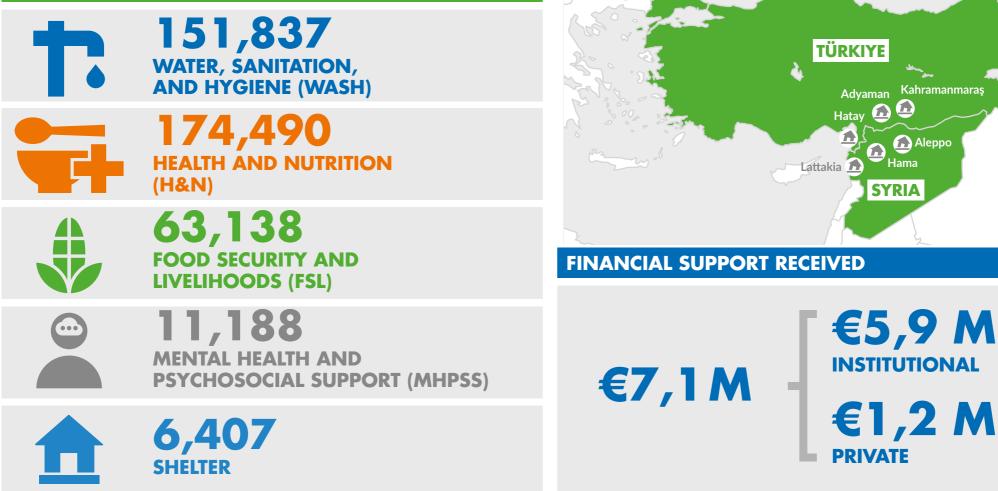


EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN SYRIA AND TÜRKIYE ACTION AGAINST HUNGER'S WORK 1 YEAR AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER GLOBAL SYRIA AND TÜRKIYE RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE IN SYRIA AND TÜRKIYE

PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR





GLOBAL SITUATION OVERVIEW

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SYRIA AND TÜRKIYE

One year after the devastating 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on 6 February, followed by 6.3 and 5.8 magnitude tremors on 20 February and numerous aftershocks, the affected regions in 11 provinces of southeastern Türkiye and neighbouring Syria continue to face enormous challenges. The immediate aftermath saw widespread destruction of infrastructure, with thousands of buildings damaged or destroyed, leading to massive population displacement. Essential services such as health care, water, sanitation, and electricity have been severely disrupted, exacerbating the suffering of affected communities. In Syria, the situation was aggravated by pre-existing conflict conditions, economic decline and a strained humanitarian landscape where millions of people were already in need of assistance.

As the recovery process unfolds, significant obstacles remain in rebuilding lives and communities. In Türkiye, the destruction of residential and public buildings has led to an ongoing displacement crisis, with hundreds of thousands of people living in temporary shelters or relocated to other regions. Efforts to rehabilitate infrastructure and restore basic services are ongoing, but challenges remain due to the

scale of the disaster and financial constraints. In Syria, recovery is hampered by the ongoing conflict, limited resources, and logistical constraints, making it difficult to address the urgent needs for shelter, health care and livelihood restoration. Both countries also face a critical need for psychosocial support to help individuals and communities cope with the trauma and loss they have experienced. Despite the concerted efforts of international agencies, local governments, and NGOs, including Action Against Hunger, the road to full recovery is complex, underscoring the need for sustained humanitarian assistance and support to rebuild stronger, more resilient communities.





SYRIA SITUATION OVERVIEW



One year after the multiple earthquakes that hit Syria, the population of the earthquake-affected areas is still confronted with the after-effects of the disaster. Prior to the earthquake, United Nations estimates that 15,3 million Syrians were in need of humanitarian assistance, an unprecedented number owning to a combination of factors including the economic crisis, drought, widespread shortages of fuel and electricity, the absence of essential services, and disease outbreaks. Earthquake affected communities in areas of Action Against Hunger intervention across Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama governorates continue to struggle to recover from the increased strain on public services and sectors including health, shelter, livelihoods, and water and sanitation services.

