



Türkiye-Syria Earthquake | Situation Report #1

Middle East & North Africa Response Plan

08 February 2023, 15:00 ET

OUR RESPONSE

On February 6, two high magnitude earthquakes hit Gaziantep Province, followed by hundreds of aftershocks, impacting millions in Türkiye, Syria, and neighboring countries. Government authorities in Türkiye have requested international assistance for search and rescue resources. Syria has appealed for international assistance as well. Airlink has activated its Middle East & North Africa Regional Response Plan following the devastating impact of the earthquakes. Airlink is coordinating with humanitarian, logistics, and airline partners in the region to assess main needs and response capabilities and will continue to monitor the situation to best support partners' responses. Please reach out to ops@airlinkflight.org if your organization is planning to respond and/or has a request for transportation assistance.

THE SITUATION

On the morning of February 6th, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, and subsequent aftershocks as strong as 7.5 magnitude, struck Türkiye's Gaziantep Province. Primary impacts were seen in southwestern Türkiye and northeastern Syria. Recent reports indicate that more than 11,600 people have been killed, 50,000 injured, and tens of thousands of buildings across Türkiye and Syria have been destroyed. Due to infrastructural damage, these numbers are expected to increase throughout the week.

The Turkish government declared a level 4 emergency and a state of emergency in 10 provinces across southeast Türkiye. The international community continues to mobilize personnel and resources to assist with search and rescue, medical support, temporary shelter, and water and food insecurity.

In southeast Türkiye, millions are still without power, access to clean water, and reliable telecommunication. Displaced people, civilians trapped in destroyed infrastructure, and rapid responders are facing abnormal winter weather conditions with temperatures near freezing and forecasted winter storms.

In Syria, civilians that have experienced years of civil war, displacement, and an ongoing cholera outbreak have been further displaced. Humanitarian aid hubs that have been situated underground in response to the war are now difficult to access and operate from in rebel-held regions. Earlier this year, the UN Security Council extended the Syria cross-border aid lifeline ensuring humanitarian activities in the region continue through transit between Türkiye and northeastern Syria. Since then, the EU has updated their sanctions and will be funneling aid into regime- and rebel-controlled areas in Syria. The Bab Al Salama and Bab Al Hawa cross-border entry points are expected to be open for cross border aid movement beginning 09 February.

First responders in Türkiye and Syria have stated that there is an acute need for winterization materials, debris removal equipment, medical aid, and search and rescue volunteers. Humanitarian access is constrained after the earthquake destroyed infrastructure, including roadways, railways, communication systems, and water reservoirs.

SERVICE DELIVERY

Airlink is supporting organizations who have specifically been approved by AFAD to deploy for search-and-rescue purposes, or otherwise have a credible request for assistance from a locally-registered organization in Türkiye or Syria.

Cargo Support

Airlink is supporting the humanitarian community through cargo flight options into Istanbul (IST) and Adana (ADA)* at this time due to airport damage closer to the earthquakes' epicenters. Airlink's logistics partners have capacity to support customs clearance and in-country transport as needed. We will continue to monitor additional destinations supported by our network and assessments are completed.

Personnel Flights

Round-trip passenger flights to Istanbul (IST), Adana (ADA), Malatya (MLX), Sanliurfa (GNY)* from origins in the US, Europe, United Kingdom, Canada, and additional locations.

*Airport capacity in Turkey is subject to change with ongoing damage assessments.

Airport Status:

- ADANA (ADA): Open, has highloader
- ISTANBUL (IST): Open
- ISTANBUL (SAW): Open
- KAHRAMANMARAŞ (KCM): Open, aid flights prioritized
- DIYARBAKIR (DIY): Open
- GAZİANTEP (GZE): Open to aid flights only, has highloader
- MALATYA (MLX): Open with priority for aid flights, does not have highloader
- HATAY (HTY): Closed

Needs:

Based on initial input from NGO partners, health, shelter, WASH, food, and NFIs for winter are among critical needs. A [preliminary needs list](#) has been published by IMPACCT, and an [extensive medicines needs list](#) has been published by the Turkish government.

