

# Beyond the rubble: A situation analysis 120 days after the earthquakes (6 February to 31 May 2023)

## KEY FINDINGS

### Lack of data

- The lack of publicly available data makes quantifying humanitarian needs across all affected areas in Türkiye very difficult.
- Comprehensive data about the number of people living in tents or containers remains unavailable, and existing figures are based on assumptions.

### Humanitarian needs

- Some people still cannot access tents or containers and are living in makeshift shelters, but there is a lack of up-to-date information on the total number of people living in makeshift shelters.
- As summer approaches, the pressure on relief systems to provide adequate shelter, water, and hygiene kits for people living in informal and formal settlements increases, as the season requires higher water usage for WASH needs. The need for shade and shelter is also more dire.
- A lack of access to clean water and sanitation in informal settlements increases the risk of exposure to scabies, cholera, and waterborne diseases. These diseases could lead to a health emergency if left untreated.
- The earthquakes damaged provincial directorates and women's shelters. In the immediate aftermath, these institutions could not function or provide support as their employees struggled to record and address gender-based violence (GBV) complaints.
- The most earthquake-affected provinces already had heightened protection concerns that the earthquakes have since aggravated, especially for women, children, and people with disabilities. Protection risks are expected to increase as people continue to live in temporary settlements.

### Relocation profiles

- Relocation depends on the damage level of a home and on a household's ability to generate income in their place of origin. People in rural areas prefer not to relocate from their place of origin mostly because their livelihood depends on those areas.

- Which houses are considered damaged and the classification of damage levels remain contested between the Government and the affected population, as well as between landlords and tenants, sometimes forcing tenants to relocate.

### Economy

- The economic situation will likely worsen after the Turkish national elections, especially for refugees, asylum seekers, and financially struggling Turkish citizens.
- Humanitarian responders are being advised to transition from food distribution to cash and voucher assistance projects.
- Many families have gone into debt since the earthquake, although there is a lack of quantifiable data on the issue. Debt could lead families to exploitation, evictions (for those unable to pay rent), and malnutrition (for families who cannot afford food).

### Access to information

- With the use of more resources, humanitarian organisations have significantly improved information dissemination to the affected communities. That said, people in remote areas, villages, and many informal sites continue to struggle to access information, especially regarding physiological and mental health.
- Many people with disabilities lost their assistive devices in the earthquakes, limiting their mobility and access to information.

### Environment

- Indiscriminate disposal practices have led to concerns about a secondary disaster of toxic contamination, which experts believe could be even more severe than the quakes.

### Response

- The primary humanitarian concern lies in funding and maintaining a sustainable response strategy. Transitioning people from temporary to permanent homes requires additional financial resources and prolonged humanitarian support.



## About this report

**Aim:** this report aims to present a comprehensive review of the main needs of the affected population in Türkiye four months after the February 2023 earthquakes, focusing on shelter, temporary settlement support, WASH, and protection.

**Methodology:** the report is based on a review of more than 56 published reports, including sitreps, updates, press releases, news reports, and humanitarian assessments. This was complemented by five key informant interviews with international and local responders to validate the secondary data review and provide additional contextual information to address some information gaps.

**Limitations:** this report is based on a secondary data review complemented by limited key informant interviews, and the review is only as strong as the existing data. Information gaps remain about the development of humanitarian conditions and needs for some sectors and about the extent of post-earthquake repair and reconstruction.

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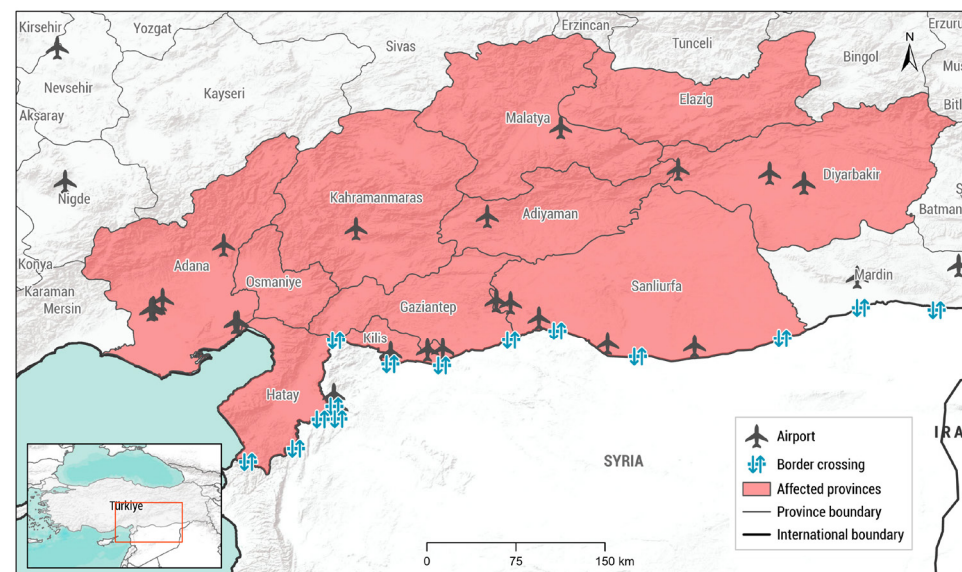
## OVERVIEW

