

CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

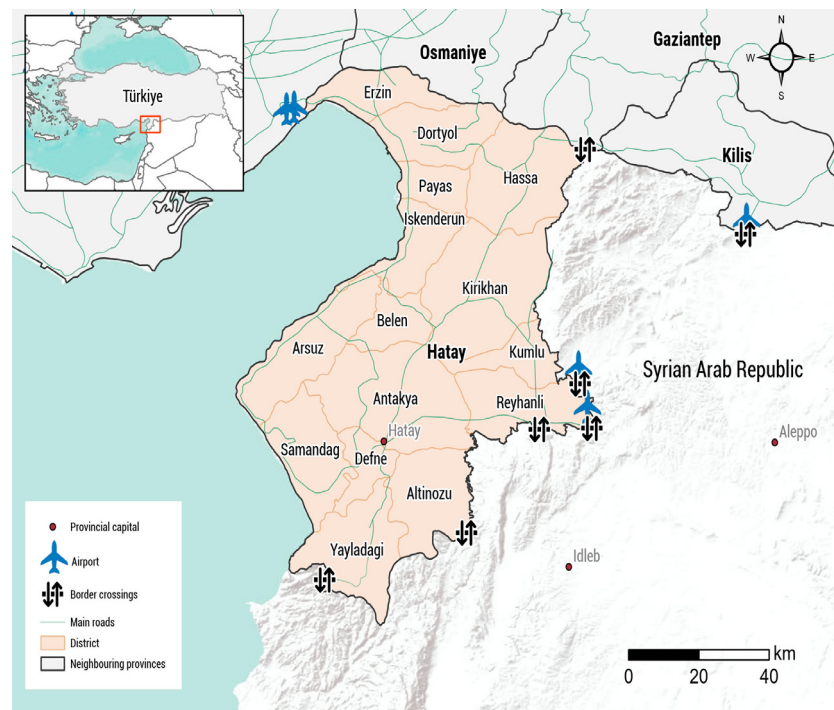
- Two earthquakes hit southern Türkiye on 6 February 2023, affecting Hatay province. As at 8 April, the province had recorded over 22,000 deaths from the earthquakes, the highest reported across the 11 earthquake-affected provinces in Türkiye.
- As at 1 March, the earthquakes had displaced an estimated 774,500 people in Hatay, out of a total provincial population of two million, including 350,000 Syrian refugees (IOM 06/03/2023).
- As at mid-April, Hatay province had an estimated 1,456,000 people residing in temporary shelters, the highest number across all earthquake-affected provinces. Of this number, 902,000 were in informal sites, and 554,000 were in formal ones in Hatay (OCHA 30/03/2023).

ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE

- Shelter needs remain an urgent priority, particularly after rain damage, which has affected people already displaced by the earthquakes. This damage will worsen the secondary impacts of displacement and the lack of shelter, likely increasing people's exposure to protection risks (OCHA 17/04/2023; ANF News 30/03/2023). Adaptation and mitigation measures are also necessary for emergency shelters as the province faces increasingly hot weather (OCHA 20/04/2023).
- Extensive damage to water infrastructure is likely to continue limiting the affected population's access to safe water and affecting other needs, such as food and sanitation.
- The emergence of protection issues, such as sexual and gender-based violence and negative coping strategies, is likely to increase as underserved populations adopt survival strategies. Cases of child labour, forced labour, child marriage, and transactional sex will be of particular concern as the situation evolves (UNFPA 28/03/2023).

- In Hatay, debris management of demolished and collapsed buildings have elevated health-risk concerns for earthquake affected persons as mountains of rubble with potential toxic waste was disposed in close proximity to shelter settlements. The threat of diseases and health complications might intensify the need for further displacement as well as straining the existing health infrastructure (Washington Post 25/04/2023; UNICEF 24/04/2023).

Hatay province profile



Source: ACAPS using data from OCHA (accessed 01/05/2023).

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1,600,000

AFFECTED
POPULATION

775,000

DISPLACED
POPULATION AS
AT 6 APRIL

350,000

SYRIAN REFUGEES
IN HATAY

334,000

COLLAPSED AND
SEVERELY AND
MODERATELY
DAMAGED
BUILDINGS



INFORMATION GAPS AND NEEDS

- More frequent needs assessments aimed at localised markets are necessary to determine market prices and trends for basic commodities so that relief organisations can adjust aid programming accordingly (KII 18/04/2023). There is limited information on the evolution of people's needs, especially for IDPs in informal settlements.
- There are limited needs assessments and related contextual analyses available. Most assessments are based on key informant interviews.
- There is limited information available on province-level funding and specific sectoral coverage.

