



# Türkiye-Syria Earthquake | Situation Report #2

Middle East & North Africa Response Plan

10 February 2023, 17:00 ET

## OUR RESPONSE

Airlink has activated its Middle East & North Africa Regional Response Plan following the devastating impact of the earthquakes on February 6. 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. To date, Airlink has supported passenger flights for 68 responders and has a cargo pipeline for 750 tons of aid. Please reach out to [ops@airlinkflight.org](mailto: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. More than 22,000 people have been killed, 80,000 injured, and tens of thousands of buildings across Türkiye and Syria have been destroyed. Due to infrastructural damage, these numbers are expected to increase over the next week.

### Türkiye

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. The greatest civilian needs in Türkiye are winterization items, access to food and water, hygiene kits, and emergency medical supplies for survivors.

### Syria

In Syria, 30% of healthcare facilities and hospitals have been destroyed and remaining institutions are becoming increasingly overwhelmed. Amidst the cholera outbreak in Syria, the greatest need is for medical supplies and medicines. 4.1 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian aid and have been displaced multiple times due to the civil war. Civilians also lack adequate shelter and access to food. The U.S. government has extended a lift on sanctions for a 6-month period. The Syrian government has authorized the entry of aid and on February 9 the first EU convoy of aid crossed the Bab Al Hawa border.

At this time, the Türkiye-Syria border is now open for the movement of humanitarian aid. 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. The international community continues to mobilize personnel and resources in response to these needs. Humanitarian aid that has been specified in the Turkish and Syrian governments' needs lists will be prioritized for customs clearance.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

Airlink is supporting organizations who have been approved by AFAD to deploy personnel and/or humanitarian cargo, 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 second and more extensive version of the [needs list](#) has been published by IMPACCT based on information disseminated 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. This process has been updated to ensure that aid consignments are cleared at the customs immediately without any delay. Cargo may also be moved to Istanbul (IST), which has greater cargo capacity than ADANA (ADA) and GAZİANTEP (GZE), and trucked to the south.

Cross-border movement of goods to Syria is possible at this time for humanitarian aid and essential personnel. In order to do so, NGOs must have a valid BIS license and must have coordinated with AFAD. Airlink is currently coordinating with logistics partners to determine any further 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-Insarag (insarag@un.org); Winston Chang ([changw@un.org](mailto: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](mailto:tremtcc@gmail.com).

Relevant contacts:

- National EMT Coordinator: Yusuf Irmak ([tremtcc@gmail.com](mailto:tremtcc@gmail.com))
- WHO EMT Regional Focal Point: Oleg Storozhenko ([storozhenko@who.int](mailto:storozhenko@who.int))
- WHO Emergency Officer: Murat Simsek ([simsek@who.int](mailto:simsek@who.int))
- WHO EMT Global Secretariat: Flavio Salio ([saliof@who.int](mailto:saliof@who.int)); Chantal Claravall ([claravallc@who.int](mailto: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](mailto:simsekm@who.int)) with a copy to the Regional ([storozhenkoo@who.int](mailto:storozhenkoo@who.int)) and Global EMT Secretariat ([saliof@who.int](mailto:saliof@who.int); [claravallc@who.int](mailto: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](mailto:saliof@who.int); [claravallc@who.int](mailto: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. EMTs are expected to be self-sufficient and comply with the [WHO EMT Minimum Standards and Guiding Principles](#).

**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](#) with further instructions on customs procedures and consignee information [here](#). Additional information can also be found on Virtual OSOCC [here](#).

## RESPONDING PARTNER AGENCIES

If you don't see your organization listed and you are responding, please email [ops@airlinkflight.org](mailto: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)
- Danish Red Cross
- Direct Relief (Health)
- Empact Northwest (USAR)
- Fuel Relief Fund (Fuel)
- GOAL Global
- Good360
- Hands on Global (Health)
- Heart to Heart International (Health)
- Humanity First (Shelter)
- IFRC
- IMA World Health (Health)
- International Medical Corps (Health)
- International Medical Relief (Health)
- Islamic Relief International
- Los Angeles Sheriff Reserve Association
- Malteser International
- MedGlobal (Health)
- MedShare (Health)
- Mobile Medics International (Health)
- NYC Medics (Health)
- Off-The-Grid Missions
- Operation USA
- 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)
- Shelters International Disaster Response
- SOS International
- Syrian American Medical Society (Health)
- Turkish Red Crescent
- WaterMission (WASH)
- Water Survival Box (WASH)
- Water With Blessings (WASH)