

# Safety and survival

Supporting communities in crisis, **Türkiye and Syria**

The two large earthquakes which hit Türkiye, Syria and the surrounding region on 6 February have had a devastating impact and people are in urgent need of humanitarian aid. The International Rescue Committee is ready to respond where it is needed most.

## The problem

A powerful 7.8 earthquake struck Türkiye and neighboring countries in the early hours of Monday, February 6. With its epicenter in southern Türkiye, shockwaves were felt across northern Syria and parts of Lebanon, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. Tens of thousands have died and, according to the World Health Organization, 23 million people are estimated to be affected. With homes and livelihoods destroyed and temperatures below zero, people are in need of urgent help and many more dependent on humanitarian aid.

## The partner

The IRC is a longstanding partner in emergencies of UBS-OF specialized in responding to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. Backed by nearly 90 years of disaster response expertise, the IRC has responded to humanitarian crises in Türkiye and Syria since 2012, providing emergency aid, health and sanitation, and psychosocial support to refugees. Additionally, the IRC is constantly working on the most urgent ongoing humanitarian crises globally, leading to over 31m people reached in 2021 alone.

## The philanthropic solution

As humanitarian needs soar with freezing temperatures, in both Türkiye and Syria, the IRC is launching an integrated response to affected communities in both countries. This will include provision of immediate cash, basic items such as household kits,

dignity kits for women and girls and hygiene supplies. The IRC, with its partners will support essential health services in earthquake affected areas and set up safe spaces for women and children affected by the crisis.

The program response will have a dual modality of direct services and working with partners. The IRC will respond initially by supporting their strong network of local partners to respond to needs both in Türkiye and in Syria. The IRC has more than 1,000 staff inside Syria who work tirelessly to provide life-saving health care, protection and early recovery support.

## The evidence

IRC's approach is needs-based and rooted in its presence in the communities in which it works, earning trust and gaining a deep understanding of those they are serving.

## The impact

The IRC will be able to help restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing and power to people devastated by the disaster and establish safe spaces for women and children to enable communities to survive, recover and regain control of their lives.

Location	Türkiye, Syria
Target group	People affected by the consequences of the Earthquake
Partner(s)	International Rescue Committee
Co-sponsors	Multiple
Grant total	Donations ongoing
SDG(s)	2, 3, 6
Duration	12 months
Program ID	54015

Source : IRC.(2023). <https://www.rescue.org/article/earthquakes-near-turkish-syrian-border-deepen-crisis>

All programmatic data provided by International Rescue Committee. The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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