On 6 February 2023, two earthquakes of magnitude 7.8 and 7.5 on the Richter scale hit Türkiye. They affected 11 provinces in the southern and southeastern parts of the country, killing approximately 50,000 people and destroying around 298,000 buildings (OCHA 17/05/2023). The affected provinces of Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Elazig, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Sanliurfa were home to 14 million people, including around 1.8 million refugees (IOM 06/03/2023). The four most severely affected are Adiyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya.

Five weeks after the two earthquakes, severe flooding hit Adiyaman and Sanliurfa, affecting all Adiyaman residents and at least 1,251 households in Sanliurfa (STL 23/03/2023). The flooding made it difficult to access affected areas and provide humanitarian support (ACAPS 25/03/2023).

The impact of the quakes has affected approximately nine million people and forced about three million to relocate from their homes in Türkiye. Millions of people, including 2.5 million children, currently need humanitarian assistance (UNICEF 28/02/2023). A flash appeal was launched in mid-February 2023 seeking USD 1 billion to support 5.2 million people (OCHA 16/02/2023). As at 17 May, 36.5% of the appeal had been funded (OCHA 17/05/2023).

## The earthquake-affected provinces in Türkiye



Source: ACAPS using data from IOM (06/03/2023)

See full and detailed map on page 9.



The Turkish Government is leading the earthquake response through the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and provincial governors. In March, the Government announced reconstruction plans and committed to rebuilding all damaged or destroyed residential housing (Govt. Türkiye 27/03/2023). While rebuilding initiatives have begun, some urban planning experts are concerned that hasty reconstruction in earthquake-affected areas may result in substandard buildings (Independent 06/03/2023). The Turkish Government has also initiated a programme in southeastern Türkiye across 35 cities to offer temporary paid work to unemployed individuals while they seek permanent jobs. The goal is to provide 10,000 short-term positions in various fields, including factory work and city clean-ups (The Telegraph 13/04/2023).

Many humanitarian organisations, including the Turkish Red Crescent and the UN, have been providing humanitarian support to affected people. According to OCHA's most recent situation report from May, 2.9 million people received shelter assistance, 2.1 million people received cooked meals daily, 2.4 million received WASH assistance, and TRY 5.1 million (USD 218K) was delivered through cash and voucher assistance (OCHA 06/05/2023).

Even before the earthquakes, Türkiye faced economic deterioration with high inflation, and the Turkish lira steadily declining in value since 2013. This had pushed millions of Turks to the brink of financial ruin and left them struggling to cover their expenses (Euronews 21/12/2022). The earthquakes' estimated cost to the country is USD 130 billion or one-eighth of Türkiye's GDP (Balkan Insight 17/03/2023).

## HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS

The most pressing humanitarian needs are emergency shelter and NFIs, WASH and healthcare support, and protection services, closely followed by food assistance, multi-purpose cash assistance, and social protection. Humanitarian responders are transitioning to different food aid modalities, supplying less cooked food and prioritising cash distributions where possible. They have also enabled independent cooking facilities per national government policies (OCHA 06/05/2023; KII 31/05/2023).

The aftermath of the earthquakes has been devastating for the people and the economy. Many of those living in informal settlements have limited or no access to basic services, such as shelter materials, household items, or water and sanitation (UNICEF accessed 17/05/2023). Many have also temporarily moved to cities in search of work after losing their jobs from the earthquakes (Huck 24/04/2023).

