

Program Report

Türkiye and Syria Earthquake

7/2/23 – 7/5/23

EMERGENCY ●
ACTION ●
ALLIANCE



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Cover Image: Distributing aid items in Aleppo Syria. Photo: ADRA Syria

ACT FOR PEACE

ChildFund
Australia

Caritas
AUSTRALIA

ADRA

OXFAM
Australia

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
Australia for UNHCR

act:onaid

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Distributing aid items in Hama, Syria. Photo: ADRA Syria





Summary

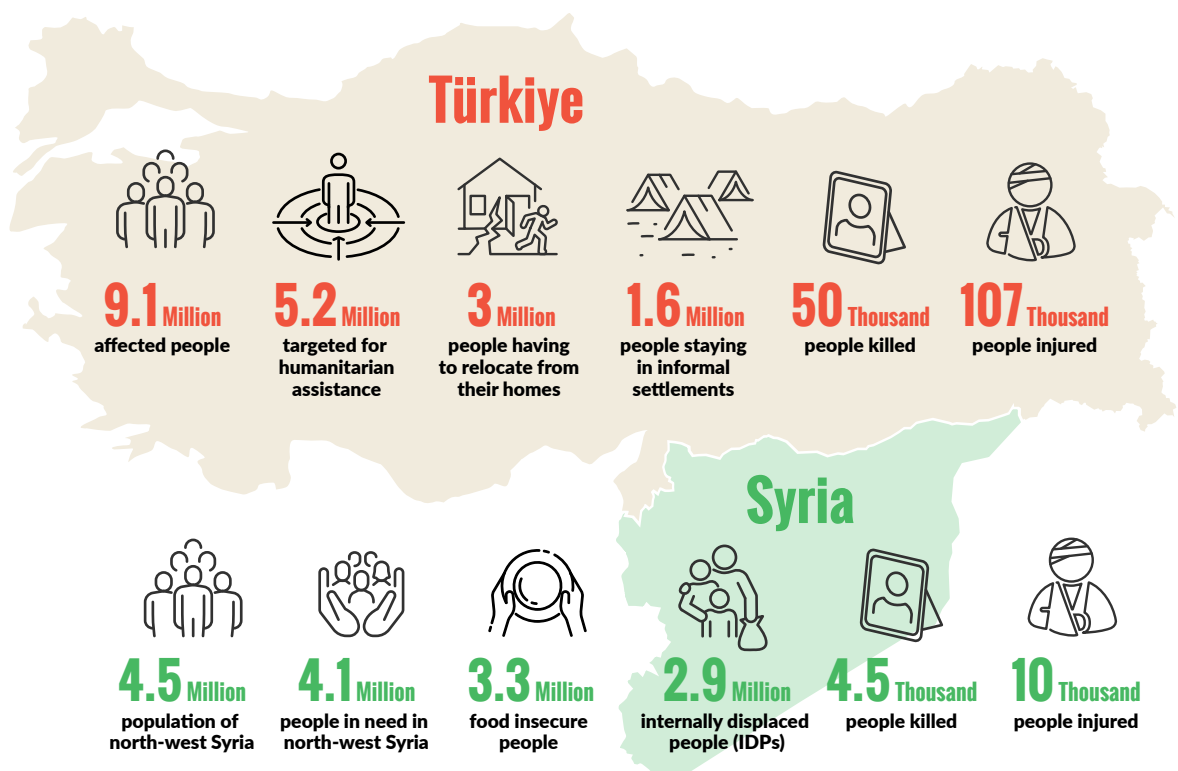
On the 6th of February 2023, a powerful magnitude 7.8 earthquake rocked large areas of Türkiye* and neighbouring Syria, killing tens of thousands and injuring more than a hundred thousand people.

One day after the first earthquake, Emergency Action Alliance (EAA) launched an appeal for the disaster. Together, we raised over \$2.3 million for the people affected, with the support from our media partners ABC and SBS.

