



Türkiye-Syria Earthquake | Situation Report #3

Middle East & North Africa Response Plan

13 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 87 responders and has a cargo pipeline for 750 tons of aid. 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. More than 37,000 people have been killed, 90,000 injured, and tens of thousands of buildings across Türkiye and Syria have been destroyed. Due to infrastructural damage, these numbers are expected to continually increase. 900,000 people across both countries are currently in need of hot food and shelter.

Türkiye

In southeast Türkiye, millions are still without power, access to clean water, and reliable telecommunication amidst abnormal winter weather conditions. As the rescue phase of the disaster relief comes to a close, The greatest civilian needs in Türkiye are winterization items, tents, access to hot food, hygiene kits, and emergency medical supplies for survivors.

Syria

80% of northwestern Syrians are in need of humanitarian aid and have been displaced multiple times due to the civil war. Civilians lack adequate shelter, access to hot food, and medical treatment. Hundreds of people still remain trapped under the rubble as the search and rescue effort has been led by community-based responders. The U.S. government has extended a lift on sanctions for a 6-month period. Regular deployment of aid from Türkiye to Syria resumed on February 9 and Bab Al Hawa is open for the movement of aid and first responders.

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
- HATAY (HTY): Closed
- GAZİANTEP (GZE): Open to aid flights only, has highloader
- MALATYA (MLX): Open with priority for aid flights, does not have highloader

Needs: Based on input from NGO partners and the Turkish Red Crescent, health, shelter, hot food, WASH, and NFIs for winter are among critical needs. A third version of the [needs list](#) has been published by IMPACCT based on information disseminated by the Turkish government. Items noted on the needs list have priority at customs points in Türkiye; items not listed will stall customs clearance.

Cargo Movement: International assistance entry points for Turkey have been declared as ADANA (ADA) and GAZİANTEP (GZE) airports. Congestion at ADA and GZE stagnated the entry of aid. This process has now been updated to ensure that aid consignments are cleared at the customs immediately without any delay. HTY reopened yesterday, which will also relieve pressure from ADA and GZE. 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, have coordinated with AFAD, and have received clearance from customs offices in Gaziantep, Adana, or Mersin. 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).

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 (saliouf@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. 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.

Active Partners:

- ADRA (Cash Assistance, Food, Shelter, NFIs)
- Americares (Health)
- Bridge of Life (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
- Medair (Health)
- 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)