In the ongoing recovery process in Aleppo governorate, more than 17,000 buildings require reinforcement, with over 6,000 severely damaged and around 6,000 collapsed. All the schools that were initially transformed into collective shelters, are now evacuated, and restored, as families received cash assistance for six-month apartment rentals. NGOs have worked on rehabilitating infrastructure, including water tower tanks, schools, and sewage systems. Despite these efforts, damaged sewage systems still pose daily challenges for residents. The critical need for psychosocial support, especially for traumatized children, persists. Dire consequences last, leaving millions in need of economic aid, psychosocial assistance, and essential shelter.



TÜRKIYE SITUATION OVERVIEW



In Türkiye, the earthquake affected 11 provinces in the southern and southeastern parts of the country, killing 50,783 people, injuring around 107,000 persons, and destroying or severely damaged 265,000 buildings. According to the Turkish Government, the disaster costed approximately 104 billion USD. The affected provinces of Adiyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaras, Malatya (the four most damaged ones) Adana, Diyarbakir, Elazig, Gaziantep, Kilis, Osmaniye, and Sanliurfa were home to 14 million people, including around 1.8 million refugees. 9.1 million people were directly affected, including 4 million children. A flash appeal was launched mid-February 2023 seeking USD 1 billion to support 5.2 million people during the initial 3 months of emergency response. 54.5% of the appeal had been funded.

One year after the earthquakes, important humanitarian needs remain. Among the 3.3 million people forced to relocate from their homes in Türkiye, 787,152 are in need of shelter (over 670,000 persons in container sites, the others in informal settlements). Most of them will stay in those camps for at least a couple of years, according to local authorities. In November, UNFPA estimated that, among those affected, there were around 102,000 women who had given birth, and an additional 76,000 women were pregnant.

The humanitarian response was first coordinated by the OCHA-led earthquake coordination structure, until 17 August 2023. Then, an Area Based Coordination structure has been established under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and co-chaired by UNHCR and IOM, including sector-based coordination substructures. The UN Country Team+ which includes civil society partners from the Local Humanitarian Forum, the INGO Forum, and the Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC, is operating through a recovery framework to address the humanitarian needs. Stakeholders are currently increasingly focusing on recovery and livelihoods issues.



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER RESPONSE IN SYRIA

Action Against Hunger launched its emergency response immediately after the earthquake. Assessment teams provided Action Against Hunger with a first overview of the most urgent needs and Action Against Hunger was able to support first responders with medical consumables within days after the earthquake. Within the first weeks, Action Against Hunger focused on providing assistance for basic needs with the distribution of 1,744 hygiene kits, 700 sleeping kits, 700 winter kits, and 700 kitchen kits to households living in collective shelters. Ready to eat meals were also provided in shelters as well as hot meals for vulnerable earthquake affected community members. Water trucking was also provided to 925 displaced and earthquake affected households in Haritan. Following the initial response focused mainly in Aleppo city, activities were expanded to affected rural areas of Aleppo and to Hama and Lattakia governorates.

Support was provided to the health sector in Aleppo, especially through mobile medical teams providing services to 78,278 individuals living in collective shelters and earthquake affected communities including malnutrition screening and MHPSS services. Emergency health services were supported in Aleppo city in the days following the earthquake with

medicines being provided to two hospitals and medical supplies for 20 ambulances. Support to mobile medical teams has since expanded to affected areas of rural Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia improving the capacity of the health sector to provide services. 146,433 beneficiaries were supported by Mobile Medical Teams/Hospital/ ambulances that provided medical and psychological consultations during the six months of the response. Community health outreach was also expanded in the same areas through networks of trained community health workers. Action Against Hunger contributed to the rehabilitation and repair of critical infrastructure as part of its immediate response and after the initial emergency phase, to contribute to early recovery efforts. This included repairs to water and sanitation systems, with 12,808 individuals beneficiary from spot rehabilitations of the sanitation system in Aleppo and rehabilitations of the Qasmin irrigation water tank in Lattakia to improve access to water for irrigation for 30,625 individuals. One collective shelter in and one school in Aleppo city were also rehabilitated. Action Against Hunger also trained 306 engineers on building assessments with 125,397 apartments then assessed, and 21 Sewage Company operators on identifying and assessing earthquake damage to sanitation systems.



