

TÜRKIYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

Humanity First - Situation Update 06

12 March 2023



Field Kitchen in operation in Belen, Hatay Province

Situation

Just over a month ago, magnitude 7.8 and 7.5 earthquakes struck southeast Türkiye in the morning of Monday 6th February 2023. There were thousands of significant aftershocks in the weeks that followed.

It is reported that over 230,000 buildings¹ were destroyed or badly damaged over quite a large region of Türkiye, and for that reason, it will take a long time for missing people to be accounted for. In northwest Syria, many buildings were also destroyed but it is harder to get accurate figures.

At this stage, the number of confirmed fatalities is estimated to be between 54,000 – 56,000

(latest confirmed figure in Türkiye is 47,975²) and the numbers of injured is estimated to be around 130,000.

In total, around 9.1 million people have been affected by the impact of the earthquakes which are the worst for almost a century.

Around 1.9 million people from displaced families are in 332 well managed tent camps in 11 provinces across the region. Whilst reconstruction gets under way, many of these people will need support for the months to come. Many other families were evacuated to regions in the western Türkiye unaffected by the earthquakes, especially those needing treatment for trauma injuries. Our teams doing

¹ Washington Post, 11 March 2023

² Confirmed by Turkish authorities on 11 March 2023

outreach to villages have confirmed the scale of the devastation and suffering that they have been seeing.



Humanity First Response

Humanity First launched a global appeal soon after the first disaster, with funds being raised in Europe, North America, the Middle East, Asia and Australasia.

A first responder team from Germany and the UK was on the ground within a couple of days in southern Türkiye, and did a needs assessment in discussions with regional authorities. Since then, the Humanity First response has centred around emergency medical assistance, bedding and food.



In the Hatay province, HF has been providing primary care services daily for patients in tent cities in Antakya. In addition, the Government has provided an ambulance so that our team has been able to also reach hundreds of patients in neighbouring towns and villages. The HF medical camp was recently visited by the Turkish Health Minister, His Excellency Dr

Fahrettin Koca, who gave encouragement to the team and voiced his appreciation for their work.

The main medical camp is attached to a tent city where there are needs for additional bedding and hygiene items for families.

Similarly, in the Osmaniye province, HF has had a team of doctors, providing medical care for around 1,700 people in temporary accommodation. The team has been treating patients with minor injuries, chronic conditions such as diabetes, and a spectrum of mental health issues and psycho-social conditions as a result of the trauma of the earthquakes. The local Director from the Ministry of Health visited the team in Osmaniye and was satisfied with the camp setup and organization. This week, this camp closed and is shifting to other locations in Hatay Province where there is greater need.



So far 4,452 patients have been seen and treated in Türkiye thanks to 39 doctors from Europe and North America who have been working on rotation. Over 8,000 medications have been provided to patients. Feedback from patients has been humbling, and they have commented on not just the quality of care being provided, but also the love and compassion of our teams.

Teams have been working around the world to access medication, blankets, tents and sleeping

bags. Relief items have been donated in Canada, Norway, USA, Germany, The Netherlands and Australia.

Last weekend, having been asked by the Turkish Red Crescent to support 2,000 people in the Belen camp city in Hatay Province with a meals service, HF sent a team of 15 people from Germany to establish a field kitchen, not far from Iskenderun.



Gradually, the field kitchen began to provide breakfast and dinner, and through word of mouth, many people from surrounding villages have also been attending the kitchen to access meals. As well as the camp in Belen, the teams has also been providing hot meals to people in Petek, Toki, Ayrik and Zafir. On a daily basis this week, the team have been providing over 8,300 meals and now covering 18 locations including smaller camp sites and container parks.

In addition, families have been requesting milk and hygiene materials which our team are doing their best to resource and provide. This week we provided 3,500 milk packs for 400 Syrian refugee children.

Demand for the food service is growing, and the team have been working 24 hours a day to ensure that nobody requesting food is turned away. In just over a week, over 63,585 meals have been provided.



In the medium term, we are also in discussions about supporting education needs of displaced children in the region.

Finally, a small team from the UK did a needs assessment in northwest Syria in co-ordination with the UN and local authorities and is planning next steps including support of children orphaned through the earthquake, strengthening women's health and maternity services and repairing houses damaged in that part of Syria. HF is also in discussions with other partners working in Syria.

In summary, our response has delivered the following:

- 4,452 patients treated through 4 ongoing primary care medical camps, including 8,219 medications dispensed

- 63,585 meals provided through our field kitchen to 18 locations
- 6,401 blankets donated
- 10,513 units of clothes donated
- 225 tents distributed
- 500 family care packs including hygiene items
- 39 doctors as part of over 89 personnel deployed to Türkiye
- 1,100 volunteers supporting the response across Europe, North America, Australasia and South Asia
- Total volunteer hours: 7,462



Including funds spent by HF through donations, the volunteer staff working on the ground, donated aid material and free logistical support, the total value of aid delivered so far is estimated to be over \$624,000.

The teams are also collaborating with the UN Logistics Cluster, Turkish Red Crescent, WHO and WFP as well as Turkish local and regional authorities.

Humanity First is very grateful to our many friends and partners around the world donating emergency aid material in support of our relief efforts. We have also been assisted with logistics to and via Adana and shelter and meals for our staff, and we are very grateful to all of our friends in Türkiye.



About Humanity First

Humanity First (HF) is an international aid agency, with HQ in the UK and branches in 62 countries. HF provides emergency assistance using a global volunteer network, and works on the basis of need alone, irrespective of race, gender, age, religion or political affiliation. Since being launched in 1995, HF has responded to over 200 emergencies in 102 countries, and assisted around 2.5 million people. Humanity First previously responded to the Izmir earthquake in 1999, and for over a decade, has been assisting Syrian refugees in Gaziantep and Iskenderun in south-east Türkiye.

Contacts:

Dr Mahmood Qureshi
 Director of Disaster Relief
 E: mqureshi@humanityfirst.org
 T: +44 (0)20 8417 0082