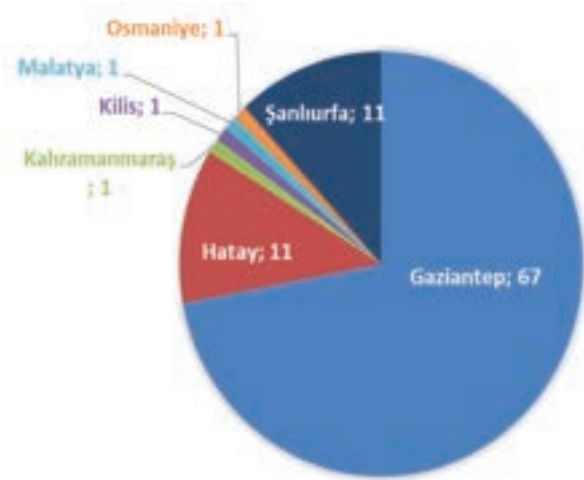
<https://www.haberturk.com/video/haber/izle/iskenderun-limanindaki-yanginda-kullanilamaz-hale-gelen-konteynerler-kaldiriliyor/797251>

METHOD

Convenience sampling was used for the data collection of this study, based on the availability of Türk Kızılay field officers, who are residing in the affected area, between 10 to 14 February 2023. The survey included both open-ended and close-ended questions and aimed to collect observations from the staff. The study is not intended to be representative of the larger population affected by the event but rather present descriptive statistics.

In total, 93 observations were made in over 75 neighbourhoods, located in 16 districts of six provinces, four of them repeated in the same neighbourhood on different days. Graph 1 presents the distribution of observations according to province.

Since the data collection of this study was conducted right after the disaster, it has some limitations. Transportation was prioritized for lifesaving needs; hence the geographical scope of the observations was narrow. There were 23 data collectors based in Gaziantep, who were affected by the earthquakes themselves. The majority of observations were received from this province, reflecting an early recovery state. Results should be interpreted as indicative of the most recent situation in the affected area rather than definitive. Primary data will be complemented with follow-up studies. The secondary data and field reports are utilized to fill the information gaps in this paper.



Graph 1 Number of observations per province

To ensure data quality, during the data cleaning, if multiple observations were made on the same day and similar points were reported, the observations and points reported submitted last were kept and others were deleted. If observations made on the same day were conflicting with each other, the relevant data collector was contacted for verification. Also, the consistency of the replies given to closed-ended and open-ended questions is checked.



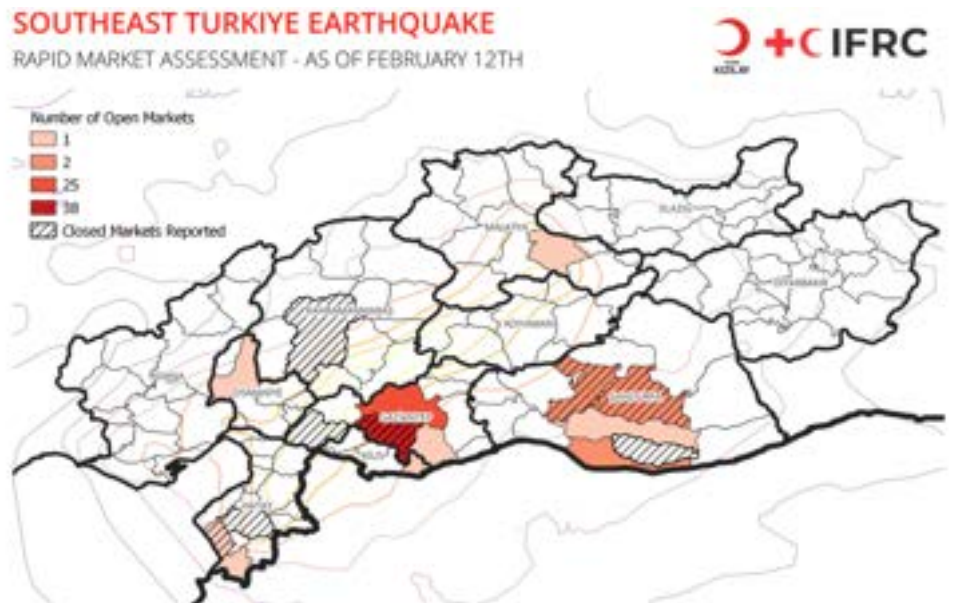
FINDINGS

AVAILABILITY

The impact of the earthquake on food security and markets varied significantly depending on the assessed locations. Particularly in Gaziantep, markets are mostly open and functional, and people tended to use both cash and credit cards for shopping or meeting their essential needs⁶. In Kahramanmaraş, the epicentre of the earthquakes, people were reported to be able to safely purchase food⁷. However, almost all essential services such as education, electricity, health, water, and waste removal were reported to be negatively impacted by the earthquake⁸. Some of these, such as generators, were provided through donations and assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake as part of the rapid response of governmental and civil society organizations.⁹ Tents and heaters are among the goods which are reported as not widely available in the affected area, and since many of the buildings are damaged, available apartments are also scarce even for those who can afford them¹⁰.