QUOTE FROM BENEFICIARY

"Your assistance was comprehensive, you provided us with cleaning kits and ready-to-eat. After you divided the rooms with partitions, we felt much safer and had our privacy. We really appreciate everything you've done to make the shelter more suitable for living." Shamsa Aldaffan, mother of 5 children, lived in Abi Qassem Alshabi shelter for 8 months. To support the recovery of food production in areas connected to the rehabilitated irrigation tank in Lattakia, more than 1,000 households were supported with seeds to support home vegetable production.

Action Against Hunger's earthquake response has been coordinated with the Aleppo Sub-Relief Committee, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the Directorates of Health in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia, the Aleppo Directorate of Water Resources, the United Nations Office of





Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other UN agencies and organizations through joint assessments, and the WASH and Health Sectors at the Damascus and governorate levels.

Frequent movement of affected households posed a challenge in the weeks immediately following the earthquake as families moved in and out of shelters. Coordination between agencies and through the Operations Room established by local authorities also posed challenges but was necessary in order to ensure coverage of needs without duplication between organizations in each one's response. Challenges were also created by sudden decision making by local authorities without consultation, affecting implementation planning and operations. The sudden closure of 64 collective shelters in Aleppo city was not clearly communicated in advance and has required significant re-planning of activities that were to target households living in those shelters. The closure of these shelters, with no alternative mid-term shelter plans in place for many households still unable to return to their homes, has made targeting of assistance an ongoing challenge. Action Against Hunger has responded by adapting activity planning, adjusting its targeting to earthquake affected households living outside of shelters and other changes according to evolving needs on the ground. This shift also impacted Action Against Hunger's support to the health system, previously having allocated funds to mobile medical teams providing services in collective shelters, which has since been moved to fixed health facilities (this transition in activity focus was always planned, however the inability to

reach vulnerable populations in the shelters was unexpected).

QUOTE FROM AAH STAFF

666 "I can't express how proud I am to be part of this great team and organization that, honestly, spared no effort or time in meeting the needs and providing immediate relief after the

earthquake."

"None of my colleagues in the organization were thinking about their own homes or families, we were all thinking about what we could offer at this time and under these circumstances for this community."

"Honestly, it's the first time I feel the humanity of the work I'm doing to such an extent."

Action Against Hunger's ongoing response in the recovery phase is focused on continued restoration of basic WASH and health services including rehabilitation of a primary healthcare facility in Lattakia along with support to mobile medical services and community health outreach in the surrounding communities as well as sewage system rehabilitation in Hama city. Rehabilitation works for one of the main water pumping stations in Aleppo city, Bab al Nayrab will be completed by March 2024, improving access to water for an estimated 292,000 individuals. These activities are integrated with Action Against Hunger's program strategy for 2024 in the same locations where Action Against Hunger has ongoing operational presence.



SYRIA RESPONSE: A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR



FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

signed 3,165,266€ REDIRECT FROM OTHER PROJECT TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE 80,452€ PRIVATE AAH INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FUNDRAISING 433,484€



SYRIA RESPONSE: A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

- 1,744 hygiene kits distributed
- 21 community water tanks installed
- **10,793** m³ drinking water distributed
- **20** rehabiliated points of the sanitation system of aleppo
- **367** engineer trained on local damage assessments and earthquake resilient construction
- **2** water systems rehabilitated
- l rehabilitated irrigation water tank

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- 46,697 hot meals distributed
- **8,277** ready to eat food parcels distributed
- **1,105** household food production kits distributed
- **152** households received multi-purpose cash assistance
- 700 kitchen kits



- **1** mobile medical teams supported inlcuding 1 nutrition specific and 3 mhpss teams
- **5** baby-friendly spaces established in shelters
- 20 ambulances received medical supplies
- 2 hospitals received medicines and supplies



- 700 winterization kits
- **700** sleeping kits
- school rehabilitated
- collective shelter rehabilitated including installation of pre-fabricated wash facilities