Emergency Action Alliance charities and their local partners were among the first responders providing urgent aid. Following the search and rescue operations, the immediate priorities were access to healthcare, shelter for those who lost their homes, heating in safe spaces, blankets, warm clothes, and ensuring people have food and clean water.

With thanks to your support, we are pleased to provide this initial report on how your donations have been put to work, helping those in the greatest need. Without your support, many people would not have received critical lifesaving assistance in their greatest time of need.

We hope this initial update is a reminder of the powerful impact your donation has had in this catastrophic situation.



Source: OCHA Türkiye: 2023 Earthquakes Situation Report No. 16, as of 27 April 2023
Source: OCHA North-West Syria: Situation Report (28 April 2023)

*Turkey's name was officially changed to Türkiye in 2022.

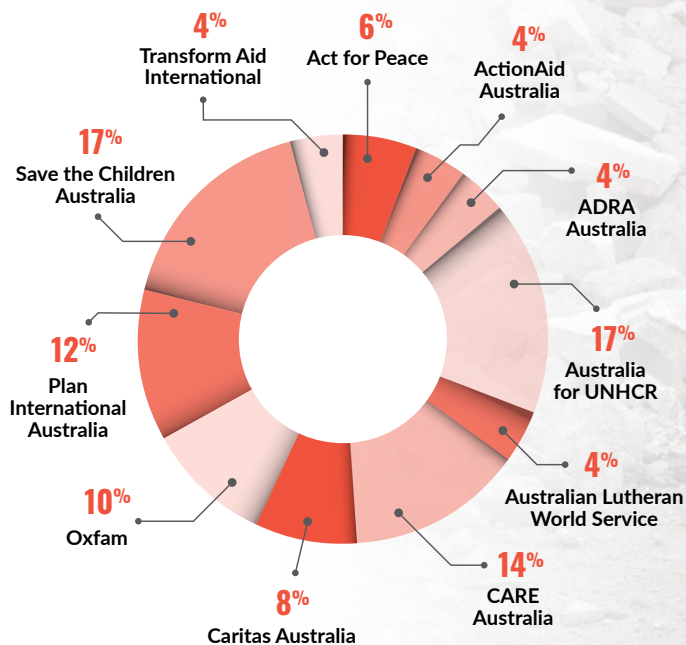
Distribution of funds to members

EAA members applied to receive funds from EAA's Earthquake Appeal by submitting a Statement of Capacity outlining their response to the emergency. These statements were peer-reviewed by a panel of humanitarian field experts, each of whom were staff of EAA members.

To avoid conflict of interest, a peer review panel member did not participate in the review of that member's own organisation's Statement of Capacity. The final determination of the peer review panel was reviewed by a humanitarian field expert that was not responding to the Hunger Crisis emergency.

Finally the conclusions of the peer review panel were presented to the EAA Board, which then approved the inclusion of responding members to be a recipient of a distribution from the EAA appeal funds.

The funds were distributed to members using a pre-agreed allocation formula that is based on each member's historical expenditure in humanitarian emergencies. This historical expenditure is taken as an indication of each member's capacity to respond.



Boy gazes at the mounds of rubble in Aleppo, Syria.
Photo: MECC/Carole Nicola. Supplied by Plan International Australia





