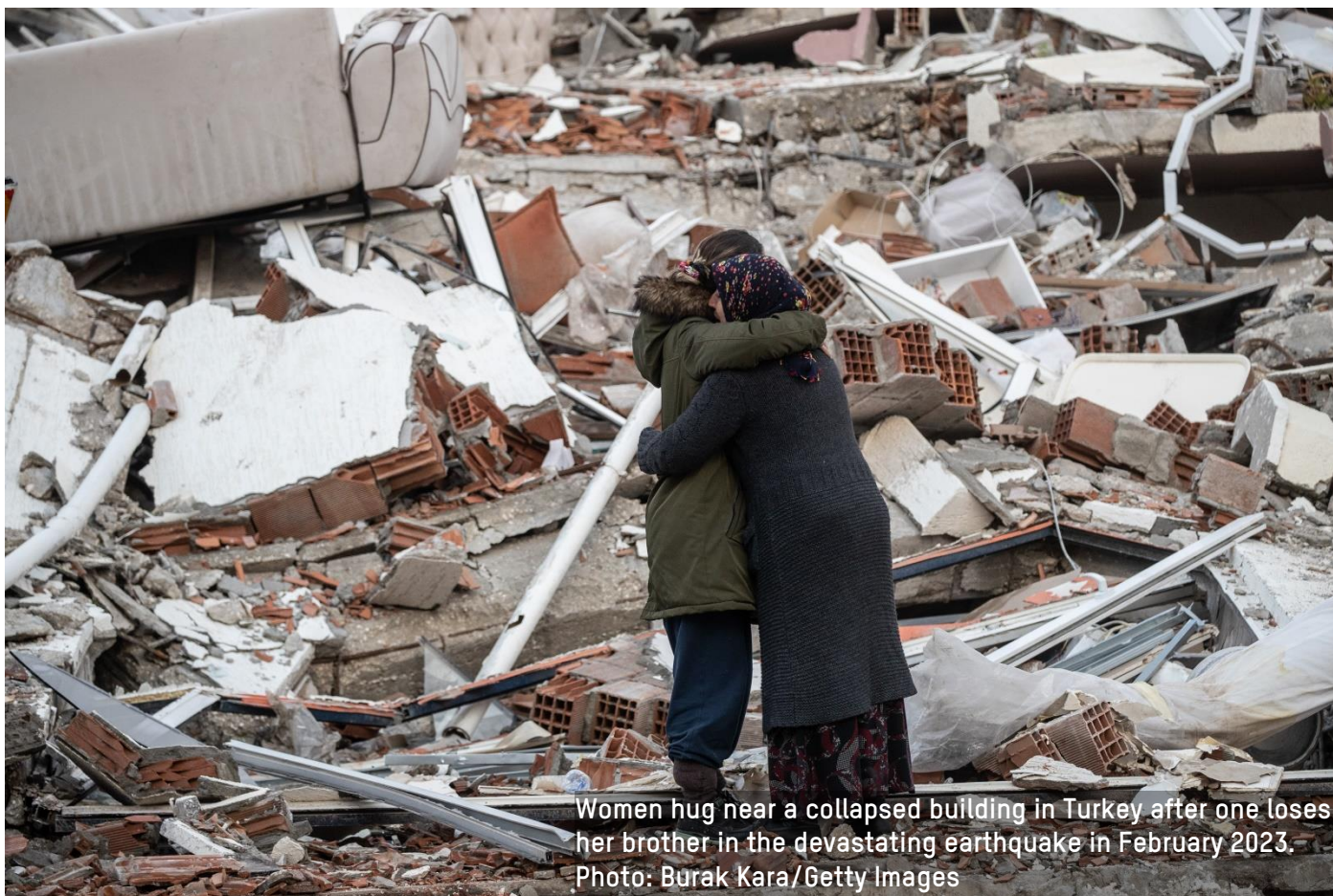


TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

HUMANITARIAN APPEAL



OXFAM
DEC MEMBER



Women hug near a collapsed building in Turkey after one loses her brother in the devastating earthquake in February 2023.
Photo: Burak Kara/Getty Images

Background

On 6 February 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck in Turkey's southeast region at 4:17AM local time. The epicentre of the earthquake was 34km west of the city of Gaziantep in Kahramanmaraş province's Pazarcik district. The initial 7.8 magnitude earthquake was followed by a number of aftershocks, with many of these aftershocks measuring magnitudes higher than 6.0. The earthquake was felt across the southeast region, as well as in neighbouring countries including Syria and Lebanon, and is the biggest earthquake in Turkey since 1939. Following these aftershocks, an additional 7.6 magnitude earthquake with an epicentre in the Elbistan district of Kahramanmaraş took place at 13:24PM. The aftershocks from this second earthquake continued to occur throughout the day.

The earthquake has affected 10 provinces in Turkey and In Aleppo city, 9 low-income neighbourhoods were affected heavily and where most of the casualties were reported. Officially over 12,000 people have been reported to have lost their lives with thousands more injured, this is expected to rise as search and rescue for survivors continues. Buildings have collapsed including houses, schools and hospitals and other infrastructure such as roads have also been destroyed slowing assessments and relief efforts. The affected areas are also home to large numbers of refugees in Turkey and those displaced by conflict in Syria adding to the needs. Particularly in Syria, the risks are higher as the country has already been dealing with a cholera outbreak. The earthquakes in Syria, have also coincided with a snowstorm in the region, exposing people to severe temperatures.

Oxfam in Turkey and Syria

Oxfam in Turkey has extensive experiences working in disaster response in the context of strengthening women's leadership in building resilience against disasters and crises. Its experiences in responding to the 1999 Marmara earthquakes continue to shape its programs in strengthening the leadership of women in the context of emergencies and crises by training women to carry out needs assessments and coordinate with local government actors for responding to emerging needs.

Oxfam has been operating in Syria since 2013 and has worked in all 14 of Syria's governorates. It currently has an established office in one of the worst affected areas in Aleppo that enables the team to coordinate at both an operational and technical level with other humanitarian actors. Oxfam's operations in Syria have reached one million people annually for the last three years.

Oxfam's Response

Oxfam has launched an appeal to support people affected by this disaster. Our teams in Turkey and Syria are working with partner organisations to assess the types of immediate and longer-term support that are needed to help people in the aftermath of Monday's devastating earthquakes. The needs are similar across both Turkey and Syria, with response areas focused on public health, shelter, food and water. While it is unclear how many people the response will reach, thousands are currently in need of assistance in both countries. Our response will mainly focus on areas near the epicentre in Turkey and in the district of Aleppo in Syria. **The DEC and Oxfam, together with local partner organisations need your support to reach people affected by the disaster.**

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

- Jerry cans and buckets will be distributed for the purpose of water storage.
- Where water networks are disrupted/affected by the collapsed buildings, leakage will likely affect the water pressure. Possible water trucking may be needed to ensure safe chlorinated water as measures against cholera.
- Hygiene kits will be distributed alongside public health promotion to ensure best hygiene practises.

"The scale of destruction is vast. Following two big earthquakes and over 60 aftershocks, people are still in shock and fear, they don't even have time to mourn the lost ones."

Meryem Aslan, Oxfam spokesperson in Ankara

Shelter & Food

- Convene with partners to ensure that affected families have access to winter clothing and blankets to protect them from the cold and rainy weather.
- Shelter kits will be distributed to families where their homes have been destroyed or are unsafe.
- Cash transfers to purchase essential items such as food and allow payment for temporary accommodation.

Survivors of these earthquakes have been forced to flee their homes and are now facing freezing temperatures. Oxfam and the DEC need your support now.