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER RESPONSE IN TÜRKIYE

After the earthquake happened. Action Against Hunger deployed its emergency pool to conduct rapid need assessment (RNA), focus group discussions (FGD), and key informant interviews (KII) to directly identify the specific needs of the most vulnerable by sector, in its areas of expertise: WASH, Food Security, Health (Nutrition and Mental Health). We consolidated strong collaborations with Support to Life (STL) and Solidarity Respect & Protect (SRP), enabling us to reach a broader range of beneficiaries and provide vital assistance to those in need. Moreover, Action Against Hunger extended technical support to six additional local organizations: Kadın Zamanı Derneği (KZD - Women's Time Association), Dayanışmanın Kadın Hali Derneği (DAKAHDER - Women's Solidarity Association), Göç ve İnsani Yardım Vakfı (GİYV - Migration and Humanitarian Relief Foundation), Kadın Savunma Ağı (KSA – Women Defense Network), Yeryüzü Kalkınma Kooperatifi (YKK - Terra Development Cooperative) and Kipas Holding (KH). This collaborative effort fostered a cohesive and well-integrated humanitarian response, allowing us to make a significant impact on the lives of the affected communities.

To kickstart the emergency response, Action Against Hunger launched a proactive fundraising campaign, and the response was swift as we secured funding from multiple sources, including DEC, AECID, SIDA, ACCD, the Government of Navarra, and our own private funds. Later, we achieved to get new fundings from the French

Ministry of Europe Foreign Affairs, as part of their Food Assistance Programme. This timely financial support played a crucial role in enabling Action Against Hunger, in close collaboration with our partners, to implement a comprehensive and multisector response. Our efforts were directed toward Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Adıyaman provinces, where we addressed urgent humanitarian needs and provided assistance to the affected communities.

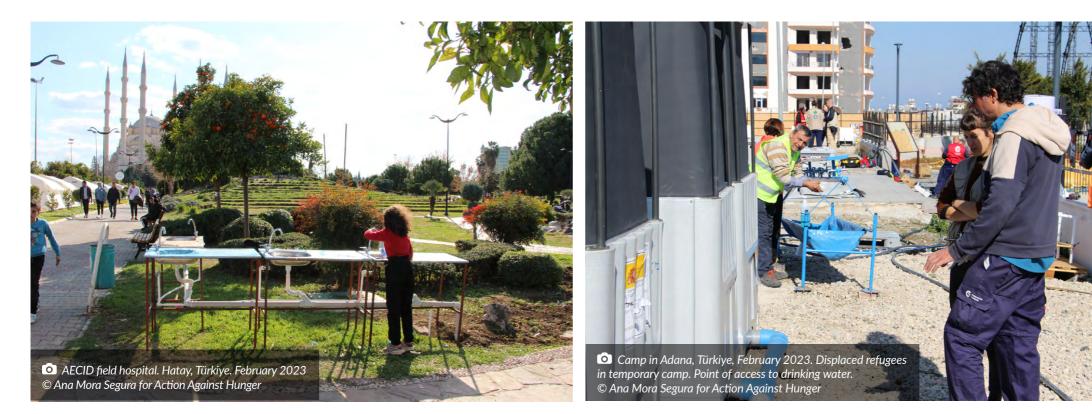
QUOTE FROM BENEFICIARY

666 "I have very good relationships with everyone here in Mother and Baby Space, thank God. I didn't know anyone before. Here, we met everyone. Everyone is friends with each other. Everyone visits each other, invites each other for coffee. Is there friendship among the women? Yes. We, the women, became friends, and our husbands also got to know each other. We became like a family with everyone. Everyone knows each other." **Ubeyde Sun**, mother of 5 children, Iskenderun camp. The earthquake changed their lives, but Ubeyde remains hopeful for the future and is grateful for the support the family has received.

In the first times of the emergency, Action Against Hunger and its partners activities included the installation of sanitation facilities, the distribution of 2,932 hygiene kits, 160 tents







reached 728 individuals, 5 containers, 200 heaters reaching 846 individuals, winterization items (blankets, stoves, heaters, etc.), the establishment of 20 water tanks and 12 committees reaching 94 individuals, 2 community kitchens serve food for 3,000 individuals (in total, 248.000 hot meals were distributed), and 3 psychosocial mobile units that specifically target informal tent areas.