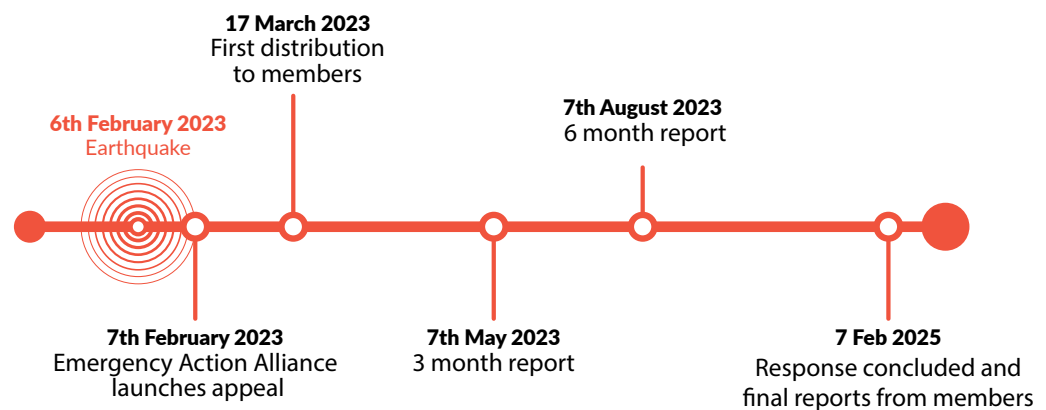
Timeline

On the 6 February 2023, at 04:17 local time, (11.17am Australian Eastern Standard time) a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern and central Türkiye and northern and western Syria.

After the first quake, thousands of aftershocks occurred across the region, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Emergency Action Alliance launched a national appeal for the emergency the following day, 7th February 2023, supported by our media partners ABC and SBS.

After raising almost \$2.3 million through the generous support of the Australian public, EAA made its first distribution to members commencing March 17th 2023 with 11 of EAA's 15 members responding to the emergency and receiving the first distribution.



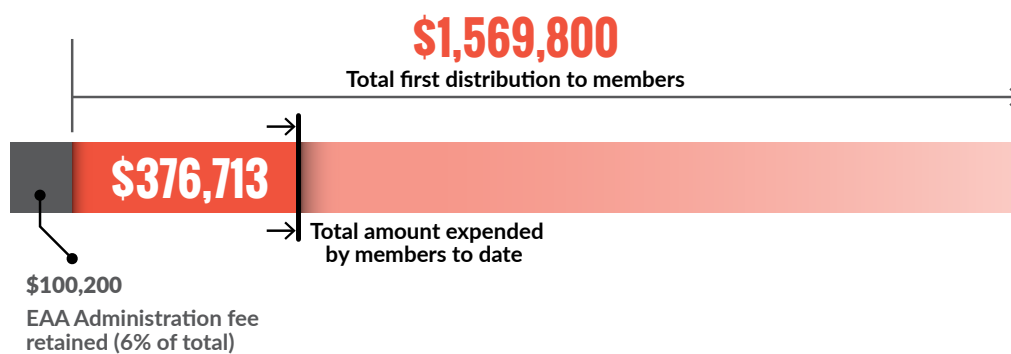
Al-Faid School Distribution. Distributing aid items in Latakia Syria. Photo ADRA Syria



Expenditure to date

Three months into the humanitarian response, EAA members have to date expended 24% of their first allocation of \$1.56 million. In these first few weeks and months, with aid rushing in from around the world, it has been critical to ensure a co-ordinated response that prioritised lifesaving search and rescue, medical assistance and life-sustaining basics such as food, water and shelter.

Emergency Action Alliance contributions have already assisted in the early critical response phase, while focus now turns to recovery and rehabilitation of families, communities and cities.



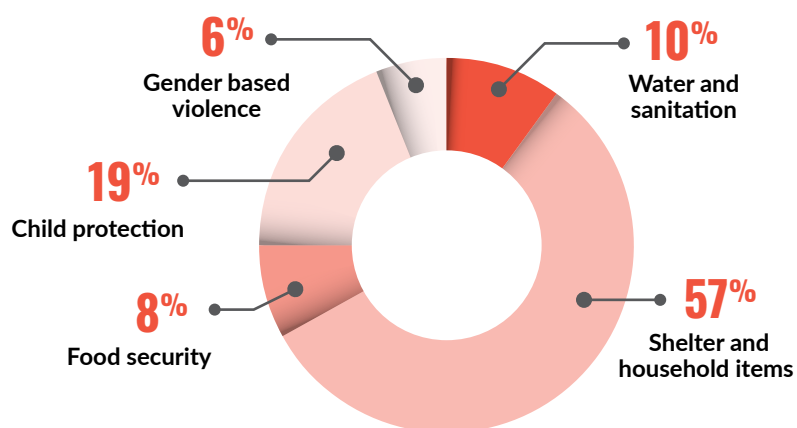
Emergency response team preparing to distribute food items, winterization kits and medicine in Syria.
Photo: GOPA-DERD, supplied by Act for Peace.





