

# TÜRKIYE

## Floods



### KEY PRIORITIES

**200,000**  
AFFECTED PEOPLE

**High risk**  
OF WATERBORNE  
DISEASE

**4.9**  
INFORM CLIMATE  
CHANGE RISK SCORE

### FUNDING AND RESPONSE CAPACITY

- Türkiye Disaster and Emergency Management Authority
- UN agencies (UNICEF, IOM)
- Several INGOs starting initial response activities
- USAID

### CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

- On 14 March 2023, only five weeks after two earthquakes struck southeastern Türkiye, severe flooding hit the southern provinces of the country. As at 23 March, there were at least 19 reported deaths, and several people were still missing (STL 23/03/2023; Hurriyet Daily News 21/03/2023). The most affected areas were Adiyaman and Sanliurfa, which also suffered from the earthquakes on 6 February (ECHO 16/03/2023; FloodList 15/03/2023).
- The number of people in need remains uncertain, but the flooding has likely affected all the residents of Adiyaman (over 200,000) and at least 1,251 households in Sanliurfa (STL 23/03/2023; Daily Sabah 17/03/2023). Heavy rainfall caused a river to overflow, leading to flooding in Adiyaman's Tut district and Malatya's Dogansehir district.
- The floods have further increased the contamination of water already poor in quality as a result of infrastructure damage during the earthquake. The overlapping events have increased food, shelter, and WASH needs (STL 23/03/2023; WVI 17/03/2023).

#### Anticipated scope and scale

- Above 150mm of rain is expected to affect Adiyaman in southern Türkiye in the final weeks of March, with a high risk of flooding, affecting Adiyaman and northern Syria around Ar-Raqqa (START Network 20/03/2023).
- The floods are likely to disrupt Ramadan in the affected provinces, since many lack proper shelter and cooking sets for the *iftar* (the fast-breaking evening meal of Muslims during Ramadan) (STC 22/03/2023).
- The affected areas usually experience rain from September–May, with the rainiest months normally being December and January. This means that the rain is likely to continue for two more months (World Data accessed 23/03/2023; Weather Spark accessed 23/03/2023). Humanitarian needs, particularly shelter to protect people from rainy weather, are likely to remain.

#### Humanitarian constraints

- Some roads in Sanliurfa and Adiyaman are closed because of flooding and landslides, limiting traffic and access to affected areas (STL 23/03/2023; Independent 17/03/2023).
- As at 15 March, telecommunication services were down in certain areas (Project HOPE 15/03/2023).

## CRISIS IMPACT

### Shelter and housing

Survivors of the earthquake in the provinces of Adiyaman and Sanliurfa have increased shelter needs because of the floods affecting formal and informal settlements. As at 16 March, across Türkiye, around 2.3 million people were sheltering in temporary settlements, with 1.6 million sheltering in informal sites (OCHA 17/03/2023). In Adiyaman, 220,000 people live in tent areas, and many stay in scattered temporary shelters in various neighborhoods. It has been reported that the 15 March floods affecting some temporary shelters have led many of those staying there to return to their homes despite the damage sustained from the earthquakes, posing security risks for returnees (STL 23/03/2023).

In informal camps, there is a significant need for housing after the flooding further compromised tents (Project HOPE 15/03/2023). Around 100mm/m<sup>2</sup> of rain is estimated to have fallen in the provinces from 14–15 March (Reuters 15/03/2023). The impact of flooding on the settlements has made overcrowding a major concern in the camps (AP News 16/03/2023).

Many earthquake-affected people sheltering in tents in flood-affected campsites have been evacuated. It was also reported that patients had been evacuated from a main hospital in Sanliurfa, as water had reached the ground floor of the hospital (Al Jazeera 15/03/2023; VOA 15/03/2023).

### WASH

In the provinces of Adiyaman and Sanliurfa, the floods have affected water infrastructure, leaving people without access to safe drinking water. Sanitation and hygiene facilities have also been compromised. The high levels of stagnant water in streets and in homes are exposing people to the risk of waterborne diseases (WVI 17/03/2023). The availability of both drinking water and water tanks remains insufficient in Sanliurfa (STL 23/03/2023).

### Infrastructure damage

The floods have significantly damaged multiple vehicles, buildings, and roads and swept away cars and temporary housing for earthquake victims (VOA 15/03/2023). City streets have been muddied and filled with scattered flood debris. As at 15 March, buildings in some areas were only accessible by boat because of floodwater. Police and emergency teams have instructed people to take refuge on higher floors, and they have also evacuated several buildings (FloodList 16/03/2023).

## FUNDING AND RESPONSE CAPACITY

The main respondent has been the Government. In Sanliurfa alone, approximately 10,000 personnel, including 2,000 soldiers, are supporting the clean-up in the city (Hurriyet Daily News 21/03/2023).

As at 15 March, 25 boats, 23 search-and-rescue vehicles, pumping equipment, 162 search-and-rescue personnel, and 17 professional divers from the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority had been deployed to the affected areas (FloodList 16/03/2023).