The public has been advised by authorities to avoid entering damaged buildings, which has led many affected individuals to sleep in their vehicles which require a significant amount of fuel¹¹. However, fuel supplies have become scarce in the region at the time of the assessment, and even when available, payments must be made in cash, which is quickly becoming unavailable due to the lack of cash in ATMs as reported by the observers. Primary data collected supports these findings. This study shows that both small stores and chain markets were open in multiple locations. Even though it seemed that stores were open in the areas this assessment took place (82 per cent), there is a clear difference between the availability of open markets in Gaziantep and Hatay. While Gaziantep shops are open, in Hatay, only two out of 11 observations suggest that there are open stores. In addition, in one of those two locations, it was reported that there is a lack of available goods. There are five districts where the non-presence of markets has been reported.

In terms of payment mechanisms available, all observations of places where markets are functional reported that payment can be processed with direct cash and with cards. In two locations, the presence of opportunistic sellers was reported for goods like water and snacks. Five observations reporting existence of black-market state that basic goods, such as water, food, tent and heaters are sold in those markets for cash. This is an issue which requires a closer monitoring in the field.



Map 1: Market availability in the affected area

⁶CrisisReady, Direct Relief. (2023). Situation Report for Feb 14, 2023 at 00:00 (Data last updated on Feb 14, 2023 at 08:00).

<https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/situation-report-feb-14-2023-0000-data-last-updated-feb-14-2023-0800>

⁷Welthungerhilfe. (2023). Earthquake Situation Report, 15 February 2022. <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/welthungerhilfe-earthquake-situation-report-15-february-2022>

⁸Save the Children. (2023). Turkey Earthquake Response, Rapid Needs Assessment for Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Adiyaman, Gaziantep.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkey-earthquake-response-rapid-needs-assessment-hatay-kahramanmaras-adiyaman-gaziantep>

⁹Haber Global. (2023). Afet bölgesine jeneratör yardımı neden çok önemli?. <https://haberglobal.com.tr/gundem/afet-bolgelerinde-jenerator-neden-cok-onemli-232010>

¹⁰Anadolu Ajansı. (2023). Enerji şirketleri depremin yaralarını sarmak için seferber oldu. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/ekonomi/enerji-sirketleri-depremin-yaralarini-sarmak-icin-seferber-oldu/2821588>

¹¹Gazete Duvar. (2023). Soğuğa dayanamayan depremzedeler hasar tespit ekibini beklemeden evlerine giriyor.

<https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/soguga-dayanamayan-depremzedeler-hasar-tespit-ekibini-beklemeden-evlerine-giriyor-haber-1604048>

ACCESSIBILITY and AFFORDABILITY

Field notes state that the crisis has disrupted trade and transportation networks, causing shortages in essential goods, and leading to price increases. The price of staple foods such as rice and maize has increased by up to 50 per cent in some areas, putting them out of reach for many families. Ongoing in-kind assistance as well as availability of subsidized prices for immediate needs¹² could leave smaller room for price increases. Even though the Ministry of Commerce issues fines for opportunistic sellers who charge much higher prices for needed items in the affected area¹³, reports suggest that rent prices have skyrocketed¹⁴ in the provinces close to the affected area, where the affected people are moving to escape.

Lack of financial services – measured in terms of access to cash/liquidity - was also reported as a problem by field teams. Frequent difficulties in obtaining access to cash were reported in the municipalities of Hatay and Gaziantep indicating a structural change that also impacts the affected population's ability to purchase food and non-food items. On the other hand, the majority of the observations state that ATMs/banks are either fully (72 per cent) or partially functional. (10 per cent). No functional ATMs have been reported in the four districts of Antakya, Samandağ (Hatay), İslahiye (Gaziantep) and Battalgazi (Malatya).



In addition, except for four observations made in Harran, Battalgazi, Antakya and Onikişubat districts, no significant road closures for inner city transportation were reported. In Antakya, Odabaşı district, the observer reported that roads were too damaged to function. Hence, it is possible to deduce that accessibility to the affected areas also varies according to the location, whether it is in the urban or rural areas of the province as well as in which province it is located. Reports also state that inner city transportation in the central parts of the provinces and inter-city transportation between Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay, Adıyaman and Malatya are open as of 16 February.¹⁵

¹²Cumhuriyet. (2023). Benzin ve motorindeki indirim! Deprem bölgesinde bugün geçerli olacak.

