



Earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria Appeal

2-YEAR DONOR UPDATE

Türkiye-Syria Earthquakes: Two Years On, Rebuilding Continues

Most earthquakes are over in a matter of seconds, but their effects can last a lifetime.

In the early hours of February 6, 2023—while many people were still asleep in their beds—a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck near the Türkiye-Syria border, followed swiftly by a second earthquake and thousands of aftershocks. These devastating earthquakes were the most significant the region had experienced in over a century. After the dust settled, more than 55,000 people had lost their lives and more than 17 million people were impacted, according to the United Nations.

Local Turkish Red Crescent and Syrian Arab Red Crescent teams responded immediately, helping to dig out people from the rubble and providing shelter, food, clean water and other humanitarian aid.

Two years on, millions of people are still struggling to rebuild their lives. Many have lost their loved ones, homes, livelihoods and almost everything they owned—but because of your support, they are not alone.

As the efforts of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement shifted towards long-term support, your generosity has helped people in their journey to recovery.

People like Songül Erol received cash assistance to support her small business.

Credit: Bahadır Uzun/IFRC



“The support I received from Türk Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent) took me step by step forward. We quickly rented our workplace, and I was able to stock a variety of products. The support from Türk Kızılay didn’t just help me financially; it gave me strength and hope to move forward.”

– **Songül Erol**, sits inside her store, a bait and tackle shop, which doubles as her family’s home.



Your compassion means that Songül and so many others in Türkiye and Syria continue to be supported long after that fateful day in February.

Cover image: Syrian Arab Red Crescent: Members of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent provide people impacted by the earthquakes with multipurpose cash assistance to support them in their recovery.

Red Cross Red Crescent **IMPACT** in Türkiye

How you are helping people like Döndü get back on their feet again

Döndü and her husband Yavuz have big smiles on their faces—even after all they've been through.

Döndü used to make a good living operating a glassware store in Kahramanmaraş province—but then came the earthquakes. By the time the ground stopped shaking, the glassware store—and most of the delicate objects inside—were destroyed.

Supporting our partner, the Turkish Red Crescent, known locally as Türk Kızılay, the Canadian Red Cross assisted in their response across eleven affected provinces. The response included distributing hot meals, food and cooking supplies, operating eight mobile health units in hard-hit rural areas, temporary shelters and providing humanitarian relief supplies. Today, they are still working in affected communities to support people like Döndü in their recovery.

Thanks in part to your generosity, Döndü received a cash grant from the Turkish Red Crescent and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) that she used to reopen her store again, helping her to regain confidence, control and her livelihood.

“That grant was very precious to us,” she says. **“It was the reason I was able to take my first step back up again.”**



Credit: Onur Isik Canturk/IFRC

Döndü and her husband Yavuz stand before their glassware store in Kahramanmaraş province. Thanks in part to your generosity, they received a cash grant from the Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC, which they used to reopen the store after the earthquakes.

Response in Türkiye

- › **Nearly 75,000+ volunteers** and more than **2,400 Turkish Red Crescent staff** engaged in the response.
- › **200,000+ people** reached with mental health and psychosocial support services.
- › **1 million+ people** reached with monthly cash assistance and vouchers to help pay for basic needs.
- › **11.6 million relief items** distributed to affected areas including kitchen sets, hygiene kits, food parcels, clothing and baby items.
- › **47,000+ people** received health care through mobile health units or were referred to public health institutions by the Turkish Red Crescent.



VOICES from a Container City



“The damage was profound, with large buildings destroyed very quickly in a dense area and a lot of urban displacement. We were dealing with the immediate emergency and also at the same time thinking about longer-term planning, how do we foresee the transition of people in tents to new homes down the road?”

– Neil Bauman, Canadian Red Cross shelter expert

After the earthquakes, tens of thousands of people were left without safe shelter. Many were forced to live in tents beside their uninhabitable homes. The Turkish Red Crescent has helped to construct and support multiple container cities to provide people with shelter. In Türkiye, more than **420,000 people are still sleeping in 407 container camps** across six provinces. These communities have clean drinking water, bathrooms, showers and other amenities. While not a permanent solution, the container cities offer safe and dignified homes for people who have lost everything.