CRISIS IMPACT

Damage to buildings and infrastructure

The shelter situation in Hatay remained critical as at 30 March, with 774,500 people displaced (IOM 06/03/2023). This displaced population is mostly sheltering in makeshift settlements (OCHA 11/04/2023). Many buildings and structures sustained significant damage from the quakes and flooding, with some being destroyed and uninhabitable. Antakya, Hassa, and Kirikhan districts reported the heaviest destruction. Turkish authorities are assessing the quality of and the damage sustained by the remaining buildings to determine whether they are habitable or should be demolished to prevent secondary collapses (IBC 16/02/2023). Data from the shelter cluster indicate that nearly 334,000 buildings in Hatay (56% of the total number of buildings in the province) either have collapsed (40,000), need to be demolished (34,000), or have sustained heavy or moderate damage (260,000), with an additional 264,000 sustaining light damage (Shelter Cluster 12/04/2023).

Hatay province, along with Adiyaman, is one of the provinces that sustained the most infrastructure damage in the country. The earthquakes have also caused significant damage to public infrastructure – severely affecting water supply and wastewater treatment systems, including transmission lines, treatment plants, and water and sewerage networks in Adiyaman, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş.

Reduced access to basic services

Limited access to resources, such as food, health facilities, WASH facilities, and hygiene kits, is a key concern for the displaced population (OCHA 30/03/2023). Access to water for cooking

and irrigation is a pressing need in Hatay, with reports of people using drinking water for cleaning and cooking. Installing water filtration systems for kitchens in the affected areas is a major challenge in providing clean water (FSC 05/04/2023).

Besides key infrastructure damage, the loss of livelihoods and resources is also affecting people's ability to cover basic needs. ILO estimates that Hatay's income-earning population has lost 45.2% of its pre-existing working hours as a result of earthquake displacements, the destruction and damage of critical work infrastructure, and the loss of lives and injuries (ILO 28/03/2023). In Hatay, reports indicate that the short shelf life of many products and limited storage are constraints forcing producers to slash the prices of their goods by half, resulting in reduced incomes (OCHA 20/04/2023).

As at mid-April, Hatay province was experiencing market recovery. Some banks and markets had reopened. Shops and marketplaces along roads and in small neighbourhoods were opening daily, with various goods available, as were numerous shops in bigger container cities. Mobile and static automatic teller machines (ATMs) were available and functional. Regardless, a lack of livelihoods and disposable cash were preventing earthquake-affected people from taking advantage of the rising availability of goods (KII 18/04/2023).

Overcrowding in hosting sites, including limited privacy options and shared private space amenities, has resulted in some protection issues, especially for vulnerable groups (such as children, the elderly, the wounded and injured, and girls and women) (OCHA 30/03/2023). Psychological trauma and sexual and gender-based violence cases could also result from inadequate shelter (OCHA 30/03/2023; Daily Sabah 03/03/2023).

Displaced people are returning to Hatay from other provinces and districts, which may worsen shelter needs. People are returning for several reasons, such as to assess the extent of property damage, a wish to return to their communities and relatives, and the reduced availability of temporary accommodation in hotels and hosts in other locations (KII 18/04/2023).

Overwhelmed health system

As at 18 April, the reported number of fatalities in Hatay province was 22,500, nearly half of all reported deaths in Türkiye, and there was an estimated 24,000 injured people in the province (KII 18/04/2023; Daily Mail 19/02/2023). As the initial and subsequent earthquakes damaged Hatay's hospitals, the wounded and injured were transferred to other hospitals in the region (STL 25/02/2023). Earthquake-inflicted shocks meant mental health and psychosocial support in Hatay remained a concern. The violent disruption of normalcy and the extensive loss of lives exposed people to severe psychological trauma, which required urgent psychosocial support.



On 20 February, Defne city, Hatay, experienced aftershocks at a magnitude of 6.4, resulting in the precautionary transfer of injured people from health facilities to escape the possible further collapse of structurally unsound earthquake-affected buildings (Daily Sabah 20/02/2023).

Severely affected WASH infrastructure remains a challenge, limiting the affected population's access to WASH services. As a result, the risk of waterborne diseases remains high. An outbreak occurring would further strain the overstretched and under-resourced health system (IBC 16/02/2023).

Protection risks affecting vulnerable groups, especially children

Family separations can result from the death or injury of guardians, post-earthquake separation to different hospitals and settlements, and supervising adults being forced to leave minors unattended to pursue income-generating activities. These separations lead to a rise in the numbers of unaccompanied minors and children-headed households. Several reports indicate that the likelihood of child abuse cases, such as child labour and child marriage, being used as survival coping mechanisms is on the rise (OCHA 30/03/2023).

The earthquakes' massive destruction of schools and learning facilities and the use of schools as temporary shelters have disrupted learning activities for children in Hatay. As at 27 March, learning activities had resumed in some schools, prefabricated schools, and the makeshift structures set up by the Government and relief responders while the people occupying the schools moved to tents and container homes (OCHA 30/03/2023). Ensuring continued access to education for children is critical in reducing the risk of child labour and exploitation.

