

Location of disaster	TÜRKİYE: Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman, Kilis, Osmaniye, Gaziantep, Malatya, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Adana, Hatay, Elazığ	Date	05.02.2024
Prepared by	Support to Life (STL)		

1. Situation overview:



1 Informal shelter, Kahramanmaraş

Exactly one year ago, two earthquakes with magnitude of 7.8 and 7.5 heavily affected the Southeastern provinces of Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Osmaniye, Gaziantep, Malatya, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Elazığ and Adana in Southern and Southeastern Türkiye, where almost 14 million people reside including around 2 million Syrian refugees¹. According to the last official statement from the Ministry of Interior, the number of people who lost their lives is 53,537 and the number of injured is 107,213². A total of 9.1 million people are affected by the earthquake disaster, with 3 million people being displaced.

STL published its latest emergency situation report on [22 December 2023](#). Twelve months into the earthquake, STL continues its emergency response, focusing its efforts in Hatay, Adıyaman, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya, which are the provinces most severely affected by the earthquake. In addition to the 4 most heavily disaster-affected provinces, STL carries out emergency response activities in the 8 provinces of Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Batman, Mardin, Adana, Mersin, İzmir and İstanbul, mostly with internally displaced populations and refugees.

STL carries out its activities in the sectors of shelter and non-food items (NFI), food security and livelihoods (FSL), water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), temporary settlement support (TSS), emergency education, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and emergency protection. Over the past one year, STL has reached a total of **936,244** affected people with humanitarian assistance.

STL also provides micro-grants for survivor and community-led response initiatives in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman and Malatya to help affected communities address their response and recovery needs. STL continues to host the Local Humanitarian Forum (LHF), facilitating the coordination of local and national NGOs active in the earthquake response.

2. Population data (Türkiye):

	Total	Source of information
Number of people affected	9.1 M	UN OCHA
Number of dead	53,537	Government of Türkiye
Number of injured	107,213	Government of Türkiye

¹ 2023 Earthquakes Displacement Overview, IOM

² <https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/bakan-yerlikaya-depremlerde-53-bin-537-canimizi-kaybettik,g4ChtXUWkeWoxJm7M2p3g>

3. Humanitarian needs, response, and gaps:

One year has passed since the devastating earthquake disaster that took place in Kahramanmaraş on 6 February 2023 affected a large area in Türkiye as well as a significant area in northern parts of Syria.

Despite the grand scale of humanitarian activities carried out by numerous actors to meet the needs arising from the disaster, some of the most basic and urgent needs still persist, while many recovery and development initiatives are underway in the affected provinces.

SHELTER NEEDS

As a result of its magnitude and devastation, the greatest and most immediate impact of the earthquake disaster was on housing.³ In the first and second quarters after the earthquake, collective accommodation sites and informal tent settlements constituted the main shelter areas for the affected population. By August, the replacement of tents with prefabricated structures and increased number of formal, state-run container settlements in the affected provinces of Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya were largely completed.

There are still nearly 100,000 families living in informal settlements in all affected provinces. In Hatay, around 30% of temporary settlement sites are still composed of tents, compared to 19% in Adıyaman, 29% in Malatya and 5% in Kahramanmaraş.⁴ The remaining population is known to be living in around 400 container sites all over the earthquake-hit area.⁵ In Malatya, the number of people living in containers is approximately 116,800, while in Kahramanmaraş this figure is 69,300, in Hatay is 220,000 and in Adıyaman is 68,600.



2. Informal tent site, Hatay

As we leave behind the first year of the earthquake, establishment of container settlements is still ongoing in some urban areas. As a result, problems related to infrastructure and winterization needs continue in many of the container settlements, especially affecting particular at-risk groups. STL's field teams noted that especially in Hatay, informal tent areas are hosting refugees, where refugees and host people are oftentimes segregated in these sites. Because of tented shelters, needs in Hatay due to winter conditions are the highest of all affected provinces. While the demolition of damaged buildings is still ongoing in Hatay city center, work has started on the construction of new buildings in several neighborhoods in the city center.

