



*The first UN cross-border aid convoy after the earthquake heads to Bab Al-Hawa. 9 February 2023. Credit: OCHA/Madevi Sun Suon*

## Situation Overview

Six trucks crossed from Türkiye into north-west Syria today loaded shelter items and Non-Food Items (NFIs) including hygiene kits, solar lamps and blankets. This is the first cross-border aid convoy since the 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck southern Türkiye on 6 February, escalating humanitarian needs. The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#), reports that the convoy items can meet the needs of “at least 5,000 people”.

“What we need now more than ever is to continue this constant flow of supplies,” said Sanjana Quazi, Head of OCHA Türkiye. “This is a lifeline to people in north-west Syria. We hope to continue and to scale up to respond faster”.

Since 2014, the beginning of the cross-border operation, the UN has sent more than 55,000 trucks loaded with aid to north-west Syria. Of the four border crossings originally authorized by the Security Council, three crossings have been closed - Al-Ramtha (Jordan), Al Yarubiyah (Iraq) and Bab al-Salam (Türkiye). Today, the Bab Al-Hawa crossing on the Türkiye-Syria border is the single remaining border-crossing authorized for UN aid delivery into north-west Syria.

The operation was temporarily disrupted due to damaged roads connecting Gaziantep to the UN Transshipment Hub in Hatay where aid is monitored and verified before crossing into Syria. With the identification of two alternative routes yesterday, the UN resumed the operation in the early morning of Thursday 9 February.

Humanitarian needs continue to grow and overwhelm response efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake. The collective death toll in Türkiye and north-west Syria has increased to more than 18,000 (a 63 per cent increase from the figures reported in the [OCHA Flash Update 8 February](#)). At least 1,206 aftershocks have been reported.

Emergency response search and rescue teams from around the world have been mobilized to Türkiye. The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams are already in place in Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep and Hatay. Additional members of the UNDAC team are expected to arrive in Kahramanmaraş and Adiyaman by 10 February.

In north-west Syria, the situation remains dire, particularly for the 4.1 million people who rely on humanitarian assistance to subsist. It is reported that significant numbers of people remain trapped under the debris of collapsed homes. Flooding has been reported in displacement camps due to inclement winter weather.

The [Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund \(SCHF\)](#) has received pledged contributions aiming to respond to humanitarian needs in north-west Syria including the earthquake response thanks to the generous support of Germany, Ireland, Japan and Sweden.

## Updates in Türkiye

### Impact and humanitarian needs

- At least 16,170, deaths and 64,194 injuries have been confirmed by the Government of Türkiye in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Adana, Adiyaman, Osmaniye, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya and Elazığ. At least 1,206 aftershocks have been reported.
- The three most affected districts by number of deaths are Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Gaziantep.
- At least 6,444 buildings have reportedly collapsed in the country.
- As of 9 February, the airport in Hatay has been repaired and is open to ambulance airplanes. Airports in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa are open to both commercial and humanitarian flights. Airports in Malatya, Adana, Diyarbakır, Adiyaman Airports are open to flights.
- Gas flow through pipelines has been stopped in Kahramanmaraş and Gaziantep to mitigate risks of explosions.
- According to the Ministry of Education, all schools in Türkiye are closed until 20 February.
- A number of key transportation routes have been impaired.
- The Government of Türkiye issued a Level 4 alarm on 6 February calling for international assistance.

### Humanitarian response

- According to the Disaster And Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), 28,044 citizens have been evacuated from affected areas.
- The total number of responders in the region is 115,688 personnel, including 25,893 search and rescue personnel and 6,479 international personnel from other countries.
- AFAD, the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Red Crescent dispatched 137,929 tents and 1,255,500 blankets to 10 provinces heavily affected by the earthquake.
- A total of 50 UNDAC team members, including partners from International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP), Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF), MapAction, REACH and Atlas Logistics, are deployed to four hubs Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep and Hatay to support the earthquake response and further teams will deploy to Kahramanmaraş and Adiyaman by 10 February.

## Updates in north-west Syria

### Impact

- According to local authorities, more than 2,000 deaths and 5,000 injuries have been reported in north-west Syria. The numbers are expected to continue to rise as numerous people as significant numbers remain trapped in the debris of collapsed buildings.

- As of 8 February, more than 2,000 buildings have been completely destroyed and more than 5,100 buildings have been partially destroyed. Local authorities indicate that over 11,000 families are now homeless.
- Preliminary assessments indicate that the sub-districts of Harim, Atmeh, Sarmada, Atareb, and Kafr Takharim are among the worst hit areas.

