

## RESULTS REPORT:

# Humanitarian response to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria



FEBRUARY 2025

Photo: Oxfam

**HUMANITARIAN  
COALITION**   
Together saving more lives



## BACKGROUND:

On February 6, 2023, two powerful earthquakes struck southern Türkiye near the border of northwest Syria with devastating impact. More than 55,000 people were killed, more than 100,000 injured and millions displaced. In Syria, where people had already endured 12 years of conflict and displacement, the earthquakes compounded an existing humanitarian crisis. At least 8.8 million people in that country were affected by the earthquakes, with about 6,000 killed, more than 12,000 injured and more than 100,000 households displaced. Additionally, more than 10,000 buildings in Syria were completely or partially destroyed.

## HUMANITARIAN COALITION APPEAL:

In response to the needs of the communities affected by the earthquakes, the Humanitarian Coalition launched a national fundraising appeal from February 6 to February 24, 2023. Together with our members, and thanks to the generous contributions of Canadians from coast to coast to coast, we raised more than \$15 million. On February 24, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada would match the donations to the Humanitarian Coalition and its members up to \$10 million, bringing our total funds raised to \$25 million.

All 12 members of the Humanitarian Coalition responded to this crisis.



A banner for the Humanitarian Coalition's appeal. At the top left is the Humanitarian Coalition logo with the tagline "Together saving more lives". To the right are logos for 12 member organizations: Action Against Hunger, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, care, Christian Aid, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam Québec, PLAN International, Save the Children, and World Vision. The main part of the banner features a map of Türkiye and Syria with a red bullseye target graphic centered over the border region. The text "TÜRKIYE SYRIA EARTHQUAKE" is written in white on a red background. Below this, it says "Donate today together.ca" in white on a dark blue background. The words "TÜRKIYE" and "SYRIA" are also written in white on the map.

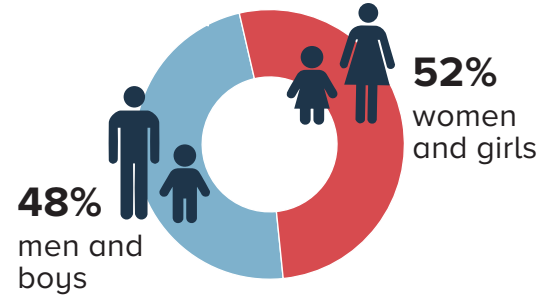
## OVERVIEW OF THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Using the funds donated, members of the Humanitarian Coalition quickly launched projects to address unmet humanitarian needs in targeted areas. These projects provided vital humanitarian aid including shelter, food, hygiene supplies, winterization items, educational support, and more.