Adıyaman was recorded as the province with the largest proportional loss of building stock in the earthquake. At the end of the first year of the disaster, container settlements are reported to cover nearly 70% of the province's shelter space. Akpınar Temporary Accommodation Center is a large settlement established for refugees in Adıyaman. In Kahramanmaraş, there is only one informal tent settlement, mostly inhabited by refugees. According to the information received from Kahramanmaraş Governorate, refugees will also be soon moved to container settlements. In both Adıyaman and Kahramanmaraş, the

³ Shelter & NFI Sector Türkiye Earthquake Response 18 January 2024

⁴ IOM, Temporary Settlement Support Sector - Türkiye Earthquake Response, 18 January 2024

⁵ Shelter & NFI Sector Türkiye Earthquake Response 18 January 2024

majority of containers distributed to rural areas are collapsible/Chinese-type containers.

AFAD noted that there is approximately 11,919 collapsible containers in rural areas in Adiyaman, 13,159 in Hatay, 13,150 in Kahramanmaras and 3,878 in Malatya.⁶ These types of containers are particularly unsuitable for winter conditions and are designed as a single room of 21 square meters, which does not prevent cold weather in any way and leaks water when used during rain and snow.

Currently, the biggest and most urgent needs in Adiyaman, Hatay, Malatya and Kahramanmaras due to winter conditions are to physically improve the containers used as living spaces and make them suitable for winter conditions. However, STL teams have been reporting a severe delay in upgrading and winterizing these collapsible/Chinese-type containers, especially in rural areas, and that people have serious problems with heating and cannot protect the inside of the container from rain and snow.

PROTECTION AND MHPSS NEEDS

Due to the devastating psychological and social impacts of the disaster, the need for mental health and psychosocial support for affected people and communities remains a high and urgent priority. Protection risks persist especially in informal tent settlements, rural areas and temporary accommodation centers, while incidents and risks are also being reported from container settlements.



3. Psychosocial support activities in mobile caravan, Adiyaman

The lack of locks and lighting in communal latrine and shower units as well as the lack of partitions for privacy purposes leads to gender-based violence and child protection risks. The lack of friendly spaces for children, women, and the disabled in the physical and social planning of collective accommodation centers and temporary settlements, as well as delays in improvements to ensure such facilities and privacy make certain population groups vulnerable to the risks of neglect, abuse and exploitation.

Inadequacy of safe social spaces, loss of livelihoods, and difficulties created by collective living spaces lead to an increase in cases of domestic violence and violence against women and children. It was also observed that child labor and child/early marriage cases increased after the disaster. Community-based awareness raising activities along with protection interventions remain important and timely in preventing these risks.

Refugees living in temporary accommodation centers and informal settlements continue to face difficulties in accessing basic rights and services due to their Temporary Protection and International Protection status. After the earthquake, identity card verification and personal data updates that could not be made at Provincial Directorates of Migration led to limited access to many rights and services for refugees and migrants, especially education and social assistance based on the need to declare address of residence.

Since the earthquake, refugees have been in limbo regarding procedures for address registration and reactivation of ID cards. They were informed by the Provincial Directorates of Migration only in January 2024 that an address verification would be initiated. According to the latest update, ID cards of those who do not update their addresses will become inactive, their temporary protection status will not be reactivated, and they may face deportation.

⁶ AFAD, Hub Intersectoral Meetings – 2nd week of January

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WASH NEEDS

With the ongoing demolition of damaged buildings in the earthquake-affected areas, STL teams have been verifying the continued need for clean water for domestic usage, drinking water, latrines, showers, water supply/sewage infrastructure and garbage collection services. Due to the winter season, water supply points and water pipes freeze and burst, with many neighborhoods having problems accessing water on a regular basis. There is a need to improve the main line water pipes and networks in heavily affected areas.

The weakness of effective drainage systems in temporary accommodation centers, tent areas and rural areas leads to the inability to discharge wastewater. In areas where there is no underground drainage system, contaminated wastewater flows openly, posing a risk for infectious diseases. The flow of wastewater near living spaces causes pests to breed. There is an urgent need for closed and underground drainage systems in these areas to prevent health risks to children and vulnerable population groups.