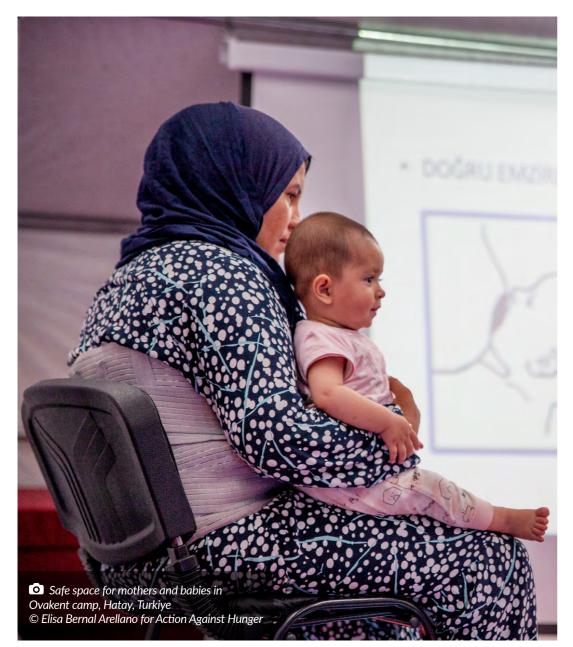
Thanks to the fruitful WASH collaboration with STL, Action Against Hunger reached a total number of 117.244 people, with various activities

such as Laundry units establishment (50,746 individuals reached), Chlorination system establishment (34,643), Hygiene kits and Dignity kits distribution (5,979), Water purification (5,500), Water tanks establishment (4,615), Water filling (2,160), Hygiene promotion (1,609), Information, Education & Communication materials (920) and WASH committees constitution (94). Also, Action Against Hunger trainings and capacity buildings reached 60 professionals.

Action Against Hunger implemented the nutrition project in partnership with its local actor SRP with the purpose of protecting and promoting infants and young children feeding and responding to the difficulties faced by the parents and caregivers in feeding them safely and appropriately after displacement, interruption in the food and safe water sources, with a lack of safe and clean environment in the shelters and camp settings, and the difficulty for the mothers in having privacy to breastfeed or having access to lactation support. Food assistance component was later integrated in the nutrition project, aiming at granting access for appropriate food for infants and young children on complementary feeding. Is has been made through providing food vouchers, redeemed in designated local market on monthly basis for the families with infants and young children who are most in need.

Mother-Baby friendly spaces (MBFS) were established and equipped in Hatay and Adiyaman, inside camp settings. In the period of this report, 2 MBFSs have been fully established and are functional with the different activities launched. while the establishment of 3 other MBFS is under process. The MBFSs are used as a private, safe, accessible place for all mothers and care-





givers to approach, to breastfeed their children, to meet with a team of professionals who are found in each space. They are promoting and supporting in the early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding of children under six months, continue breastfeeding for children until 24 months and beyond, since breastfeeding remains the safest way to feed a baby especially in the hard living conditions of the displaced people effected by the earthquake. The MBFSs are also a safe place supporting children on complementary feeding, through providing baby food, baby goods, clean water, clean area, and clean equipment to prepare baby food properly. They also allow young children interactions by providing a safe playing area, hence helping in their physical and cognitive development.

Different awareness raising activities were implemented by the partner, the main being: group awareness session, community awareness campaigns and outdoors activities, designing and distributing printed materials about IYCF and care practices (leaflets), individual and group counselling sessions, peer support groups, and community leaders' trainings to help in establishing community support groups.

On top of that, a variety of PSS activities were provided to mitigate stress, fear and anxiety among mothers and caregiver, to improve copying mechanisms, to foster well-being and to increase awareness about mental and psychological health support, as it linked to the bonding between mother and child, parenting, caring and feeding practices. Also, different social initiatives were held by the team to promote social coexistence, to improve participation, inclusion of the community members, and to foster social cohesion among the different groups displaced in the one camp.

To assess the effectiveness of its MHPSS interventions in Türkiye, Action Against Hunger produced a MHPSS needs and intervention's impact assessment report. This evaluation shed light on recommendations for more inclusive and effective MHPSS interventions, such as ensuring activities reach to all population groups, including the most vulnerable and integrating a Protection officer, among others.