### Humanitarian needs

- Primary needs identified include: 1) heavy machines for debris removal, 2) cash distribution, 3) tents, isolation sheets and NFIs, 4) heating materials, 5) emergency food and bread assistance, 6) water trucking and garbage removals, 7) ambulances and medicines, 8) fuel for hospitals and health centers, 9) rental trucks and vans to transport people, 10) reception centers for IDPs and 11) safe spaces for women and girls.
- Major power outage has resulted in fuel shortages in hospitals. Hospitals and blood donation centers need support to treat the injured and are operating with limited resources.
  - ✓ The Health Cluster report that urgent medical needs in hospitals include serums, gauze bandages, painkillers, medical plaster and blood bags.
  - ✓ Other urgent needs include fuel for generators and heating as well as burial bags. At least 20 hospitals have registered a request for blood units and at least two hospitals are out of service in the Idlib governorate.
- Supplies of daily bread is a primary priority need currently many people are reported to only have received limited water, apples or bread slices.
- Schools are reportedly closed until 10 February. The Education Cluster noted that this suspension will likely be extended and most children are reluctant to go back to school due to aftershocks.
- According to the Education Cluster, there is contradictory information received from the field on whether schools are being used as shelters. No confirmed information has been received at this stage.
- Access to water and sanitation services in north-west Syria is extremely challenging, reported WASH Cluster, including water filtration.
- The water level of the Orontes river has reportedly risen due to the collapse of a dam in the aftermath of the earthquake. This has led to displacements of people from the village of Al-Talul to nearby camps.

### Humanitarian response

- The first UN cross-border aid convoy since the earthquake has crossed at 12:03 from Türkiye into north-west Syria. The convoy comprised six trucks carrying shelter items and NFIs.
- The response capacity in north-west Syria continues to be dire as excavation efforts are ongoing to rescue people. According to civil defense, only five per cent of reported sites are being covered by search and rescue operations. The lack of heavy machines to remove rubble and bad weather conditions complicate these efforts.
- A [\\$25 million grant](#) was released by United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) on 7 February to help “kick-start” the earthquake response. A Whole-of-Syria Flash Appeal will be published over the coming days to map gaps, needs, and financial requirements for an initial period of three months until 10 May 2023. Other UN agencies have activated their internal emergency funds.
- OCHA is tracking more than 26 assessments by partners on needs, response and gaps.
- UN pre-positioned aid is accessible in north-west Syria but fails to meet the needs of affected people. Partners have reported that pre-positioned stocks are currently in distribution.
  - ✓ IOM and UNHCR partners have a total stock of 2,000 tents and approximately 1,700 Non-Food Item (NFI) kits pre-positioned inside north-west Syria. An additional 1,800 NFI kits are available through Mercy Corps. The Shelter/Non-Food Item (SNFI) cluster reported that 10 partners have distributed more than 900 tents. Additional partners are expected to become more operational in the coming days.
  - ✓ UNHCR report that 1,000 additional tents are available in its warehouse in Gaziantep and discussions are ongoing to mobilize regional stock.
  - ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has released trauma kits from their stocks to at least 16 hospitals in north-western Syria.

- ✓ The Nutrition Cluster reported that their warehouses and nutrition supplies are intact. Some implementing partners have reportedly activated the Rapid Response Team modalities which include the distribution of High Energy Biscuits and micronutrients and the provision of individual counseling for mothers on breastfeeding during difficult times.
- More than 30,000 displacements took place in north-west Syria between 6 February and 8 February, reported the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster.
  - ✓ Departures principally occurred from Jandairis, Salqin and Harim. The main locations where displaced people arrived included Dana, Maaret Tamsrin sub-districts.
- It is reported that at least four interim shelters are being established to host families from Idlib. Partners have established reception centers in the Sheikh Bahr area with capacity for 200 families in need of shelter, in Maaret Tamsrin community that can host some 160 families and two other centers in Idlib governorate.
- Three Early Recovery partners have reportedly started rubble removal efforts and others have diverted resources to search and rescue activities.
- The Education Cluster is continuously coordinating with partners to assess the situation of schools on the ground.
- 12,000 people were reportedly supported in Idlib and Aleppo with the distribution of hygiene kits and clean drinking water by UNICEF.
- The Health Cluster is working to establish temporary medical health facilities, deploy teams and provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).
- The CCCM cluster is working to register newly established camps.

To contribute to the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF), please [click here](#).

#### Contact

Madevi Sun-Suon, Public Information Officer - [madevi.sun-suon@un.org](mailto:madevi.sun-suon@un.org) +90 534 261 6515, OCHA Türkiye in Gaziantep