One of the main difficulties experienced by residents in formal and informal settlements is access to clean and hot water, thus resulting in the failure to meet their personal hygiene needs. Especially in more vulnerable population groups such as the elderly, pregnant women and young girls, difficulties caused by the lack of access to basic hygiene conditions lead to risk of epidemics and further deterioration of living conditions. Lack of access to menstrual hygiene care and supportive materials, lack of safe and accessible facilities, and inadequate information on menstrual care methods pose health risks, especially for adolescent girls.



4. Water tanks installed by STL to meet the need for domestic water, Kahramanmaraş

4. STL's Emergency Response:

STL continues its emergency response mainly in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Adiyaman and Malatya. In addition to WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) activities to address water and sanitation infrastructure in temporary settlements in rural and urban areas as well as widespread hygiene promotion, STL's sectoral interventions include shelter support and NFI distributions, food security interventions, protection activities for access to post-disaster services, prevention of gender based violence, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for children, adolescents and adults affected by the earthquake.

In Hatay, Adiyaman, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya, STL also supports projects designed and implemented by earthquake-affected communities themselves to help them cope with the impacts of the earthquake and to help them build resilience and promote better preparedness through micro-grants within the scope of its survivor and community-led response program, thus contributing to the promotion of local community leadership in the earthquake affected areas.

STL's emergency response interventions in Hatay, Adiyaman, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya over the course of the past one year is detailed below:

SHELTER AND NFI

STL field teams reached **123,475** people in total, including 56,286 people in Hatay, 35,618 people in Adiyaman and 52,389 people in Kahramanmaraş with shelter and non-food assistance. This included fire packs, bed-sleeping bag distribution, tent distribution, straw and pallet distribution, and distribution of various packages such as family, kitchen, clothes and winter preparation.

Preparations are being undertaken to distribute micro-grants in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş in the coming period to carry out shelter upgrades through the own efforts of community groups.

WASH



5. Disability ramp installed in shower and toilet units, Hatay

STL provided and will continue to provide support to earthquake affected people through mobile latrine-shower units, mobile laundry units, installed water tanks, water purifiers and various hygiene packages. In the first year of the earthquake response, a total of **726,220** people were reached through water, sanitation and hygiene activities, including 264,027 in Hatay, 328,048 in Adiyaman and 98,381 in Kahramanmaraş.

In Hatay, WASH-related cash-for-work projects have been initiated to be implemented and completed in 2024. Cash cards were distributed to 800 people and activities have started to provide latrine and shower cleaning services in container settlements.

FOOD SECURITY

STL provided food packages, ready-to-eat meals, drinking water and fodder to livestock farmers in earthquake-affected areas. Within the scope of food security activities, a total of **37,145** people were reached, including 9,724 people in Hatay, 5,112 people in Adiyaman and 3,230 people in Kahramanmaraş.

PROTECTION AND MHPSS

In the first year of the earthquake, a total of **49,404** people were reached through protection services and psychosocial support activities. Of these, 18,521 people were based in Hatay, 7,942 in Adiyaman and 5,776 in Kahramanmaraş. Within the scope of protection and psychosocial support, STL teams conducted mental health counseling, individual case management, and psychosocial support activities in informal tent settlements and rural areas using mobile PSS caravans. Academic mentoring and structured PSS sessions were concentrated in informal settlement areas where the need was identified to be the highest.



6. 'Magic for Smiles' clown show, Hatay

STL's outreach teams conducted and will continue to conduct information sessions with disaster-affected individuals and groups on hygiene promotion, rights and access to services, disability rights, access to education and health services, prevention of gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, among many other similar topics.

CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

STL carries out cash-based support programs for people affected by the earthquake to help them cover a variety of needs. Cash based assistance, in the form of cash or vouchers, has been and continues to be provided to families in earthquake-affected areas to meet their winter needs, improve their shelter conditions, and improve their hygiene conditions. It is anticipated that the cash support will be used intensively to meet the winter needs that have increase due to the winter season. STL is also preparing to scale up its multi-purpose cash assistance to cover all basic needs arising from the earthquake disaster.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT



7. Women's Solidarity Center, Adiyaman

In Women's Solidarity Center, which has been active in Umutkent in Adiyaman since September 2023, STL teams organized awareness sessions with 346 people and included 65 women in sewing and embroidery courses. In addition, 21 people earned income from the production of the first batch of Gazi Mustafa Kemal signature handkerchiefs and 30 people earned income from the second order. Production activities are ongoing. In December 2023, a creation was prepared under STL's destekar brand, an enterprise of the Women's Solidarity Center and Support to Life, and the designs were presented to Arçelik A.Ş. Following the approval of the designs, a collaboration was made to offer them for sale on arçelik.com.tr and fifty pre-sales of each of the six items were realized.

Meanwhile, within the scope of a new project in Hatay, where vocational trainings and job placement activities will be implemented, STL has started to sign protocols with the relevant authorities and is currently conducting a market assessment and livelihoods needs analysis.

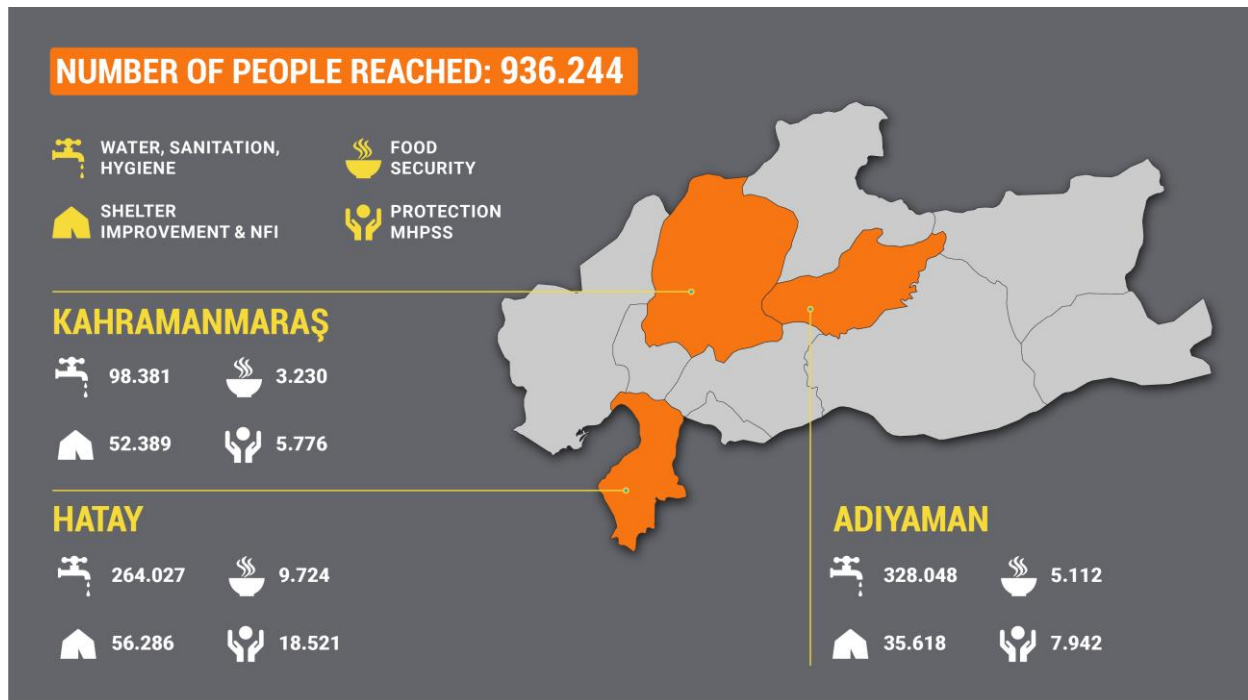
LOCALLY-LED RESPONSE AND RECOVERY



8 LHF Local Good Practices Workshop, Gaziantep

Local Humanitarian Forum (LHF) was initiated by STL and established in the immediate aftermath of the 6 February earthquakes to strengthen the participation of local and national civil society organizations in UN-led earthquake coordination. LHF, for which STL is the host agency, brings together local and national NGOs working in different sectors of humanitarian aid and gives them a voice through face-to-face events, in-person and online meetings, and representation at the province level in all the 4 main hubs of Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Adiyaman and Malatya.