In compliance with our Localization Policy, Action Against Hunger aimed at strengthening Turkish local actors, namely our main partners STL and SRP. In this regard, Action Against Hunger led a continuous capacity building process on the different sectors we worked on, with numerous trainings and tool sharing. More precisely, in regard to PSS, capacity building of local partner organizations has been done through psychosocial support-based trainings and close coordination and accompaniment during the implementation. Concerning WASH, Action Against Hunger carried out a different range of trainings (water trucking, water treatment, Public Health promotion and shared tools such as Wash'em), technical support and accompaniment in the running projects. Regarding Nutrition, the team members of the local implementing partner who work in the MBFS received a different range of trainings by Action Against Hunger experts to improve their knowledge in a variety of maternal, newborn, children health and nutrition topics. Action Against Hunger also built their capacities in the IYCF counselling and



support and equipped them with the different materials and toolkits.

QUOTE FROM BENEFICIARY

666 "The continuity of aid is crucial for the city's long-term recovery. We should provide all kinds of assistance, big or small, because the needs are extensive, ranging from clothing, shelter, food to hygiene. Current needs include food card distribution for families to buy their necessities." **Çağla Coşkun**, a physiotherapist and Medical Officer/Coordinator at AAH local partner SRP, provides insights into her experiences during the earthquake response in Hatay, Iskenderun.

The partnership-based approach, facilitated by our Localisation Policy, enabled us to act collectively with STL and SRP to provide aid tailored to meet survivors' needs and complementary to the other humanitarian actors' actions. Action Against Hunger is also relying on partners' capacities and excellent coordination relations regarding fine-tuning operations and activities on the field. Additionally, both STL and SRP actively participate in UN-led sector (general meetings, WASH, NUT, FSL and CASH, MHPSS) coordination meetings and field-level hub meetings. Notably, STL has been chosen as the co-lead for the child protection sub-sector. Finally, STL's field staff play a co-leading role in certain sectoral meetings conducted at the hub level.

Action Against Hunger Türkiye is currently developing a socio-economic inclusion strategy (Livelihoods) to shift to a mid-term recovery approach.





TÜRKIYE: A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

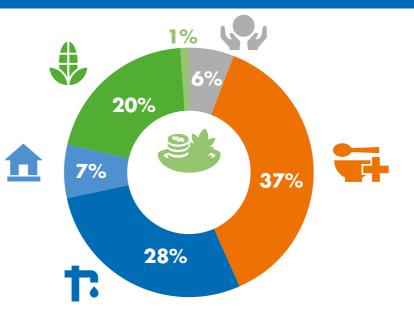
PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR



FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

PRIVATE 803,000€ INSTITUTIONAL 2,700,000€







TÜRKIYE: A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

14,530 people received wash nfi1,609 people received hygiene promotion

920 people received iec material

1380m³ water filling reached 2,160 persons

4,896 people received hygiene kits

1,083 people received dignity kits

3 laundry units

50,746 people benefited from laundry units

5,500 people benefited from water purification

94 individuals reached in wash committee

34,643 individuals benefited from chlorination system

20 water tanks

4,615 individuals benefited from water tank

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

3,000 individuals benefited from community kitchens.

248,000 hot meals distributed

HEALTH AND

5 mother baby friendly spaces

5,323 individuals benefited from mother, baby friendly space (MBFS)

1,145 women attended group awareness sessions on infant and young children feeding in emergency (IYCF-E)

731 individuals attended 6 individuals attended community awareness-raising activities on infant feeding in emergency (IFE)

60 individuals received baby baskets

80 engaged in peer support groups

32 community leaders trained on IYCF-E

36 women had private counselling sessions

763 household visits and assessments



1,150 people received kits deliveries **1,007** people of at-risk groups or vulnerable receiving focused mhpss care **35** community leaders training /pss **228** individual attended pss activity **337** individual attended pss group awareness raising session **27** individual attended pss group counselling **5** pss individual counselling 5 referrals 320 individuals reached on psychoeducation and awareness raising sessions to caregivers 4,834 individuals reached on youth pss activities. 1,138 Individuals Reached On Psychological First Aid 1.335 individuals reached on protection assessments **260** individuals reached on protection referrals **47** individuals reached on pss assessments to specialized services 25 individuals reached on pss referrals to specialized services **253** individual psychological counselling