Cargo Movement: International assistance entry points for Turkey have been declared as ADANA (ADA) and GAZİANTEP (GZE) airports. Congestion at ADA is likely due to the magnitude of the disaster and relative size of the airport. Cargo may also be moved to Istanbul (IST) and trucked to the south.

Cross-border movement of goods to Syria is possible at this time for humanitarian aid and essential personnel. Airlink is coordinating with logistics partners to determine requirements for cross border movement into Syria.

Personnel Movement:

Guidance for Urban Search and Rescue Teams: All search and rescue teams wishing to deploy will be vetted and must first write to Tahsin Berkant Ataay (berkant.ataay@afad.gov.tr); Recep ŞALCI (recep.salci@afad.gov.tr) and copy the Secretariat: Lucien Jaggi (jaggi@un.org); Pietro Carra (pietro.carra@un.org); OCHA-Inсарag (insarag@un.org); Winston Chang (changw@un.org).

Guidance for Medical Teams: At present, there is no known medical license waiver for foreign medical teams. All deployments of Emergency Medical Teams should be coordinated through the WHO. The national EMT Coordination Cell has been established in country with a physical presence set in Adana. EMTCC email: tremtcc@gmail.com.

Relevant contacts:

- National EMT Coordinator: Yusuf Irmak (tremtcc@gmail.com)
- WHO EMT Regional Focal Point: Oleg Storozhenko (storozhenko@who.int)
- WHO Emergency Officer: Murat Simsek (simsek@who.int)
- WHO EMT Global Secretariat: Flavio Salio (saliof@who.int); Chantal Claravall (claravallc@who.int)

The need for Type 2 and 3 EMTs able to work in extreme weather conditions has been identified in the Republic of Türkiye. Interested EMTs that meet the criteria are requested to fill up and submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) form available on the VO. EMTs must submit the accomplished EOI form to Murat Simsek (simsekm@who.int) with a copy to the Regional (storozhenkoo@who.int) and Global EMT Secretariat (saliof@who.int; claravallc@who.int) as soon as possible. Offers will then be submitted to national authorities.

EMTs interested to deploy to northern Syria are requested to fill up and submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) form which can be accessed here. EMTs must submit the accomplished EOI form to the Global EMT Secretariat (saliof@who.int; claravallc@who.int) as soon as possible. Offers will be submitted to the relevant authorities.

Please note that all teams wishing to deploy must first write with their expressions of interest and the duly filled form. Teams must wait for approval before mobilizing, deployment of Emergency Medical Teams are subject to approval by the Ministry of Health.

General Guidance: The UN OCHA Reception/Departure Centre (RDC) has been established at ADANA. International assistance entry points for Turkey have been declared as ADANA (ADA) and GAZIANTEP (GZE) airports.

Customs Clearance: Airlink is coordinating with partners to keep NGOs up to date with customs processes and changes. The IMPACCT Working Group has published simplified cargo importation procedures that can be found [here](#), and additional information on Virtual OSOCC [here](#).

RESPONDING PARTNER AGENCIES

If you don't see your organization listed and you are responding, please email ops@airlinkflight.org.

Active Partners:

- ADRA (Cash Assistance, Food, Shelter, NFIs)
- Americares (Health)
- Buddhist Tzu Chi (Shelter)
- CADENA (USAR, Health)
- Convoy of Hope (Food, WASH, NFIs)
- Empact Northwest (USAR)
- Fuel Relief Fund (Fuel)
- Heart to Heart International (Health)
- Humanity First (Shelter)
- IFRC
- IMA World Health (Health)
- International Medical Corps (Health)
- International Medical Relief (Health)
- Islamic Relief International
- MedGlobal (Health)
- MedShare (Health)
- Mobile Medics International (Health)
- NYC Medics (Health)
- Off-The-Grid Missions
- Project HOPE (Health)
- Project CURE (Health)
- RE:ACT Disaster Response (Shelter)
- Relief International (Health)
- Rise Against Hunger (Food)
- SARAID (USAR)
- Save the Children (Protection, Health)
- ServeOn (USAR)
- ShelterBox (Shelter)
- Syrian American Medical Society (Health)
- Turkish Red Crescent
- WaterMission (WASH)
- Water Survival Box (WASH)
- Water With Blessings (WASH)