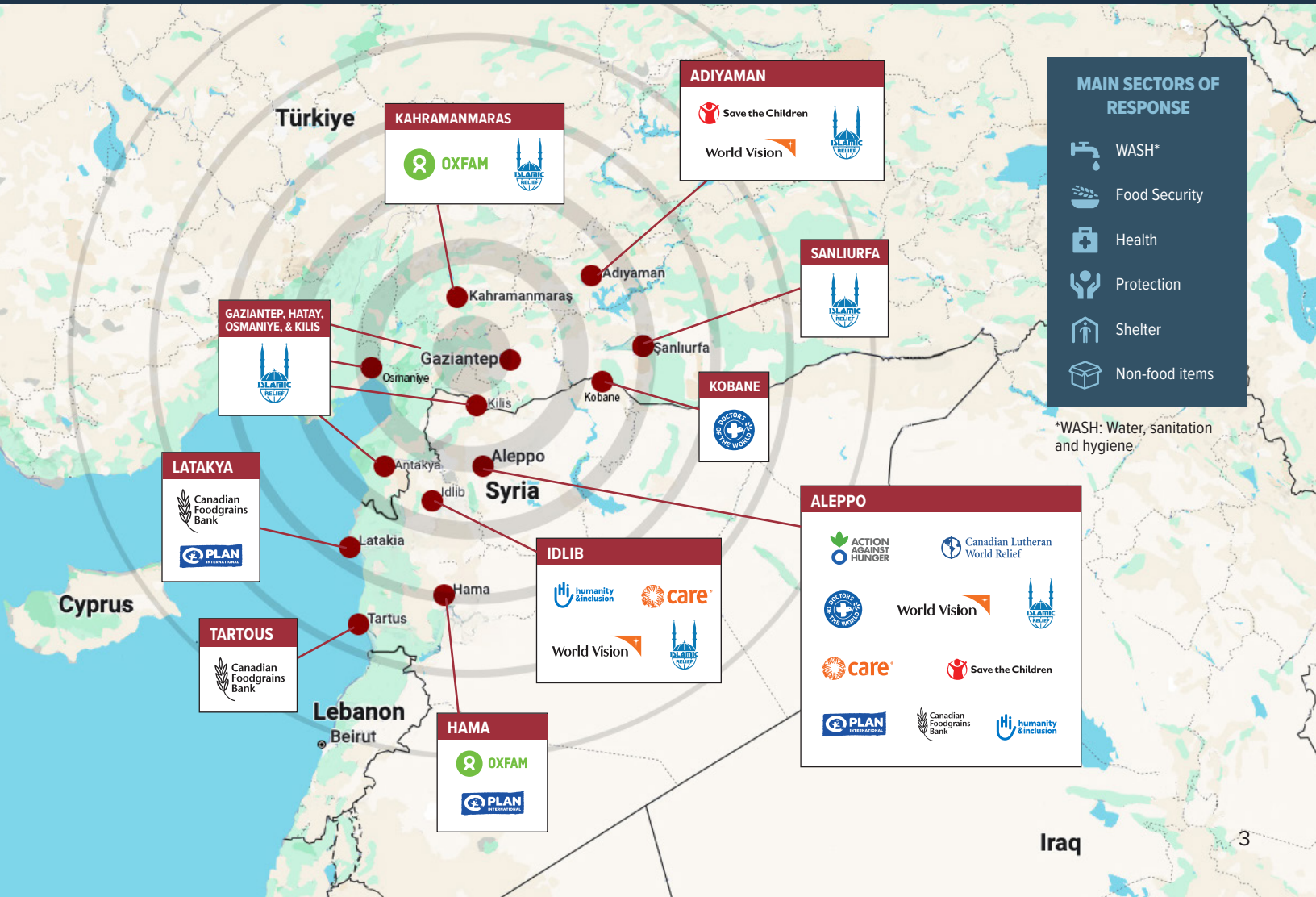
More than **1.9 million people** affected by the earthquakes benefited from projects across five different governorates in Syria, with 52 per cent of project participants being women and girls and 48 per cent being men and boys. 44 per cent of project participants were children. An additional 55,440 people received support from assistance programs in Türkiye.

# 1.9 million people

provided with vital humanitarian aid



## SCOPE OF OUR RESPONSE



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Humanitarian Coalition focuses on working closely with communities affected by disasters. We listen to their needs, involve them in decisions, and partner with local leaders to plan and carry out projects together. By including community members every step of the way, we ensure that our work is transparent, effective, and truly meets their needs. This approach helps build trust, resilience, and stronger communities.

### RESULTS HIGHLIGHT

Working with affected communities, Humanitarian Coalition members achieved important results to help people affected by the earthquakes cope with the immediate impact and begin to recover. Here are a few highlights.



#### ACTION AGAINST HUNGER (AAH)

HEALTH



**In Aleppo, Action Against Hunger improved access to essential health services** for 33,033 people affected by the earthquakes. They did this by providing 11 primary healthcare facilities in two health districts with medicines, reaching 27,775 people. Sixty health workers took part in a three-day training session on how to identify and handle infectious diseases in emergency settings. AAH also increased community awareness on cholera prevention and distributed 1,000 cholera kits, which typically include oral rehydration salts, soap, water purification tablets, antibiotics, medical supplies for giving fluids, and protective equipment. In total, 5,198 people were reached with health education on the prevention of disease outbreaks.