The Turkish national elections took place in May, with Recep Tayyip Erdogan re-elected as president (CNN 29/05/2023). Local humanitarian responders are uncertain about the post-elections landscape, but there appears to be consensus that the economic situation will worsen, resulting in adverse conditions for vulnerable groups, including refugees and asylum seekers (KII 28/05/2023; Al Jazeera 27/05/2023).

## Shelter and NFIs

Approximately 2.4 million people in the earthquake zone live in temporary settlements, with over 1.6 million people living in informal settlements and approximately 800,000 in formal settlements (STL 05/05/2023). Formal settlements include container and tent cities set up by the Government or aid organisations and are government-managed and -serviced. Informal settlements comprise temporary shelters for people who have chosen to live in makeshift shelters or tents closer to their houses or land. Both feature extremely basic living conditions and lack proper water and sanitation services (OCHA 29/04/2023, 24/03/2023, and 20/04/2023). The Government has planned to establish container cities in 239 sites across the affected region. By mid-March, 354 tent sites and 23 container sites had been established (Reuters 13/03/2023). Current information about the total number of established container or tent sites is not publicly available. The Government does not plan to keep tent and container sites for more than six months and wants to ensure that affected people have access to permanent housing as soon as possible (Govt. Turkey 27/03/2023).

AFAD leads the emergency shelter response in Türkiye, working with the shelter sector to address urgent shelter needs, such as by distributing tents, sleeping bags, blankets, mattresses, beds, and chairs (IFRC accessed 16/05/2023). Local authorities coordinate all activities, including land allocation, site planning, site preparation, infrastructure restoration, and the procurement, furnishing, and installation of container units (Shelter Cluster/IFRC 12/05/2023).

The earthquakes destroyed, demolished, or (heavily or moderately) damaged approximately 890,000 residential and non-residential units. They also lightly damaged another 1.8 million units that remain uninhabitable across the affected provinces (Shelter Cluster accessed 07/06/2023). More granular information is needed about the number and specific needs of people living in rural areas to better understand outstanding shelter and information needs.

As summer approaches, already-stressed relief systems will experience more pressure to provide adequate and weather-appropriate shelter, shade, mosquito nets, and NFIs, such as medical supplies and hygiene kits. There will also be a further need for psychosocial support. Adverse weather conditions, including erratic temperature fluctuations, are already making conditions difficult in the affected regions. These fluctuations require extra precautions for emergency shelters (IBC 18/05/2023).

People living in informal settlements, those living in shelters next to their damaged houses, and those not qualified for state assistance are the most at risk with the onset of hot weather (STL 05/05/2023). These groups, along with affected people in rural areas, lack clear information on active government support and services (STL 12/05/2023). This could mean longer periods of strained living conditions and limited access to services.



Table 1. Number of people supported with shelter/NFIs in the affected provinces

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED
Adana	190,000
Adiyaman	143,000
Diyarbakir	38,000
Elazig	13,000
Gaziantep	763,000
Hatay	709,000
Kahramanmaras	450,000
Kilis	61,000
Malatya	313,000
Osmaniye	149,000
Sanliurfa	56,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,885,000</b>

Source: OCHA (17/05/2023)

The Government is focused on establishing more formal sites and phasing out informal sites (KII 24/05/2023). That said, it could take more than two years for people to move out of these informal and formal settlements and into their homes (KII 28/05/2023). Most of the 720,000 families currently living in tents (in formal and informal sites) will likely continue to live there with basic living conditions and limited access to services for months to come (Shelter Cluster/UNHCR 04/05/2023). Unsanitary conditions in informal settlements have led to scabies outbreaks, requiring more formal settlements (IMC 10/05/2023). The return of people who fled the affected areas after the earthquakes will likely worsen the situation (Shelter Cluster/UNHCR 04/05/2023). There has already been an observed increase in the rate of return of refugees to the affected provinces where they previously lived (STL 05/05/2023).

### Temporary Settlement Support (TSS)

The Turkish Government, humanitarian organisations, and the UN have been distributing tents and providing temporary shelter in containers for affected people. Containers were mainly set up as part of container cities. By the end of April, over 805,000 tents and 85,500 containers had been distributed. According to publicly available data, over 2.8 million people

live in the tents, and 157,000 live in containers (OCHA 06/05/2023). These figures are based on the assumption that each tent can accommodate four people and each container can accommodate two people (KII 24/05/2023).