DRIVERS OF THE CURRENT CRISIS

Impacts of earthquakes and flooding

The twin earthquakes on 6 February, measuring 7.8 and 7.5 on the Richter scale, with epicentres in Kahramanmaraş and Hatay provinces, respectively, caused widespread destruction and loss of lives in both provinces. The affected region has since recorded numerous aftershocks; on 20 February, two other major earthquakes, respectively measuring 6.4 and 5.8, hit Hatay three minutes apart. These earthquakes caused further damage to buildings, many of which collapsed, and resulted in more injuries and deaths (TRC 04/04/2023; Daily Sabah 23/02/2023). Among the 11 affected provinces, Gaziantep, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş reported significant infrastructural damage and casualties from the main earthquakes (IFRC 07/04/2023).

As at 11 April, Hatay also recorded significant rainfall, further exposing people living in temporary shelters, such as tents, to harsh weather conditions and resulting in an urgent need to secure proper structures. The storm's impact was particularly severe in tent cities, such as in Samandag district, rendering tents unusable (ANF News 30/03/2023).

Poor urban planning

The 6 February earthquakes and the numerous aftershocks exposed the poor quality of buildings and constructions in the 11 provinces affected, including Hatay. Construction violations and the poor enforcement of building regulations are likely to have compromised the quality of buildings, rendering them unable to withstand the earthquakes' impact and resulting in massive destruction and consequent fatalities. A government-issued amnesty on illegal structures in 2018 may have contributed to a general laxity in regulating building structures (NBC 15/02/2023). Among the affected provinces, Hatay had the second-highest percentage among the total number of houses built before 2000 (13.5% in 1980 or before and 32.6% between 1981–2000) (GOT 27/03/2023).

AGGRAVATING FACTORS

High pre-crisis humanitarian needs and tensions over resource access

Hatay was already hosting 354,000 Syrian refugees prior to the quakes. The refugees likely experienced secondary displacement after the earthquakes destroyed their settlements (Al Jazeera 16/02/2023). The Government of Türkiye issued directives after the earthquakes allowing Syrians with refugee status to temporarily move to other regions in a 60-day respite, provided that they secured their accommodation and sought permission from the Directorate of Migration to stay in their new settled regions (HRW 22/03/2023).

Reports indicate intolerance and sporadic attacks towards Syrian immigrants and volunteers in Hatay, but the Government of Türkiye has moved to separate displaced ethnic Syrians from ethnic Turks to mitigate tensions between the two communities (HRW 05/04/2023; KII 18/04/2023). With limited resources and increased competition between Syrian refugees and the Turkish host community in Hatay, xenophobia-motivated intolerance will likely rise between Turkish and Syrian groups in the province.



Cost-of-living crisis and political tensions

Türkiye's pre-crisis economic situation was already strained, with an inflation rate of 57% as at January 2023 (Trading Economics 17/04/2023). Market disruptions, including collapsed markets and livelihoods, compound the effects of the earthquake, which will most likely trickle down to the province level in Hatay and deepen the crisis (OCHA 24/03/2023).

Türkiye's upcoming general elections, set for 14 May, will come in the context of the serious humanitarian crisis that the earthquakes have caused. Earthquake response and government action leading up to the elections will likely be politicised, shifting focus and attention from humanitarian needs to the elections and hindering urgent needs from being addressed.

RESPONSE CAPACITY

As at 18 April, critical infrastructure in Hatay, such as roads, telecommunications, and some markets, had been restored and were almost entirely functional (KII 18/04/2023). Based on available data, damaged and blocked roads as at mid-April were cleared and remained operational, allowing the movement of people and providing relief organisations access to the affected population (KII 18/04/2023; GOT 27/03/2023).

The Turkish Government is leading the earthquake response, coordinated through the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency with support from the Turkish Red Crescent. The international community, comprising UN agencies and NGOs, is working with the Government of Türkiye to assist the affected population (ETC/WFP 04/04/2023). In Hatay, OCHA is coordinating the work of 64 related organisations.

Smaller organisations and volunteer groups operating in Hatay after the quakes are slowly moving out of the province as they run out of resources to continue operations (KII 18/04/2023).