WASH



**In Aleppo, AAH improved equitable access to WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) services** for earthquake-affected communities. The project reached 12,459 people. AAH's local teams distributed hygiene kits and cleaning kits for WASH facilities in shelters. AAF also installed prefabricated bathing facilities and toilets.



## CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK

FOOD



**In Aleppo, Latakia, and Tartous, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank** provided 1,600 households (approximately 8,800 people) with monthly food baskets for nine months. The food baskets consisted of pasta, lentils, vegetable oil, sugar, tea, tomato paste, olive oil, sesame seeds, and canned chicken. This assistance helped stabilize or increase these vulnerable communities' access to nutritious food.



## CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (CLWR)

HEALTH



**In Aleppo, Canadian Lutheran World Relief improved access to essential health services**, providing medical treatment and consultation for 170 people, and referring 1,704 patients to hospitals and clinics for needed surgeries or other medical care.

PROTECTION



**In Aleppo, CLWR improved the psychosocial well-being of vulnerable communities affected by the earthquakes.** A total of 2,712 people (including children) took part in protection activities. More than 2,500 people received psychosocial first aid and recreational services, and 165 women and girls were provided with access to safe spaces – secure and supportive environments where women and girls can gather, access services and participate in activities free from the risks of violence, discrimination or exploitation.

WASH



**In Aleppo, CLWR improved the hygiene and health** of 5,930 people. Essential hygiene kits and dignity kits were provided to 4,400 people (mostly women and girls), while baby kits were provided to 730 parents. Other health and hygiene supplies were provided to 800 people through this project.



## CARE CANADA

### PROTECTION



**In Aleppo and Idlib, CARE Canada increased equitable access to protection assistance** for households affected by the earthquakes. The project supported 6,915 people, including 246 people with disabilities through a variety of protection activities. CARE's local teams and partners distributed 300 dignity kits to 285 women and 15 girls, addressing the basic needs of those affected by the earthquakes. CARE also provided individual protection assistance services to 255 people.

Additionally, CARE established seven communal spaces to offer safe environments for protection services aimed at community members affected by the earthquakes. The project reached more than 3,000 people through group psychosocial support, individual counselling and gender-based violence (GBV) case management. The project also provided information on available protection services to a total of 3,287 people.

### SHELTER



**In Aleppo and Idlib, CARE Canada increased access to safe and sufficient shelter for 1,905 people, including 57 people with disabilities.** CARE's project helped lay gravel on access roads, insulate tents, raise tent foundations, fix structural damage and install doors and windows.



## DOCTORS OF THE WORLD CANADA

### HEALTH



**In Aleppo, Doctors of the World improved access to basic health services and improved health conditions** for communities affected by the earthquakes through 79,628 medical consultations—including 68,353 for primary health care, 2,304 for mental health and psychosocial support, and 8,971 for sexual and reproductive health. The project also trained 16 community health workers in nutrition and infant and young child feeding in emergencies.

## PROTECTION



**In Aleppo, Doctors of the World enhanced protection services** by distributing 3,000 kits (2,000 hygiene kits, 850 dignity kits, and 150 sexual and reproductive health kits). Doctors of the World also distributed trauma management kits to three primary healthcare centres for emergency trauma care.



## HUMANITY & INCLUSION CANADA

### HEALTH



**In Aleppo and Idlib, Humanity & Inclusion Canada provided assistive and mobility devices** to injured people and people with disabilities who were receiving physical and functional rehabilitation support. The project distributed 4,499 assistive and mobility devices (wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, etc.). The project reached 4,300 people (1,503 women, 323 girls, 1,853 men, 621 boys).



## ISLAMIC RELIEF CANADA

### FOOD



**In Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis and Sanliurfa provinces in Türkiye, Islamic Relief increased accessibility to essential food and non-food items** for people affected by the earthquakes by providing vouchers to more than 7,000 households (35,155 people) so they could purchase items to meet their basic needs.