<https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/ekonomi/benzin-ve-motorindeki-indirim-deprem-bolgesinde-bugun-gecerli-olacak-2049176>

¹³Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Commerce. (2023). News Release. <https://twitter.com/ticaret/status/1625062145732841472/photo/1>

¹⁴Hürriyet. (2023). Deprem fırsatçıları ortaya çıktı! Kiralar 4 bin liradan 15 bine liraya çıktı... Emlakçı: Utanıyoruz.

<https://www.hurriyet.com.tr/ekonomi/deprem-firsatcilarini-ortaya-cikti-kiralar-4-bin-liradan-15-bine-liraya-cikti-emlakci-utaniyoruz-42219537>

¹⁵UNOCHA UNDAC (2023). Türkiye - OCHA: 2023 Earthquakes Situation Report No. 1, As of 16 February 2023. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98891>

CRITICAL NEEDS

Since the magnitude and scope of the earthquakes were massive, all kinds of support are needed in the area, as also reported by some of the observers. The market assessment identified the following critical needs in the affected area:

Food: Hot meals and essential food items are needs reported by some of the observers. Food which has a longer shelf life, like dried, packaged and canned goods, as well as baby formula, food for breakfast, plates and utensils are items in the list of priority needs published by AFAD¹⁶.

Shelter: Due to the extensive damage to buildings, shelter is and will continue to be a critical need in the long term. Especially because of the harsh winter conditions, proper shelter is needed to keep the survivors of the earthquake safe and healthy¹⁷. Observers underline the need for shelter and heaters in their comments. In addition, in the AFAD's priority needs list, shelter items such as tents, blankets, heaters, and propane cylinders exist in addition to items like winter clothes for adults and children.¹⁸

Wash: Due to the inaccessibility of water mains and lack of hygiene, there is a possibility of an epidemic outbreak. Although drinking water is available on the roadsides, water for cleaning purposes, such as washing hands or showering, is in short supply in many locations¹⁹, as also reported in the primary data. Moreover, the municipalities have become dysfunctional, resulting in the city's garbage not being collected. There are widespread issues with toilets, water access, and sanitation in Şanlıurfa and Adıyaman provinces, where toilets are either absent, inadequate, or not hygienic. There is also a lack of closed water reservoirs in most districts, resulting in long queues to obtain water from fountains and sinks. People with disabilities face difficulties accessing toilets, and many areas in Hatay are still without toilets²⁰. Even facilities in communal buildings like mosques lack basic supplies such as soap and water. Mukhtars, or local leaders, have identified access to mains water as the biggest problem in their districts, and warn that the lack of water poses a serious health risk. In areas with communal toilets, these facilities are insufficient and do not meet the needs of the population²¹. NGOs, AFAD, and municipal teams have provided water support to those affected by the disaster in Adana, but there are still few toilets available in areas with large groups of people, which could lead to hygiene problems²². The need for portable toilets is also expected to increase as more disaster-affected people arrive in Adana from Hatay and Kahramanmaraş provinces²³.

Non-food items: Hygiene items, winter clothes and heaters are among the most pressing needs²⁴. Winter conditions combined with cuts in electricity and gas due to damaged infrastructure makes life even harder for those who are affected by the earthquake. Additionally, telecommunication is a significant problem due to the lack of networks and people's inability to charge their phones while on the move²⁵.

¹⁶Anadolu Agency. (2023). AFAD deprem bölgeleri için "öncelikli ihtiyaç malzemeleri" listesi yayımladı.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/asrin-felaketi/afad-deprem-bolgeleri-icin-öncelikli-ihityac-malzemeleri-listesi-yayimladi/2821021#:~:text=AFAD'dan%20yap%C4%B1lan%20a%C3%A7%C4%B1klamaya%20g%C3%B6re,b%C3%BCy%C3%BCK%20ve%20k%C3%BC%C3%A7%C3%BCK%20t%C3%BCp%2C%20yatak%2C>

¹⁷Support to Life. (2023). Türkiye - STL: Earthquake Emergency Situation Report 14.02.23. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98866>

¹⁸Anadolu Agency. (2023). AFAD deprem bölgeleri için "öncelikli ihtiyaç malzemeleri" listesi yayımladı.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/asrin-felaketi/afad-deprem-bolgeleri-icin-öncelikli-ihityac-malzemeleri-listesi-yayimladi/2821021#:~:text=AFAD'dan%20yap%C4%B1lan%20a%C3%A7%C4%B1klamaya%20g%C3%B6re,b%C3%BCy%C3%BCK%20ve%20k%C3%BC%C3%A7%C3%BCK%20t%C3%BCp%2C%20yatak%2C>

¹⁹CNN Türk. (2023). CNN TÜRK ve Kanal D muhabirleri bölgeden paylaştı: İl il depremedelerin ihtiyaçları.