Expenditure by project category

The information in this chart has been consolidated from the 3 month reports of responding EAA members. As this only covers the first three months, we expect that these percentages will change over time.



A UNHCR staff member speaks with Sally, who went into premature labour with baby Khodor one day after the earthquakes, at a temporary shelter in Hama, Syria. UNHCR is providing survivors like Sally with emergency aid and protection. Photo: UNHCR/Saad Sawas





Geographical areas of intervention

EAA members are responding to the crisis both in Syria and in Türkiye. The illustration below shows member response by country using the EAA funds.





Operating context February – April 2023

The earthquakes that struck Türkiye and Syria caused one of the biggest disasters to impact the region in recent times. As of April 2023, the death toll has surpassed 50,000 people, with many more injured. More than 5.9 million people have been displaced.

During the three months following the earthquakes, relief efforts initially focused on search and rescue operations, while providing medical assistance to those injured. EAA members worked quickly to establish shelter for those whose homes were destroyed, along with the provision of food, water and sanitation services.

The disaster took place in the middle of a freezing winter, adding even greater urgency to the relief efforts and to the provision of core relief items including blankets, hygiene and kitchen items, and solar lamps.

The scale of the emergency represented a huge logistical challenge. The great number of people who received lifesaving assistance is a credit to the way aid agencies worked together in a co-ordinated manner, ensuring those worst affected and most vulnerable received the help they needed.

When you donated to the Emergency Action Alliance appeal, your funds were distributed only to our members who were on the ground responding to the emergency. Each of our members have their partners on the ground enabling the swift distribution of aid. Crucially, each of our members specialise in different aspects of emergency response, whether that be the provision of emergency kits, child protection, focusing on the needs of refugees, or the provision of mobile medical services. Together this represents a swift, effective and comprehensive humanitarian response.

We are pleased to provide examples below on how each of our responding members have helped.



Distribution by Caritas agencies in Aleppo after the earthquake. Photo: Caritas Internationalis

The humanitarian response in Syria

The earthquakes struck as the humanitarian crisis in northwest Syria was already at the highest level since the conflict began, with 4.1 million people relying on humanitarian assistance. Around 60% of people in the region affected by the earthquakes were already displaced, and living in extreme hardship.

The humanitarian response from our members in Syria was swift. While there are challenges in accessing north-west Syria due to conflict, EAA members have a strong existing presence in the area. Working both directly and through their local partners, they were able to provide life-saving aid to the affected communities. This work is ongoing today.

Examples of how EAA members are helping in Syria include:

- **ActionAid** is working through its Arab Regional office with local partners in Idlib, Azaz, Afrin, and other locations in Aleppo Governorate, and Al Ramel Camp, Latakia Governorate. They have been delivering a locally-led humanitarian response that has included medical aid through provision of urgent medical care, a mobile health clinic and psychological first aid. The response is also supporting safe spaces for women and girls, shelter and multi purpose cash assistance.
- **Act for Peace** is supporting Christian Aid in Syria through the ACT Alliance to distribute urgently needed meals, food kits, hygiene and dignity kits, as well as medical supplies to hospitals and shelters. They are providing rapid mental health and psychosocial support, establishing child-friendly spaces to provide psychological first aid, family tracing and reunification, case management for displaced children and school rehabilitation and repair work.
- **ADRA** is working with its partner ADRA Syria in Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, and Idlib Governorates. ADRA Syria began responding to the affected people in the first 12 hours, providing food and water to those who moved to collective shelters. The focus of work is on providing basic urgent needs such as food, water, and protection, then the restoration of shelter and basic services, and the provision of psychological support services.