AFAD recently distributed tents to people in rural areas who did not want to move far from their damaged homes (KII 24/05/2023). Some people whose profiles do not pass tent city requirements are still unable to receive tents (CCCM Cluster/IOM 11/05/2023). The authorities are undergoing a process of reorganising and consolidating sites, with the view to reduce the overall number of temporary settlements given the challenges of responding to highly dispersed sites (TSS Sector Briefing 25/05/2023).

Instability characterises the living conditions of people living in temporary settlements, with the closure, merging, or formalisation of informal sites and the movement of people to formal settlements, for employment opportunities, or to their places of origin. To enhance planning and response efforts, it is crucial for humanitarian responders to have current information on local-level plans (OCHA 06/05/2023).

Initial movement patterns in the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes followed pre-existing movement from the southeast to the northwest. Demographic data is not publicly available, but initial observations indicated that earthquakes affected the homes of poor people more. Relocation has mostly depended on damage level; people with severely damaged homes have had to relocate regardless of economic status. That said, it can be assumed that more poor people have had to relocate as more of them would have more severely damaged homes. Older people with limited mobility have stayed behind (IFRC 28/02/2023).

People in rural areas are more likely to have stayed close to their homes for livelihood reasons. The Government has provided some of these people with containers, but they still need humanitarian assistance. There has been more pressure on people in urban areas to move to tent cities and container cities than in rural areas (KII 24/05/2023).

The Government has announced that it will provide housing assistance to homeowners or tenants whose houses are identified as damaged (Govt. Turkey 27/03/2023). That said, disagreements remain about the criteria for identifying which houses are damaged (KII 24/05/2023). Some landlords who want their homes classified as damaged to receive government support have evicted their tenants. These tenants have had to settle in informal or formal settlements despite their rented homes suffering low to no damage. Some landlords have also evicted tenants to lease their homes to new tenants for higher prices (KII 25/05/2023).

The destruction of thousands of homes has increased the demand for rental properties. As a result, some landlords have increased rent (OCHA 29/04/2023; KII 25/05/2023). This has a direct impact on middle-class and poorer survivors who must either go into debt to ensure accommodation, accept poor accommodation conditions, or go without accommodation altogether. This also has a direct impact on the humanitarian response, as it requires humanitarians or the Government to provide short- or medium-term shelter to an increasing number of people and respond to the need for additional protection services for vulnerable households.

An estimated 20% of the three million earthquake-displaced people have returned to their areas of origin. This may be because of financial limitations and the high cost of living in host provinces (OCHA 29/04/2023; KII 17/04/2023). There are also some returning for agriculture purposes, although there is limited data on this demographic (KII 24/05/2023). Others have returned to assess the damage to their houses or vote in the national elections (KII 17/04/2023; KII 18/04/2023).

## WASH

The earthquakes caused massive damage to sewage systems, water networks, and basic hygiene infrastructure, severely hampering people's access to adequate WASH facilities (CARE 06/04/2023). The lack of access to clean drinking water and toilets significantly increases the risk of an epidemic, with diseases like cholera, dysentery, and typhoid fever spreading through contaminated water (Le Monde 16/02/2023). Water- and food-borne diseases, wounds, and skin infections have occurred in some affected areas (Mavrouli et al. 03/04/2023). Damage to electricity infrastructure has also led to improper food refrigeration, increasing the risk of transmission of food-borne illnesses (ECDC 20/02/2023).

Rapid repairs to pipelines have enabled the water supply to resume very quickly. Without treatment, this water is unsafe for consumption but can be used for firefighting and other non-potable needs (UCB 05/05/2023). As at the end of March, İlbank (a state-owned bank under the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning) had repaired 98% of potable water utilities in all affected provinces, with the remaining utilities being in severely damaged areas (Govt. Türkiye 27/03/2023).

Many emergency shelters and temporary settlements still lack running water, clean toilets, and sanitation facilities, leading to unsanitary conditions and unhygienic facilities (OCHA 06/05/2023). With the summer heat, the population would require higher water usage to meet WASH needs. Inappropriate waste management is also a concern, causing health problems for young children, older people, and people with pre-existing conditions (STL 12/05/2023). The current situation, combined with overcrowding, increases the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.

The increase in temperature, coupled with unsanitary conditions, has led to widespread cases of scabies, lice, and intestinal infections. Scabies has become particularly difficult to contain, as many people delay treatment out of embarrassment; by the time they visit a hospital, the infestation has usually spread (SCF 08/05/2023; AP 07/03/2023). Eye infection cases from dust and a lack of hygiene have also increased (STL 26/04/2023).

