



Türkiye Earthquake

SIX-MONTH UPDATE | AUGUST 2023



American
Red Cross

Turkish and Syrian Arab Red Crescent Teams Respond to Immense Needs of Survivors

In February 2023, the largest earthquake in Türkiye and Syria in over a century caused massive destruction, affecting over 17 million people. Tragically, nearly 60,000 lives were lost, countless others were injured and millions of people were displaced from their homes in Türkiye and neighboring areas of northern Syria. Millions were still living in tents for months after the quake struck.

To help meet the immense needs, Turkish Red Crescent and Syrian Arab Red Crescent teams led emergency response and relief efforts, working around the clock to deliver shelter, food, water and critical relief supplies, as well as essential health and sanitation services.

As part of the world's largest humanitarian network, the American Red Cross and our partners in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC) came together in this massive response, providing millions of dollars in funding, technical and logistical support, and more.

Needs have continued to evolve in the months since the earthquake, and so has the Red Cross and Red Crescent support — including the provision of cash assistance and mental health services to earthquake survivors — ensuring that people affected by this crisis can move forward with their lives.

In Türkiye...

Nearly **500,000** Turkish Red Crescent volunteers and personnel have provided millions of people with essential care, food and relief supplies:

- More than **416 million hot meals** have been distributed, along with more than **10 million relief items**, including kitchen and other housing sets, blankets, food parcels, hygiene kits, clothing and baby items.
- Cash assistance has been provided to over **115,000 households**, reaching approximately **550,000 people** to cover their basic needs.
- Health care services have been provided to more than **47,000 people**, many of them in rural areas and temporary shelters

Above: A Turkish Red Crescent disaster worker comforts an earthquake survivor amid the rubble left by a devastating February 2023 earthquake. Since day one, Red Cross and Red Crescent teams provided support in the hardest-hit areas, distributing food, clean water, hygiene items, winter clothing and blankets and providing first aid, health care and sanitation services. Photo by IFRC.



In Gaziantep and Hatay, Türkiye, Turkish Red Crescent workers prepare Iftar meals for people observing Ramadan in shelters for displaced families. Photo by Turkish Red Crescent

Many individuals and families continue to live in the earthquake zone in Türkiye, seeking shelter in emergency centers and tented camps, and remain deeply traumatized by what they have seen and all that they have lost. To help them cope with the mental toll of the earthquake — which some observers have described as “a second disaster” — Turkish Red Crescent teams have made referrals to health care facilities, set up safe spaces for children to play and provided **mental health and psychosocial support for over 176,000 people**, including first responders and health workers.

People not only lost their homes, but also their sources of income — shops, offices and agricultural businesses were damaged and destroyed. It will take years to rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient again. To help, the Turkish Red Crescent, with support from the IFRC and the United Nations World Food Programme, has provided cash assistance to over **115,000 households, reaching approximately 550,000 people**.

This cash and voucher assistance empowers people — including many Syrian earthquake survivors who crossed the border into Türkiye to seek refuge and aid — to care for their families based on their own preferences and decisions. For people who may feel they have little control over their situations in the wake of these devastating quakes, these funds help them address their most urgent recovery needs, which could include rent and food, as well as education and health care costs. The program also serves a broader role, helping boost the local economy in the affected areas and thus supporting long-term rebuilding and recovery.

Many of those affected by the earthquake in Syria were already living in vulnerable conditions. Twelve years of conflict and crisis have been compounded by this disaster, creating a massive need for mental health services. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has provided **psychological first aid to more than 464,000 survivors**, especially children, as well as to paramedics and first responders.

In Syria...

More than **8,000 volunteers** from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent have provided over **12.6 million humanitarian services** to earthquake survivors in Syria, including:

- The provision of some **9.3 million disaster relief services**, such as the distribution of food, clean water, winter clothing, blankets, hygiene supplies and other relief items.
- The provision of some **2.6 million medical services**, ensuring essential health care access for those affected.
- Other critical aid, such as **water and rehabilitation services, legal services and more**, to aid communities with recovery, rebuilding, safety and other post-disaster challenges.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Network Delivers Financial and Technical Support

The IFRC has marshalled support from around the world to boost these vital relief efforts. Dozens of national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have offered technical assistance, and almost 60 national societies have started domestic fundraising campaigns.