Islamic Relief also distributed food parcels to 1,000 households (approximately 5,000 people) in Adıyaman Province. The parcels included rice, bulgur, sugar, sunflower oil, olive oil, and tomato paste.

### WASH



**In Idlib and Aleppo, Syria, and in Adıyaman, Türkiye, Islamic Relief improved access to WASH services.** Islamic Relief distributed more than 25,000 gender-sensitive hygiene kits across 52 sites in Syria, and 1,000 hygiene kits in Türkiye. Islamic Relief also ensured access to clean water and installed more than 100 latrines. WASH activities benefited 68,527 people in Syria and 5,227 people in Türkiye.



**In Idlib and Aleppo, Islamic Relief improved access to health services for 167,044 people affected by the earthquakes.** The project provided essential trauma medicine and health supplies and supported the transportation of people with disabilities and other vulnerable people to health facilities and dialysis centres.



## OXFAM CANADA AND OXFAM-QUÉBEC



**In Gaziantep, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş, Oxfam's local teams established nine Women and Children's Centers as safe spaces** for the people affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye. These centers allow women and children who live in temporary communities made up of container shelters to access protection services and encourage their economic empowerment through training on livelihoods, legal rights and income generation. Across the nine centres, approximately 5,149 women and children were reached.



Ela, an Oxfam local staff member, leads activities to support children's development in an informal settlement in Hatay, Türkiye



**In Hama, Oxfam improved safe and dignified access to WASH services for people affected by the earthquakes** by measuring water quality, rehabilitating water tanks, installing water pumps, repairing water stations and rehabilitating sewage systems, supporting more than 60,000 people.





## PLAN INTERNATIONAL CANADA

### WASH



#### **In Aleppo and Latakia, Syria, Plan International Canada improved access to safe, gender-responsive WASH services.**

Two portable gender-sensitive shower caravans were provided in Latakia, supporting 64 families. The showers ensured privacy and security, enhancing the living conditions for residents displaced by the earthquakes. Further, Plan International contributed to the rehabilitation of nine water systems including water networks and elevated water tanks, effectively improving the quality and accessibility of drinking water for 1,275,500 people.

### EDUCATION



**In rural Latakia and Aleppo, Plan International repaired and restored learning spaces and WASH facilities in seven schools located in earthquake-affected emergency zones, improving the learning environment for almost 4,500 children.**



Before and after pictures of a school rehabilitation project in Aleppo, Syria.

*“We have just returned from a dedicated field visit to Aleppo, and I must report back to you that the impact of this project is truly remarkable and deeply felt. Witnessing the incredible transformation firsthand was profoundly rewarding. At Tal Bajer School, the impact of our efforts is especially evident. The school has become a safe haven for children. The modest building stood out as the only colourful and lively space within a village that has largely been destroyed, leaving a little sense of hope for the affected community. The school has brought the community together, with children as young as those in the 8th grade already looking forward to a brighter future.”*

Humanitarian Emergencies team member, Plan International Canada, June 2024



Save the Children

SAVE THE CHILDREN CANADA

### SHELTER AND CASH ASSISTANCE



**In Adıyaman, Türkiye, Save the Children distributed emergency kitchen and shelter kits.** The kitchen kits included a cooking pot, frying pan, bowls, plates, and cutlery. The shelter kits included tarpaulins, rope, fasteners and fans, supporting 337 families that did not have adequate shelter. Save the Children also provided cash assistance for shelter repair to 99 families.

### CASH ASSISTANCE



**In Aleppo, Syria, Save the Children provided cash assistance to 1,315 households (6,611 people) to purchase items to meet their basic needs after the earthquakes.** A survey of participants after the cash distribution revealed that 99.6 per cent of people used the cash for food. The other uses included hygiene supplies, shelter needs, and medical needs.