Table 2. Number of people that humanitarian responders (INGOs, UN agencies, and local NGOs) have reached with WASH support in the affected provinces

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED
Adana	2,600
Adiyaman	136,000
Diyarbakir	1,300
Gaziantep	135,000
Hatay	1,270,000
Kahramanmaras	120,000
Kilis	900
Malatya	313,000
Osmaniye	368,000
Sanliurfa	248,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,594,800</b>

Source: OCHA (17/05/2023)

There are demographic information gaps, including the number of people with disabilities who need specialised access and progress on making facilities more accessible.

## Protection

The impact of the earthquakes has worsened existing protection issues in the affected areas, most of which already had prior high protection-related concerns. Of the 11 affected provinces, 6 (Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaras, Kilis, and Sanliurfa) had the highest rates of early marriage in the country. Five of the affected provinces (Adana, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Malatya, and Sanliurfa) had comparatively higher percentages of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and child sexual abuse cases.





Violence in the affected areas is often normalised and underreported despite high risk rates, meaning available prevalence data is unreliable (UN Women 20/03/2023; UNFPA 20/04/2023).

The protection sector assists the Ministry of Family, Labour, and Social Services in dealing with the disruption of services related to the prevention of violence against women. This assistance is focused on the regions of Adiyaman and Hatay, where the buildings of the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centre collapsed. The support includes setting up containers and providing necessary services (OCHA 17/05/2023).

Despite efforts by humanitarians to carry out protection activities, the lack of in-depth and nuanced information collected from formal or informal settlements challenges the comprehensive understanding of protection needs (KII 28/05/2023). Limited gender-sensitive programming prevents responders from addressing the specific requirements of women and girls, specifically single women and female household heads (OCHA 30/03/2023).

In informal tent areas, there is a lack of government presence and NGOs responsible for security or camp management. Some community leaders are responsible for managing collective settlement areas. This could result in protection risks for vulnerable groups whose relationship with their community leader is unclear (KII 28/05/2023).

The prevalence of protection concerns extends across sectors. The shelter and NFI, health, and nutrition sectors need to provide safe spaces for women, girls, and boys facing the risk of violence to ensure adequate protection. They should also supply sufficient hygiene items and address pressing shelter concerns for people living in informal settlements, especially for people with disabilities.

### Gender-based violence

The Ministry of Family and Social Services is primarily responsible for addressing GBV, child abuse, and associated risks, with provincial directorates established nationwide. Women's shelters also play a crucial role in addressing complaints from GBV survivors. That said, the earthquakes caused significant damage to buildings belonging to provincial directorates and women's shelters, leading to difficulties for staff employed in these public institutions. These institutions could not function or provide support in the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes. Officials from other provinces have been assigned to serve in the earthquake-affected areas but only for two weeks at a time on a rotational basis. This rotation system has made consistent follow-up challenging, making it difficult to mitigate risks (KII 28/05/2023). Humanitarian-established women's safe spaces are providing counselling services and responding to GBV cases (UNFPA 09/05/2023; UNHCR 04/05/2023; KII 28/05/2023).

The Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Needs Assessment highlights significant concern for sexual violence, largely attributed to living conditions in overcrowded and unsafe areas in both formal

and informal settlements. Civil society organisations (CSOs) and humanitarian organisations have observed an increase in the number of identified GBV survivors. In the aftermath of the earthquakes, domestic violence cases have increased, with men facing livelihood losses and stress from the inability to provide for their families (UN Women 20/03/2023).

A GBV subsector survey found that frontline service providers have encountered obstacles in delivering quality GBV services. The issues include limited technical capacity and resources, staff turnover, financial constraints, a lack of Turkish-language guidelines and tools, and disrupted or non-functional referral pathways (UNFPA 20/04/2023). Civil society and state service providers urgently need local-level training to prevent violence against women and girls, including early and forced marriage. Kahramanmaraş and Adiyaman provinces are developing local action plans to respond to this issue (OCHA 06/05/2023).

### Syrian refugees

Türkiye hosts approximately 3.6 million Syrian refugees and has been the world's largest refugee-hosting country for nearly a decade (UNHCR accessed 17/05/2023). Of these, 1.8 million Syrian refugees live in the earthquakes-affected regions of Türkiye. Anti-refugee sentiment in Türkiye has grown in the face of economic hardship and soaring food and housing prices (TNH 06/04/2023). The shortage in housing and shelters as a result of the earthquakes has resulted in calls for the return of Syrian refugees to their country (AP 09/05/2023). Anti-Syrian sentiment and the lack of access to assistance are also aggravating vulnerabilities for Syrian refugees (Al Jazeera 24/02/2023; Reuters 13/02/2023).