Violet, ActionAid's partner in Syria, providing psychosocial counselling and emotional support to children through mobile mental health units. Photo: ActionAid



UNHCR relief items arrive at a mosque sheltering earthquake survivors in Aleppo, Syria. Photo: UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

- **Australia for UNHCR:** UNHCR has long-established operations in Syria, and is leading the Protection and Shelter/non food items sector, working in close coordination with other sectors. As part of this UNHCR is providing child protection, gender based violence protection, as well as psychosocial support and first aid. Core relief items have been distributed to affected families along with winter clothing, blankets and heat lamps.
- **ALWS:** ALWS is responding through its partner LWF Jordan, which has been operating in the region since 2012 and has a strong track record of humanitarian and development projects. LWF is assisting affected communities with food, water, sanitation, health services and shelter. Longer term the focus is on reconstruction services and supplies, assisting affected communities to rebuild their lives.
- **Caritas Australia:** Working with implementing partner CAFOD UK in providing support to the population affected by the Earthquake in Northwest Syria through the distribution of dignity kits; provision of psychosocial support as well as Emergency cash. Planning is currently underway for the procurement and distribution of dignity kits for women and girls affected by the earthquake.
- **Save the Children Australia:** For over 12 years Save the Children has been providing health, education and food and nutrition services for children and their families in Syria. Save the Children has prioritised temporary shelter, blankets and winterisation kits, non-food items and health and hygiene kits. Save the Children will then deepen response activities cross WASH and health, cash and voucher assistance, Child protection, psycho social support and education needs.
- **Plan International Australia:** Plan International responded with their partners, Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), on the ground in Northern Syria. Immediate life-saving humanitarian assistance was provided to people staying in shelters set up in church halls and public schools. Distribution included food baskets, hygiene kits as well as critical services to support children experiencing trauma from the earthquakes. This included psychological support and mental health first aid.

The humanitarian response in Türkiye

Over 40,000 people have lost their lives in Türkiye. It's estimated that around 47,000 buildings have been damaged or destroyed, including 15 hospitals that have suffered partial or heavy damage.

Around 12 million people live in the area affected by the earthquakes, including two million Syrian refugees, most of whom are living in tents and makeshift structures, especially near the town of Gaziantep, close to the epicentre of the first earthquake.

The Turkish government is leading the response through AFAD and provincial governors. The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), local partners and humanitarian organisations, including the 11 responding members of Emergency Action Alliance, are working alongside AFAD. The Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) is coordinating support to temporary settlements accommodating refugees and members of the host community. During these early months the focus has been on core relief items, shelter, food and water, and winterisation essentials due to the freezing conditions.

Examples of how EAA members are helping in Türkiye:

- **Australia for UNHCR:** UNHCR is working with the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) providing core relief items for PMM-managed centres and temporary accommodation centres. This includes thermal blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, food packs, hygiene parcels, heating and winter clothing. In addition UNHCR has provided the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) with sleeping bags, family tents and all-weather tents, foldable beds, blankets and hygiene parcels.
- **Baptist World Aid:** Partnering with Medair, Baptist World Aid Australia is supporting the provision of emergency food and non-food items, winterisation and emergency housing support in multiple earthquake affected areas in Türkiye. Additionally, trauma-informed mental health, psychosocial support and cash-for-work opportunities are being provided to affected populations in temporary housing. Providing cash-for-work is complementing loss of income for families while simultaneously improving the physical informal settlements.



Hatay, Türkiye. Raida fled Syria seven years ago to seek safety in Hatay, Türkiye. After the earthquakes almost completely destroyed their home, Raida and her children took shelter in tents provided by UNHCR. Photo: UNHCR/Emrah Gürel