 AECID field hospital. Hatay, Türkiye. February 2023. Action Against Hunger Emergency Pool staff organizing the installation of water tanks
Ana Mora Segura for Action Against Hunger

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OUR PARTNERS IN SYRIA



Action Against Hunger takes a localized and resilience building approach to its programming in Syria, including in emergency response activities by supporting existing systems and avoiding the creation of parallel structures that become unsustainable following the end of planned interventions. Action Against Hunger Health and WASH interventions included significant coordination with Directorates of Health and Directorates of Water Resources in targeted

governorates and Aleppo city. This coordination was essential for planning and providing critical support to mobile medical teams including specific MHPSS and malnutrition services and urgent rehabilitation of damage to the sanitation system in Aleppo city. Training was also provided to engineers from the engineer syndicate and operators from the Directorate of Water resources on earthquake damage assessment and repairs.



For ready-to-eat and hot meal distributions, Action Against Hunger coordinated distributions with SARC field teams and two local NGOs, Al-Taalof and Al-Ehsan, who are together responsible for managing collective shelters in Aleppo. Action Against Hunger also worked through the Studies of Dry Zones and Dry Lands (ASCAD) to distribute vegetables seeds for support to home food production to earthquake affected households in Lattakia.

The operational capacity is strengthened by Action Against Hunger's strategic positioning into several partnerships with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), MoH, Aleppo DoH, MoWR and Aleppo DoWR; access is granted by the Line Ministries and their Directorates at the governorate level in coordination with SARC.



OUR PARTNERS IN TÜRKIYE



LONG-TERM PARTNER

Support to Life (STL) is one of the main Turkish independent humanitarian organizations founded in 2005. STL have concentrated our emergency response in Hatay, Adıyaman and Kahramanmaraş provinces, which were most severely affected by the earthquake. As of 12 December 2023, and since 6 February, STL has reached a total of 830,958 affected people with humanitarian assistance in Hatay, Adıyaman and Kahramanmaraş, the most severely affected provinces by the earthquake. Action Against Hunger mainly cooperated with them on WASH projects and supported also some MHPSS activities.

Solidarity, Respect and Protect (SRP) is a humanitarian crisis relief and aid non-governmental organization, founded in 2017. Since its creation, SRP has been working mainly in Türkiye, but also in Ukraine. The NGO works with both refugees and host communities to enhance social cohesion. Since February 2023 earthquake in Türkiye, SRP has focused all its efforts on the Hatay and Adıyaman provinces. Action Against Hunger mainly cooperated with them on Nutrition projects and supported also some MHPSS activities.

The Operations Coordinator and Field Coordinators of both STL and SRP maintain communication with Governors, District Governors, AFAD authorities, municipalities, Water Works Authorities, *i*\$KUR, and various relevant offices at the provincial level. They also engage with NGOs and civil society initiatives.

SHORT-TERM PARTNERS

During the immediate response to the earthquake, Action Against Hunger also collaborated with the aforementioned local NGOs: DAKHADER (NFI distribution), GIYV (NFI distribution), KZA (NFI distribution), YKK (first aid psychological support to frontline workers), KSA (NFI distribution), KH (Community kitchen).



STRATEGIC ALLIES













Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid



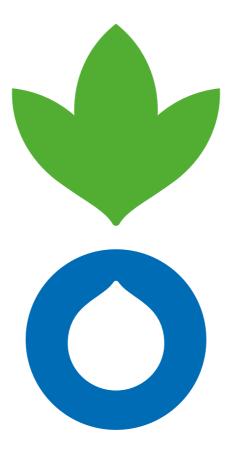


Gobierno de Navarra Nafarroako Gobernua MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

Liberté Égalité Fraternité

AND ALL THOSE PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND ENTERPRISES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR RESPONSE





THANK YOU

Saving lives, maximizing human protection, and alleviating suffering is in the DNA of our humanitarian organization. Teams, partners, companies, and organizations like yours help us achieve this every day. Action Against Hunger couldn't do it without your support.

Thank you for being there