

PROJECT NO: 103043

TAX | NON-TAX

Türkiye



Earthquake Emergency Response

Overview

A major earthquake of magnitude 7.8 struck central Türkiye and northwest Syria on Monday, February 6, 2023, and a second one 7.5 magnitude killing hundreds of people as buildings collapsed across the snowy region, triggering a search for survivors trapped in rubble.

The Need

The earthquake hit Gaziantep at 4:17am local time (01:17 GMT) on Monday, as people were sleeping, at a depth of about 17.9km (11 miles). It was also felt in Syria, Cyprus, Egypt and Lebanon.

Many houses and public buildings, including hospitals and churches collapsed.

The majority of Christians in Türkiye are living in Istanbul, however, the Antioch area is home to a significant number of Christians, mainly Arabic-speaking Orthodox Christians as well as Armenians, Catholics and Evangelicals. Antioch has a biblical history, as the first Christians who escaped from persecution in Jerusalem fled to Antioch. It was in Antioch that the followers of Christ were called "Christians". Christian communities have a significant presence in the area, and there is a unique opportunity for holistic relief work to be carried out by Christians. Any effort will be welcomed in the Antioch area, which is more open to Christian outreach, and opportunities to share the gospel along with practical aid may arise.

Immediately following the earthquake, access to the affected areas poses a big challenge, with many roads blocked by the widespread damage across southern Türkiye and northwest Syria, impeding the ability to undertake rescues, assess damage or deliver aid.



>13.5

million people live in the area affected.

+36,000

people killed in the earthquake.

Goals

Following the earthquake, the Bible Society in Türkiye was in contact immediately with church leaders and church representatives in the area to find out how to assist. Travel to the affected area is restricted, so Bible Society aims to collect and distribute funds in the region through reliable Christian charity partners.

Bible Society will seek to support the supply of drinking water, non-perishable food, baby food, medical supplies, personal hygiene products, blankets, winter clothes, shoes, masks and the Word of God to all those affected.

The goal of this project is to respond to urgent needs – material, emotional

and mental – to bring comfort and hope in this dark period. The Bible Society in Türkiye is collaborating with the local churches to distribute aid and Scripture. In collaboration with local churches and the Christian community, the Bible Society in Turkey will make a quick intervention in response to the emergency.

Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact is approximately 10,000, with Christians feeling they are part of a big family, and non-Christians experiencing God's love through the care provided. The goal is to impact as many in the area as possible, by bringing help and hope to all needy people in the surrounding areas.

With Bible Society's help, local church authorities and reliable Christian charities will continue to provide spiritual and psychological assistance, food and water, restoring hope through the light of God's word, as well as rallying communities to rebuild.

Testimonies

"The earthquake happened in early morning and people were at home sleeping. There are many people including Church members that we cannot hear back so far. The earthquake happened in one city but affected 10 cities strongly as well as Aleppo in Syria.

"... we keep receiving updates from colleagues in the affected region and we feel their pain closely. There are church buildings which collapsed, and we started hearing about many close friends, church members, and community members who will not be with us anymore.

"The worst is that roads have big damages, and it makes hard to reach the area. And winter has recently arrived. So people who are under or out of their houses will also be affected by the cold weather, even snow. The situation requires so many prayers ...May God show Himself to those people to strengthen them in any circumstances."

Tamar, General Secretary, Bible Society of Türkiye

Prayer Needs

- Please pray this Scripture for those in Türkiye: 'Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.' (Psalm 62:5-6)
- Pray that God will comfort those who have lost their loved ones in this tragedy.
- Pray that God will give strength to those who are working among needy and injured people.
- Pray that Turkish society and government can look to God for guidance.
- Please pray that more young people will discover their destiny and identity in God, and that the word of God will have an impact on those who do not yet know it.