After the earthquakes, there were reports that Syrian refugees were not given assistance and were not prioritised by Turkish responders (Amnesty 23/02/2023). Syrian refugees are unable to return to their accommodations, damaged or otherwise, and struggle to receive relocation support and travel permits in the provinces they have been relocated to (KII 24/05/2023; UNFPA 20/04/2023). This likely affects their ability to work and access life-saving humanitarian assistance, healthcare, education for their children, and other services. The stress of these conditions and the adoption of negative coping mechanisms is likely to increase health, protection, and GBV-related risks.

### Women, children, and people with disabilities

The crisis has disproportionately affected women, children, and people with disabilities, who continue to lack access to dignified and accessible facilities (STL 12/05/2023). Relocation resulting from the earthquakes has led to overcrowding and unsanitary living conditions. Women face the risk of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (UN Women 20/03/2023). Living in unsanitary conditions without privacy and access to sexual and reproductive health is dangerous for women and girls, particularly pregnant and lactating



mothers. They have to walk long distances in the dark to access bathrooms and toilets (CARE 06/04/2023). The lack of women- and child-friendly spaces also limits the ability of women and children to receive GBV support or early recovery support for labour (STL 05/05/2023).

Children are at risk of child labour, early marriage, and abuse and exploitation, with many unable to return to school since the earthquakes (ILO 17/03/2023; UNICEF 06/04/2023; OCHA 06/05/2023). There has been an increase in the number of children exposed to abuse or neglect, and many children have been reported missing since the earthquakes (KII 28/05/2023; UN Women 20/03/2023; Turkish Minute 09/03/2023; BBC 10/02/2023). Some children are also at risk of human trafficking and organ harvesting (CNN 12/02/2023). Transactional sex, early and forced marriage, and child labour have also been identified as risks (OCHA 30/03/2023 and 06/05/2023).

An estimated 70% of injured earthquake survivors are expected to have a disability (AI 27/04/2023). They are some of the most vulnerable people in terms of WASH- and protection-related risks, increasing pressure on humanitarian responders to provide more specialised support for an increased number of people with disabilities (KII 28/05/2023; AI 27/04/2023).

People with limited or no mobility have to rely on caregivers to access latrines or humanitarian assistance, including for items like adult diapers. They also face a shortage of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, and experience interruptions in specialised care, such as rehabilitation services (AI 27/04/2023). People with disabilities require more resources and humanitarian attention; with the level of destruction in these areas, 70% of earthquake survivors in Adiyaman, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş are expected to have disabilities (IBC 18/05/2023).

## COPING MECHANISMS

After the earthquakes, many families went into debt (KII 24/05/2023). Transactional sex and child/forced marriages have been identified as risks (OCHA 30/03/2023).

The aftermath of the earthquakes was chaotic but characterised by unity and collaboration. There was both an inflow and outflow of people; many left the affected areas, while others returned to support their families. Most people sought aid from CSOs or individuals and businesses providing assistance. Some of the people who lost employment in the aftermath resorted to using their savings or borrowing money from friends and acquaintances. In the immediate aftermath, people also made their own makeshift shelters given the unavailability of tents (KII 24/05/2023).

The earthquakes have had a disastrous effect on the economy. The crisis has severely affected an estimated 220,000 businesses, and the lack of jobs has increased social insecurity and poverty, making people even more dependent on humanitarian aid (OCHA 30/03/2023). People have become more likely to work as casual labourers without employment protection or employment guarantees (KII 24/05/2023). Continued unemployment and underemployment

are likely to result in more people resorting to negative coping mechanisms to meet basic needs.

There is a lack of comprehensive information about coping mechanisms immediately after the earthquakes, as the immediate focus was to respond to basic needs. As a result, it is difficult to understand exactly how people coped immediately after the earthquakes (KII 28/05/2023). That said, survivors have faced multiple traumas and require psychosocial support to cope with their psychological stress.

The high prevalence of symptoms like distress, shock, and grief emphasises the urgent need for comprehensive mental health services (WHO 09/03/2023).

## INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Initially, providing information about humanitarian assistance was difficult. The coordination system was not functioning robustly, and local NGOs struggled to get information about coordination systems. Information dissemination is done by local, national, and international NGOs, CSOs, and local authorities. After the first few weeks, coordination and information dissemination improved (KII 24/05/2023).

People in many informal sites still struggle to access relevant information about service provision, as do people in villages and remote areas (OCHA 06/05/2023; KII 31/05/2023). This has resulted in people struggling to access healthcare services, especially in areas where the crisis has damaged, destroyed, or closed healthcare facilities. There is also an urgent need for information regarding mental health and psychosocial support (OCHA 29/04/2023). Many people with disabilities also lost their assistive devices and mobility aids in the wake of the disaster, making it harder for them to move around and access information and services (OCHA 11/04/2023).

Most organisations implemented systems to provide information to the affected population through mobile teams, social media, face-to-face information dissemination, leaflets, brochures, focus group discussions, or group discussions. Some also established women- and child-friendly spaces in tent areas and held meetings to provide women and children with information about different issues. There are also complaint feedback mechanisms in place (KII 28/05/2023).

According to some, local NGOs are doing better than international responders in terms of information dissemination. International organisations have started trying to scale up effective information dissemination mechanisms – including mobile teams, social media, and discussion sessions – and are relying on community outreach (KII 24/05/2023). One operational responder noted that improving accountability to the affected population will also enhance programming within all the different sectors (KII 31/05/2023).



The Government has established multiple channels for information dissemination. That said, local authorities struggle with information dissemination when the mechanisms in place are not applied properly. People also usually go to the Muhtar (elected village heads), who is present in every neighbourhood, to acquire information, but not all Muhtars are equally efficient in providing information. One operational responder noted that most of the questions the affected populations raised regarding government assistance could not always be answered because organisations themselves did not have full clarity on what the Government was planning (KII 24/05/2023).

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Initially, the Government mostly directed the response towards what it would identify as the most pressing needs. The Government would assess the situation and request support from international responders in the form of materials or resources that the Government would then distribute. The process has since become more collaborative, and international responders have become more involved in aid distribution and the verification and prioritisation of needs, especially in informal settlements (KII 24/05/2023).

Immediately after the earthquakes, AFAD and other government organisations and rescue teams, along with local organisations, became involved in search and rescue, while the Turkish Red Crescent, the Ministry of National Defense, Gendarmerie, and other NGOs worked with AFAD to provide hot meals through mobile kitchens (Govt. Türkiye 01/03/2023). Initiatives by Turkish civilians and local NGOs, who were the first to respond to the earthquakes, significantly contributed to government and international efforts, enhancing the initial humanitarian response. Local organisations supported assessment activities and distributed essential items to affected people, and people across the country crowdsourced food, money, and household supplies for the affected population (Humanitarian Outcomes 27/02/2023).

Despite efforts in the humanitarian response, gaps remain. There is a lack of clarity regarding government support for emergency shelter and NFIs for different groups, and children in informal settlements, rural areas, and villages still do not have access to education. There is also a need to strengthen coordination between state organisations and humanitarian responders to address protection-related risks (OCHA 06/05/2023).