In cooperation with the LHF network on the ground in the whole of the affected area, STL has ran its Survivor and Community Led Response (SCLR) program in which over 100 community groups in Kahramanmaraş, Adiyaman, Malatya and Hatay were supported in their community projects. STL and LHF will continue to collaborate for more micro-grants to new communities in the coming period in which more community groups will be encouraged to identify their own problems, find solutions to these problems with other community members, and increase their interaction with other key stakeholders in their efforts for earthquake response and recovery, this building resilience at the community level.



The relief and recovery assistance provided by STL in the earthquake area is made possible through its partnerships with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH), Caritas Germany, Action Against Hunger Spain, UNICEF, UNHCR, Concern Worldwide, Save the Children International, World Vision, Danish Refugee Council, Turkey Mozaik Foundation, Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF), Vitol Foundation, Support Foundation for Civil Society (STDV), Stiftung Mercator, Terre des Hommes (TDH) Germany, Global Giving, EBRD Community Initiative, King Baudouin Foundation, Give 2 Asia, Stichting Vluchteling (SV), Choose Love, Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP) and corporate donations.

5. Coordination:

STL Field Coordinators are in contact with Governors, Provincial Directorates, District Governors, AFAD authorities, municipalities, Water Works Authorities, İŞKUR, and all relevant offices of province level directorates as well as NGOs and civil society initiatives. STL is also present at all sector coordination meetings. Since the beginning of the earthquake response, STL continues to be a co-lead of the child protection sub-sector. Throughout this period, coordinated work continued in line with sectoral needs with child protection sector focal persons present at the field level.

The Local Humanitarian Forum (LHF) is a local coordination network composed of local and national NGOs active in and supporting the earthquake response. LHF hub leads in the 4 provinces support the work of local initiatives, solidarity groups, community action and local coordination networks at the provincial level. Organized in Gaziantep on 21-22 January 2024, the Local Good Practices Workshop was a networking event that brought together civic initiatives and civil society organizations active in the disaster-hit areas. LHF also published the outcome of its local mapping exercise in a report titled '[Mapping of Local Civil Society and Coordination Networks In Earthquake Relief And Recover](#)'.

6. Safety and security:

The safety and security situation in the affected area is relatively stable, with a few important notes:

- At least 230,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed in 11 provinces affected by the 6 February earthquake disaster. Many heavily damaged buildings that have not yet been demolished pose a threat especially during aftershocks, as no safety measures are taken around them.
- Adequate safety measures are not taken during the demolition of damaged buildings. Dense dust caused by the lack of irrigation or humidification during demolition and rubble removal works and the lack of tarpaulins during transportation continue to threaten human health.
- There are problems in access to health care in the region due to insufficient health facilities and personnel.
- Due to the lack of infrastructure in container settlements, septic tank problems arise, living spaces are flooded, and electrical networks pose a constant risk of fire.
- Cases of lice, scabies and intestinal infections persist. The problem of access to clean water remains unresolved, exacerbating health problems and posing risks of other epidemics.
- Abandoned houses and unlit street lights cause safety concerns in many streets, avenues and neighborhoods.
- Household items such as doors, windows, and furniture are removed and stolen from damaged houses abandoned after the earthquake.
- In container settlements, insufficient security measures and lack of supervision of entrances and exits create an insecure environment, especially for women living alone and with their children.

7. Contact information:

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ANNEX: Communications Contents Related to STL Emergency Response

Other content related to STL's earthquake response is available on its social media accounts, including [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Youtube](#) accounts as well as on STL [website](#).