- **CARE Australia:** CARE Türkiye and our partners' emergency response teams have been responding to the earthquakes in both Türkiye and north-west Syria. Their focus has been on food and livelihood assistance, the provision of clean water and hygiene supplies, as well as temporary shelter and materials to endure the harsh winter conditions. They have also been delivering health and protection services, helping ensure women and children are safe.
- **Save the Children Australia:** Save the Children has been present in Türkiye since 2015 with programming aimed at providing access to education and addressing child poverty. Save the Children has prioritised temporary shelter, blankets and winterisation kits, non-food items and health and hygiene kits. Save the Children will then deepen response activities cross WASH and health, cash and voucher assistance, Child protection, psycho-social support and education needs.
- **Oxfam Australia:** Working with Oxfam KEDV, the project focuses on psychosocial support for children. Specifically, EAA funds are being used to support the FISA Children's Rights Center in Adiyaman. The need for psychosocial services in Adiyaman is overwhelming. A strong focus will be given to children's safeguarding, safe programming and gender protection.
- **Plan International Australia:** Working with Plan International Lebanon and International Medical Corps UK. Plan is supporting IMCs regional child protection in emergencies role to strengthen capacity for child protection case management, child safe spaces, group activities for child wellbeing, parenting skills and support, community based child protection committees, and capacity building and training.

Humanitarian aid tents in Kahramanmaras. Photo: Abed Albaset Alhasan, Pexels





Initial focus of **response activities**

Response Activity	ActionAid Australia	Act for Peace	ADRA Australia	ALWS	Baptist World Aid	CARE Australia	Caritas Australia	Plan International Australia	Save the Children Australia	Oxfam Australia	Australia for UNHCR
Access to food and food security											
Shelter, blankets and bedding, household and non-food items (NFIs)											
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)											
Rescue and rehabilitation											
Medical and health											
Psycho social support											
Cash assistance and cash vouchers											
Child protection											
Gender based violence protection											
Education											



Syria. Naya, 12, collects hygiene kit for her family who are sheltering in a church. Photo: MECC/Carole Nicola. Supplied by Plan International Australia



Distributing food items, winterization kits and medicine in Syria. Photo: GOPA-DERD, supplied by Act for Peace.



About Emergency Action Alliance

Emergency Action Alliance (EAA) brings together the expertise and impact of 15 leading aid organisations, enabling a swift and targeted response when major emergencies take place overseas.

EAA's 15 member charities are: ActionAid Australia, Act for Peace, ADRA, Anglican Overseas Aid, Australia for UNHCR, Australian Lutheran World Service, Baptist World Aid Australia, Care Australia, Caritas Australia, CBM Australia, ChildFund Australia, Oxfam Australia, Plan International Australia, Save the Children Australia and Tearfund Australia.

EAA can rapidly launch a coordinated, targeted fundraising appeal under the Emergency Action Alliance banner in order to streamline efforts and help more people in their moment of need. This makes it easy for Australians to know how to help. The money raised will be used quickly and efficiently to help those affected through the EAA's network of member organisations.

Emergency Action Alliance has a unique process for allocating funds to the charities best able to deliver aid in that particular emergency, allowing them to rapidly scale up operations on the ground and help more people. EAA's members fund the organisation's running costs, and in turn, only EAA members responding to the emergency will receive funds to carry out their vital work.

Not only is this an extremely efficient and effective way to raise and distribute funds in international emergencies, it also makes it easier for donors to know how to help. Instead of feeling confused about which charity to donate to, Australian donors wanting to help can have a single, trustworthy way to make an impact.

Emergency Action Alliance will evolve and grow with each appeal, increasing public awareness and optimising the mechanism for greater impact over time. This mechanism is in many major countries across Europe and around the world, including the Disasters Emergency Committee in the United Kingdom, Aktion Deutschland Hilft in Germany, and Giro 555 in the Netherlands. EAA partners with these global alliances and benefits from their many years (and decades) of operating the model with great success.



Oxfam is delivering water by truck to shelters hosting earthquake survivors in Aleppo, Syria. Photo: Islam Mardini/Oxfam



Rescuers on ruins after earthquake in Antakya, Hatay, Türkiye. Photo: Aksel Anıl from Pexels

Distribution of blankets and essentials in
an emergency shelter, Latakia, Syria.
Photo ADRA Syria



Thank you to each and every one of you for your donations.

We hope this report helps you know that your donation has made
a real difference to people in their greatest moment of need.

Contact: Donor Services
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Visit our website: emergencyaction.org.au

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