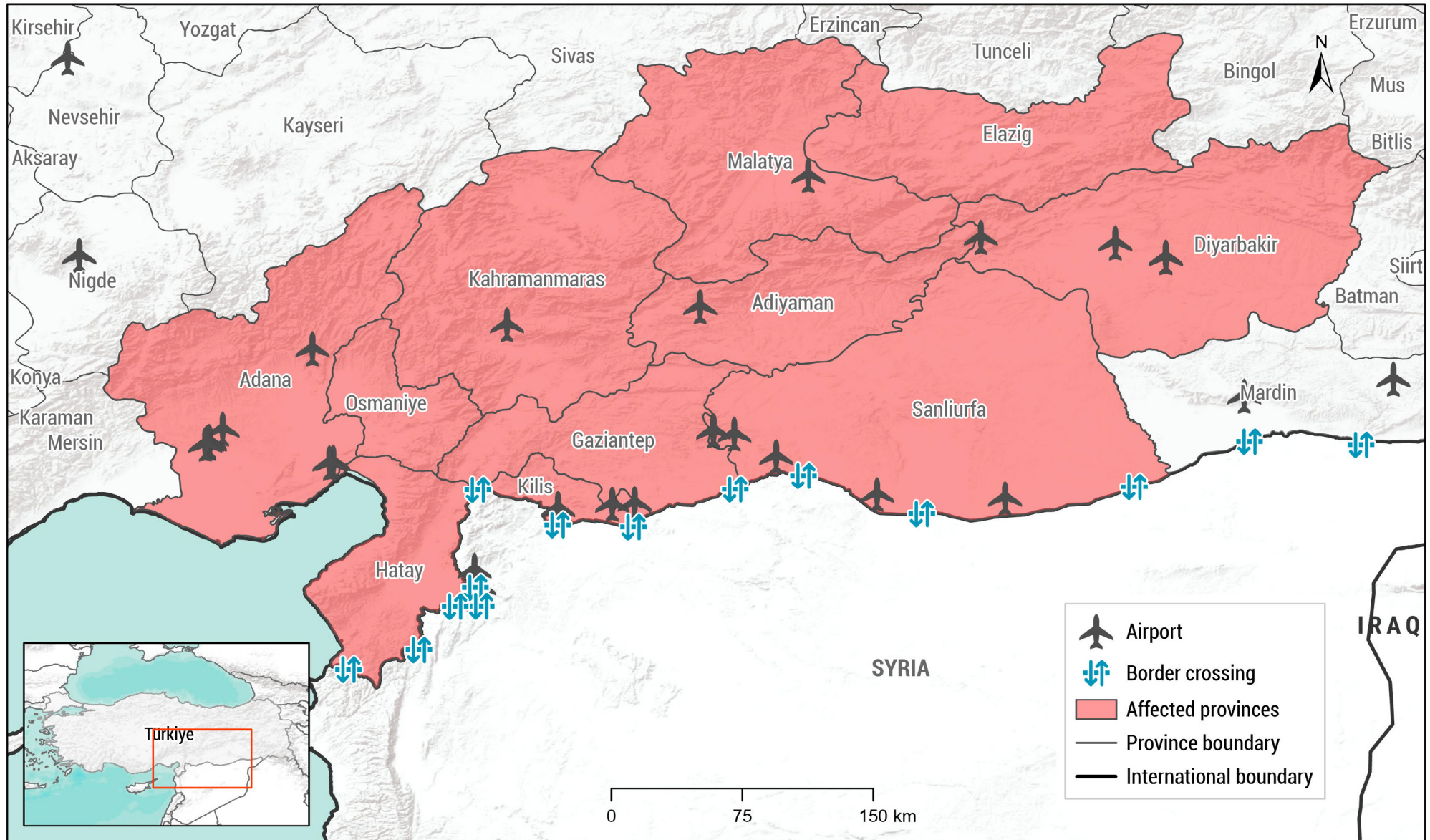
The earthquakes led to the release of a host of dangerous toxins, including asbestos, silica, mercury, and lead, into the air. Demolished buildings also produced massive plumes of dust carrying poisonous substances that seriously threaten rivers, plants, and humans. The scale of destruction generated an unprecedented amount of debris, estimated to be at least ten times more than previous major earthquakes in Türkiye. Indiscriminate disposal practices have led to concerns about a secondary disaster of toxic contamination, which

experts believe could be even more severe than the quakes. Efforts to address this have been considered insufficient, prompting protests and lawsuits in Hatay (Reuters 11/05/2023).

The earthquake also inflicted substantial damage to infrastructure. The cost of repair of water supply and sanitation systems is estimated at USD 799 million; this figure is expected to increase as surveys become more comprehensive. An additional USD 1.8 billion is required to repair roads, railways, bridges, tunnels, and other land transport infrastructure. Over USD 100 million is required to repair the electronic communications infrastructure, and another USD 595 million is required to repair damage to the energy sector (Govt. Türkiye 27/03/2023). Comprehensive data on infrastructure repair is not yet available, but repairs are taking place. UNDP has proposed collaborating with local responders to repair and improve critical municipal infrastructure, including drinking water systems, waste treatment plants, markets, and community centres. The focus will be on environmentally friendly reconstruction, such as integrating solar power systems during the repair process (UNDP 27/03/2023). Though commendable, the international response to the earthquake falls short given the magnitude of the damage. The primary concern lies in acquiring long-term funding to facilitate the transition of affected individuals from temporary containers to permanent homes and buildings and reestablishing damaged infrastructure.



# THE EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED PROVINCES IN TÜRKİYE



Source: ACAPS using data from IOM (06/03/2023)