

SITUATION REPORT: EARTHQUAKES IN TÜRKIYE

February 23, 2023 | No. 1



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF RESPONSE

We are delivering aid and support to children, women and men devastated by the earthquakes in Türkiye (Turkey). According to the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and recent UN Flash Appeal, **more than 9.1 million people have been affected in 11 provinces** in Türkiye and **more than 47,000 buildings have been destroyed or damaged** since the initial earthquake struck on February 6, 2023.

Our response in Turkey includes:

- Shipping LWR Quilts, Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits.
- Airlifting urgently needed supplies including tents, tarps, winter clothing and solar lights. An initial shipment arrived in Türkiye on February 20.
- Coordinating with partners to distribute ready-to-eat food and hot meals, sleeping bags, sleeping mats and winter clothing.
- Conducting rapid needs assessments in affected areas.

KEY FINDINGS FROM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Our Humanitarian Action team conducted needs assessments on February 16 in earthquake-affected areas of Kilis, Islahiye and Nurdagi. The assessments included focus group discussions, key informant interviews and observations.

In all areas, much of the population is sheltering outside in tents in winter temperatures, which often fall below freezing. There is snow on the ground in many areas.

- **Kilis:** The team observed heavy damage but less structural damage than Islahiye and Nurdagi. The city is experiencing an influx of people from more severely affected areas.
- **Islahiye:** There is severe damage, toppled buildings, cracks in remaining structures and rubble throughout the city. People are sheltering in tents. Very little aid has reached this area.
- **Nurdagi:** Extreme structural damage, collapsed buildings and rubble observed. Most people are sheltering in camps. The camps have very limited lighting and few bathrooms.

The most urgent needs are:

- Food
- Warm bedding and winter clothes
- Lighting for camps to improve safety especially for women and children
- Hygiene kits
- Toilets and bathing facilities
- Psychosocial first aid and mental health services
- Child friendly spaces

We are grateful for the thousands of Lutherans across the United States whose care and generosity have made it possible for us to respond immediately. At this time, financial gifts are the number one need to assist families affected by the earthquakes.

**Until your love reaches
every neighbor.**



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