Powered by generous donations from the public, the American Red Cross has joined this worldwide response, providing \$3 million to date for feeding operations and \$1 million for multipurpose cash assistance. We have also mobilized five international crisis responders to

assist with communications, information management and recovery planning.

We know that rebuilding and recovery from this devastating earthquake will be a long process, even with the support of the international community. In the months ahead, with our partners in the Red Cross and Red Crescent network, the American Red Cross will continue to assess ongoing needs and provide additional aid as earthquake survivors begin to recover and rebuild shattered homes and lives.

Red Crescent Teams Offer Solace to Traumatized Communities, Especially Children

Standing outside a community for displaced people in Hatay Province, Türkiye, Tildiz Ipek shared that it was her 18th birthday. Red Crescent workers quickly broke into the birthday song: *“Iyi ki dogdun, Tildiz; Iyi ki dogdun, Tildiz; Iyi ki dogdun, Iyi ki dogdun; Iyi ki dogdun, Tildiz.”* Children from around the camp gathered to join in singing and clapping along.

When the noise settled down, Tildiz showed off her drawings, which adorn the Turkish Red Crescent Children’s Center. One self-portrait showed her holding a cat, wrapped in a blanket of grief that illustrated the impacted earthquake areas. “Drawing is my way to feel better,” she said.

Her older sister, Aliye, 20, said that the family has struggled, but is fortunate that all five children survived. “This is not the case for so many families here,” she added.

Red Crescent clinical psychologist Aise Sumeyye Dal shared that Tildiz’s story is typical of the children she sees every day. “Our goal is to meet with children and help them reduce their stress levels. We are playing games and offering psychological first aid to children who have suffered trauma,” she explained.

According to Aise, Red Crescent psychosocial teams responding to the disaster are seeing PTSD and depression in their clients. She said that her concern is for the entire community, but she’s particularly worried

about children, as this trauma could potentially trigger bigger issues in the future.

Tildiz said that art is the one way she can process all that’s happened. When asked if she plans to be an artist, she said that she isn’t sure what the future holds: “I just know that art brings me peace right now.”



Tildiz, age 18 (right), and her sister, Aliye, age 20, say that their family has suffered in the wake of the earthquakes, but is fortunate that all five children survived. With her family’s home destroyed, Tildiz finds comfort in her drawings, which adorn the walls of the Turkish Red Crescent Children’s Center. Photo by Susan Malandrino/IFRC

Compassionate Donors Power Türkiye Earthquake Relief and Recovery

Thanks to our generous supporters, the American Red Cross has raised \$21.10 million to help survivors of the Türkiye Earthquake. As of August 6, 2023, the American Red Cross had already spent or made firm commitments to spend approximately \$4.71 million to support emergency relief and recovery efforts for people impacted by this deadly earthquake.

The remaining funds will be used to support cash assistance in Türkiye and Syria that will help the most vulnerable and severely affected individuals and families meet urgent needs. Funds will also be used to provide critical relief items and access to health services in earthquake-affected areas in Syria.

Türkiye Earthquake Spent and Committed (in millions)

As of August 6, 2023 (\$21.10M raised)

Expense Categories	Food, Shelter and Relief Items	Financial Assistance	Total	Expense %
Grants to support financial assistance, food and other relief items	\$3.13	\$1.0	\$4.13	87.6%
Deployment and maintenance of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$0.02	—	\$0.02	0.5%
Other program and program support costs	\$0.09	—	\$0.09	1.9%
Total Program Expenses	\$3.24	\$1.00	\$4.24	90.0%
Management, general and fundraising ¹	—	—	\$0.47	10.0%
Total Spent and Committed	—	—	\$4.71	100.0%
Program Dollars Remaining	—	—	\$14.76	—
Management, general and fundraising remaining to be applied	—	—	\$1.63	—
Total Budget	—	—	\$21.10	—

¹Management, 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 approximately 19,000 employees and more than 300,000 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 Syrian Arab Red Crescent-led assistance to help people affected by this crisis.

Thank you!

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 and Red Crescent network. We are grateful for your trust.