

## Turkey-Syria Earthquake Response

February 7, 2023

A deadly magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern Turkey and northern Syria early on Monday, February 6, with early reports showing more than 7,000 people have been killed and tens of thousands more injured. As search and rescue efforts continue and people are pulled from the rubble, the full scope of lives lost will continue to climb.

This quake is one of the strongest to hit the region in over 100 years, causing millions living in surrounding countries – including Israel which sits 600 miles away - to feel the earth shake. At least 78 aftershocks have been felt across the region since the first quake, including a major one measuring magnitude 7.5. Images and videos from the region have been uncovering the tragic scale of the disaster, showing entire city blocks flattened by the quake.

The local response in northern Syria is further complicated several factors, including a decade-long conflict, ongoing refugee and humanitarian crisis in this region of the world, and winter weather.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)), Syria remains the world's largest refugee crisis. More than 6.8 million Syrians have been forced to flee their country since 2011, with another 6.9 million people living internally displaced. The earthquake heavily impacted northwest Syria, a region where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance today. The majority are women and children.

Freezing weather conditions are further endangering survivors and complicating rescue and recovery efforts, with thousands living on the streets in fear of more powerful aftershocks impacting their homes. Turkey's disaster agency has appealed for help from the international community as it conducts search and rescue operations.

### **Send Relief's Response**

Send Relief is working with local partners in Syria and Turkey to respond to immediate needs following the earthquake and subsequent aftershocks. Send Relief partners have already begun distributing blankets, water bottles, food, and other emergency supplies on the ground in communities impacted by the disaster and displaced from their homes. In the first 24 hours of the response, partners have distributed 1,000 blankets and 5,000 bottles of water.

The most-pressing immediate needs for impacted communities are access to food, clean water, trauma care, temporary shelter, medical care, and evacuation.

Send Relief asks that Southern Baptists unite in prayer for the tens of thousands affected by the catastrophic earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Here are ways you can pray today:

1. Pray for local search and rescue teams as they continue rescuing residents trapped under rubble.

2. Pray for those needing shelter in Turkey and Syria.
3. Pray for those grieving in the loss of loved ones in the disaster.
4. Pray for many who have been displaced during the cold of winter and are sleeping in freezing temperatures outside.
5. Pray for those in Syria, who have already been living in the crisis of ongoing violence and conflict, who now have been impacted by natural disaster that only compounds the suffering of northern Syria.
6. Pray for believers in the affected areas as they seek to minister in the crisis.
7. Pray for Send Relief and responding partners as they seek to bring help and hope to those affected.
8. Pray for responding partners and their families as many of them have experienced trauma in the disaster.
9. Pray for assessment and responding partners as they travel into affected areas and for traveling safety.
10. Pray for wisdom for the Send Relief team and partners as they make response decisions.

### **How to Give**

Those interested in supporting Send Relief's response to the earthquake in Turkey and Syria may give through Send Relief's International Response to Crisis Fund found on the [Turkey-Syria Earthquake project page](#), which is also linked from the [homepage](#).