“I couldn’t enter concrete buildings before. I was terrified. But after receiving weekly psychological support from the Turkish Red Crescent for several months, I began to overcome it.”

– Canan



“One of the best things the Red Crescent did for us was the cash assistance. The feeling of being able to go to the supermarket and buy things by ourselves was very nice. We can buy what we need at home, whether it is kitchen utensils or provisions. There are no restrictions. I can buy everything my son wants.”

– Gamzenur



“The first few days [after the earthquake] were tough. When we moved into the container, it felt like a palace. The earthquake left psychological wounds on all of us. My husband, my children and I are all receiving psychological support. The Red Crescent’s cash assistance allowed us to buy our medicines, which was a huge help.”

– Gül

Photo credit for images above: Onur Işık Cantürk/IFRC

Red Cross Red Crescent **IMPACT** in Syria

How you delivered health and hope to earthquake survivors in Syria

Credit: Jani Savolainen/IFRC



Dr. Fatima Kanesh of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent sees patients out of a mobile medical unit in the coastal city of Latakia. Your gift provided vital health services for people impacted by the earthquakes.

Crowds start to gather around the mobile medical unit in Latakia and Dr. Fatima Kanesh begins to see the patients, one by one. Across the street stands a Syrian Arab Red Crescent clinic, severely damaged by the earthquakes to the point that it is now unsafe to treat patients inside.

“We are here in front of the clinic two days a week, and three other days a week we head into the remote villages,” says Dr. Kanesh.

The van is fully equipped to function as a small medical facility with medicine and basic tools for diagnosing patients.

“We have encountered many diseases that were the result of people leaving their homes, living in shelters and changing their health habits due to the earthquakes,” says Dr. Kanesh.

The Canadian Red Cross has been actively working in Syria since 2013, providing support to the humanitarian efforts of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the country’s largest humanitarian organization.

Because you donated to the Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Appeal, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent was able to provide urgent humanitarian aid to people in Syria, with support from the Canadian Red Cross. This included supporting a mobile medical unit—just like Dr. Kanesh’s—that provided over 3,000 health consultations.

Response in Syria

- › **4,000+ dedicated Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers** engaged in the response.
- › **5.5 million+ people** reached with water, hygiene and sanitation services.
- › **5.3 million+ people** reached with health services, including first aid, emergency transport and mental health support.
- › **19,200+ people** received dignity kits through Canadian Red Cross funding, which includes items like sanitary pads, underwear, socks, deodorant and more.
- › **2,400+ households** received cash assistance funded by the Canadian Red Cross.

In late 2024, Canadian Red Cross leadership visited Turkish Red Crescent project sites to observe earthquake recovery programming and continue strategic partnership discussions. *“It’s really incredible to see the work of the Turkish Red Crescent. It’s amazing to see their impact and the Canadian Red Cross is so proud to be partnered with such an incredible organization,”* says Kelsey Lemon.



Kelsey Lemon, Vice President, International Cooperation & Programs at the Canadian Red Cross, visits with a child at a Turkish Red Crescent community centre in Gaziantep.



A young girl stands beside boxes of humanitarian aid from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Your support provided much needed aid in Syria, including dignity kits and hygiene kits to help people stay clean, comfortable and healthy.

Thank You for **YOUR** Generosity

With deep gratitude, the Canadian Red Cross thanks donors, businesses, organizations, provincial governments and the Government of Canada for contributing to our Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria Appeal.

The Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria Appeal raised over \$35 million to support Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian relief efforts in the two countries, in addition to \$10 million in matching funds from the Government of Canada.

Millions of people throughout Türkiye and Syria continue to live with the impacts of the devastating 2023 earthquakes. Your generosity means we can continue to support them as they and their communities recover.

Thank you for standing in solidarity with those impacted as they look to a brighter future.



Thank you
for supporting people impacted
by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria
as they continue their recovery journey.