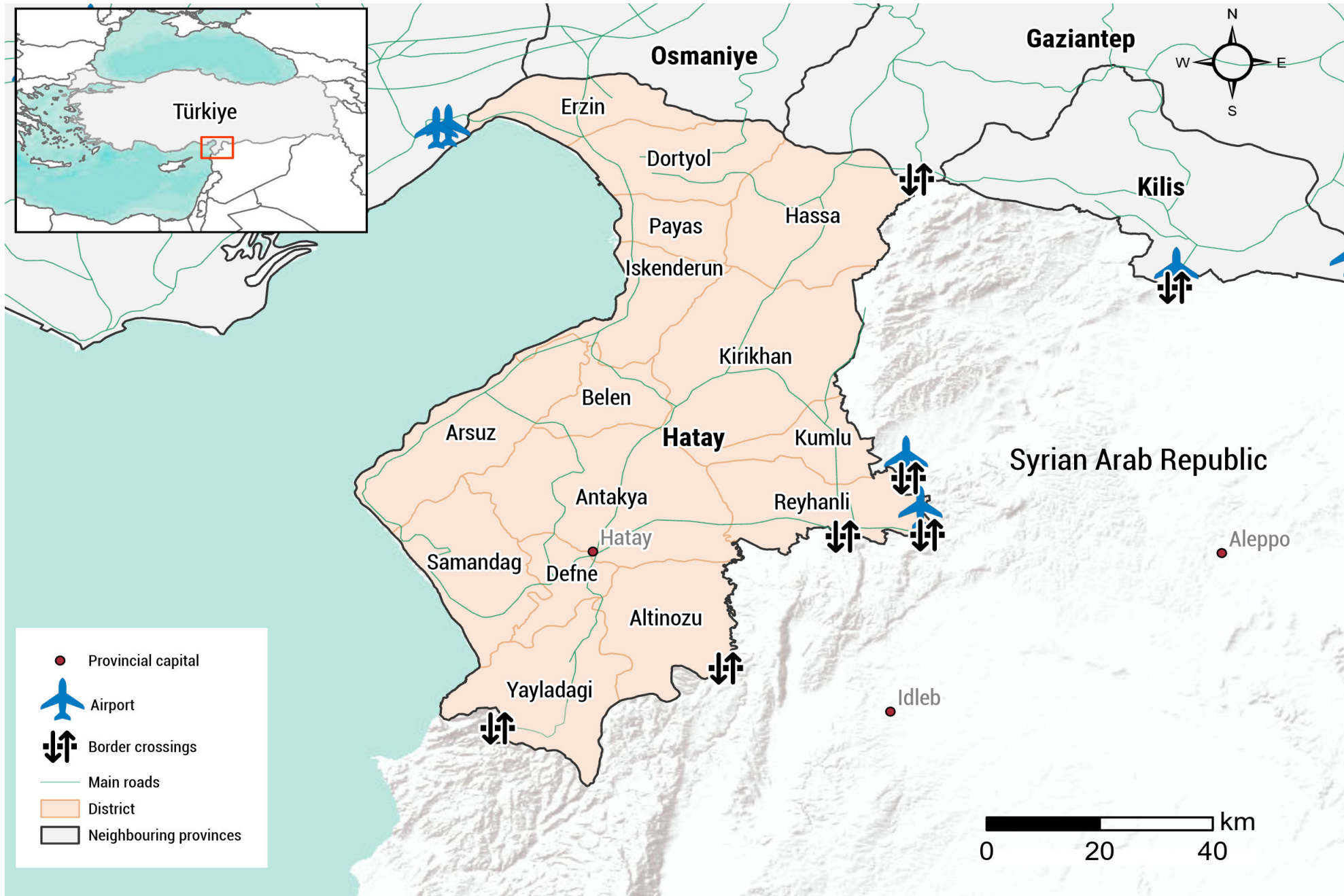
OCHA estimated that USD 1 billion in funding is necessary to sustain humanitarian operations. As at April, only 29% of the budget was funded (OCHA 17/04/2023). There are information gaps regarding province-level funding.

In Hatay, the Government of Türkiye, through the Directorate of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, has initiated an assessment to determine the suitability of damaged buildings for demolition and pledged to set up 140,000 container homes and 4,000 stores to address much-needed shelter needs (KII 18/04/2023; The Media Line 12/03/2023).

Reconstruction efforts in the affected provinces, including Hatay, focus on rebuilding safe and sustainable infrastructure that could mitigate the impact of other hazards in the future.

A rapid market mapping from March reported that market activities in Antakya district in Hatay were very limited or absent, with no open shops in Antakya city (IFRC et al. 12/04/2023). As at 18 April, market systems in Hatay had been revived, with the establishment of nearly 4,000 trading stores in the province and the opening of numerous shops in container cities. This revival has eased the pressure on much-needed commodities for the distressed population (KII 18/04/2023). Increasing market functionality could facilitate the use of multipurpose and sectoral cash assistance, helping the affected population cover more diversified needs and limiting the risk and negative implications of in-kind assistance that could disrupt normal market functions (OCHA 17/04/2023).

HATAY PROVINCE PROFILE



Source: ACAPS using data from OCHA (accessed 01/05/2023).

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