<https://www.cnnurk.com/video/turkiye/cnn-turk-ve-kanal-d-muhabirleri-bolgeden-paylasti-il-il-depremedelerin-ihityaclari>

²⁰Support to Life. (2023). Turkey-Earthquake: Emergency Situation Report (14.02.2023). <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkey-earthquake-emergency-situation-report-14022023>

²¹Railly News. (2023). Busy Hours for Portable Toilets Growing in the Disaster Area. <https://www.raillynews.com/2023/02/Intensive-work-for-the-mobile-toilets-that-come-to-the-rescue-in-the-disaster-area/>

²²IFRC. (2023). Kahramanmaraş Earthquake Operation - Federation-Wide Situation Report (11 February 2023).

<https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/kahramanmaras-earthquake-operation-federation-wide-situation-report-11-february-2023>

²³Support to Life. (2023). Emergency Situation Report. <https://www.supporttolife.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/230207-SitRep-All-Provinces.pdf>

²⁴Anadolu Agency. (2023). AFAD deprem bölgeleri için "öncelikli ihtiyaç malzemeleri" listesi yayımladı.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/asrin-felaketi/afad-deprem-bolgeleri-icin-öncelikli-ihityac-malzemeleri-listesi-yayimladi/2821021#:~:text=AFAD'dan%20yap%C4%B1lan%20a%C3%A7%C4%B1klamaya%20g%C3%B6re,b%C3%BCy%C3%BCK%20ve%20k%C3%BC%C3%A7%C3%BCK%20t%C3%BCp%2C%20yatak%2C>

²⁵Support to Life. (2023). Turkey-Earthquake: Emergency Situation Report (14.02.2023). <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98866>



A SNAPSHOT OF THE CURRENT **RESPONSE OF TÜRK KIZILAY**

Immediately after the earthquake, Türk Kızılay sprang into action, dispatching expert teams from their Disaster Response Centres and branches to reach the affected region. The organization's resources were mobilized to provide support in the areas of nutrition, psychosocial support, blanket distribution, blood services, and catering. In particular, soup and treats were distributed to citizens who have to spend the night outside. Türk Kızılay also directed search and rescue teams to the region, while Türk Kızılay's psychosocial support teams worked to provide aid to those impacted by the earthquake. Furthermore, the organization ensured that blood and plasma stocks were readily available in the region to meet any potential needs.

At the time of the assessment, Türk Kızılay coordinated **1,186 personnel and 3,497 volunteers** took part in the response. Türk Kızılay coordinates **863 vehicles** in total, including **86 catering vehicles, 354 mobile kitchens, 40 mobile ovens, 22 field kitchens and 361 other vehicles**. In addition, five Türk Kızılay soup kitchens regularly deliver meals to the affected people. There are **300 blood donation points** throughout Turkey. The Disaster Nutrition Group coordinated by Türk Kızılay has so far distributed to **8,423,000 portions of soup, 46,938,000 portions of hot meals, and 49,148,000 breads**. In addition, **1,477,000 refreshments, 24,302,000 bottles of water and 2,873,000 cups of beverages**.



CONCLUSION

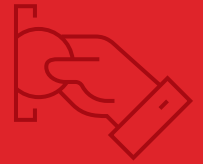
The humanitarian crisis in territories that have suffered from the repercussions of the seismic event has had a severe impact on the market systems and has resulted in shortages of essential goods and increased prices, affecting both the availability and accessibility of goods and services. The most critical needs identified are **food, shelter, water, and hygiene items**. The findings suggest the level of destruction in Hatay is severe, markets are mostly closed and ATMs are not functional. Hence, the province requires close monitoring. Adiyaman is another province which is considered as risky in terms of market situation.

I. Alleviation of supply chain breakdowns:



Efforts should be directed towards identifying and rectifying the disturbances in the supply chain, encompassing enhancement of transportation systems and providing assistance to small-scale merchants.

II. Advocacy for market-oriented approaches:



Efforts should endorse market-oriented solutions, including precise subsidies and price regulations, to guarantee the availability and affordability of critical commodities for those who require them the most.

III. Amplification of joint efforts:



Amplifying joint efforts among government entities, non-profit organizations, humanitarian entities and private sector firms is crucial to make certain that resources are effectively and efficiently deployed to meet the needs of populations affected by the crisis. With that, a complimentary tripartite (IFRC, TRC and WFP) market assessment study has been launched to monitor the dynamic situation of the markets in the affected area and to inform on cash feasibility.

IV. Initiation of cash, voucher and livelihood programs:



In the medium term, cash and voucher programs should be initiated to both support needs and ensure market functionality at the local levels. Since the livelihood opportunities will be scarce aftermath of the earthquake, providing means to earn regular income for those who are affected will ensure self-sustainability in the long run.