World Vision



WORLD VISION CANADA

### NON-FOOD ITEMS



**In Adıyaman, Türkiye, World Vision distributed 1,500 kitchen sets.** The kits included cooking pots, frying pans, cutlery, bowls and plates, a tea pot, and a serving tray. The distribution mostly benefited families living in tents, temporary shelters in the urban areas and hard-to-reach villages where people were displaced from their homes by the earthquakes.

### WASH



**In Idlib and Aleppo, World Vision increased access to safe, clean and sufficient water** for people most affected by the earthquakes. The project provided water to 73 sites, providing 35 litres per person per day, supporting 57,862 people. In addition, 1,276 water tanks were distributed to 48 sites, reaching 12,782 people. World Vision also installed 436 latrines in 54 sites.

## STAFF REFLECTION

# Rubble and Resilience

*By Bren Melles, Humanitarian Program Specialist, Humanitarian Coalition*

Listening to people tell their earthquake stories on a recent monitoring and evaluation trip to Türkiye and Syria brings the harsh reality of a humanitarian crisis into perspective. They told me of being woken from deep sleep by the violent shaking.

The noise of things crashing out of cupboards. The dust. The abject fear of believing this is the end. And then, when those seemingly endless 85 seconds of the first earthquake were over, facing the thousands of aftershocks and the reality of friends and family dead, and houses, schools, and livelihoods destroyed.

The February 2023 earthquakes was one of the worst natural disasters in modern history. More than 55,000 people were killed. Even now, people are still shaken.

When the earthquakes hit, the Humanitarian Coalition leapt into action. All 12 of our members had active programming in Syria or Türkiye or both, so we were well positioned to respond immediately. Within hours, we launched a joint a national fundraising campaign. Canadians responded with generosity.



A focus group discussion with Syrian women who live in a refugee camp in Hatay Province, southern Türkiye, who were sharing their experience of the earthquakes and its impact with Bren Melles, Humanitarian Program Specialist, Humanitarian Coalition (second from left), and President and CEO, CARE Canada (far left).

Together, we raised more than \$25 million, including a \$10 million match from the Government of Canada.

Those donations were put to good work. I visited CARE's earthquake response in Türkiye's Hatay Province, where I saw a line of rebuilt market shops that had collapsed in the ancient city of Antakya and a reconstructed recreation centre gym for kids in Iskenderun. This work not only helps rebuild structures, it also helps rebuild lives. Children now have a place to play again.

The earthquakes' impact is still vivid. We passed through fields of rubble from collapsed buildings. In Hatay Province, 650,000 people are still living in temporary camps – in small, metal-sided containers. We met with a dozen Syrian refugee women in one of these container camps, gathering in a communal safe space created by non-governmental organizations including Humanitarian Coalition members CARE and World Vision. CARE staff use this space to provide awareness sessions on gender-based violence. The women shared their frustration with not having opportunities to build a comfortable life in Türkiye nor being able to safely return to their homes in Syria. And yet, their strength and determination still shone.

Earthquakes are not deterred by borders, and the impact was just as grave in neighbouring northwest Syria. I visited CARE's response in Zoghara Camp, home to 12,000 internally displaced Syrians (half are children) who fled their homes because of armed conflict. Many have been in the camp for more than a decade and there is little hope of leaving. Donations to the Humanitarian Coalition meant that CARE could provide immediate support after the earthquakes, distributing dignity kits containing toothbrushes, underwear, soap, sanitary pads, washing powder, blankets, flashlights, towels, and headscarves. Humanitarian Coalition funds also supported mental health and psychosocial support activities for the most vulnerable earthquake-affected people in the camp.

The two universal takeaways from the conversations I had while visiting programs in Türkiye and Syria were great resilience and a determination to rebuild. With the generosity of our supporters, the Government of Canada matching fund, and the exceptional programming response of the Humanitarian Coalition's members, donations are making a difference in the lives of thousands of people.

**HUMANITARIAN  
COALITION**   
Together saving more lives



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