

# North-west SYRIA February – July 2023

On 6 February 2023, a powerful magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern Türkiye near the northern border of Syria, followed by another strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 near to the initial tremor. Since the first earthquake struck in February, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in north-west Syria (NWS) increased by more than 100,000 with millions more affected.

The earthquakes exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation, and further complicated ongoing relief efforts and the provision of aid to the affected communities. The rapidly changing situation prompted the humanitarian community in Türkiye and Syria to swiftly adapt, but the responders themselves also suffered significant impacts including the loss of family, friends, and colleagues, injuries, and the need to evacuate unsafe buildings.

Together with institutional humanitarian actors, the Syrian Diaspora organizations (DOs) inside and outside Türkiye (global and cross-border) mobilised to respond to the earthquake in various capacities. Syrian DOs were among the first responders to the earthquake response in north-west Syria (NWS). Their local knowledge and connections in Syria provide them with a unique ability to access areas affected by the earthquake.

**Syrian Civil Society Network Platform:** Engaged its 100 organizations and 9 networks to support earthquake response by advocating, coordinating with local actors in NWS, and delivering a unified message for response efforts and needs.

**Verband Deutsch-Syrischer Hilfsvereine e.V.:** The network swiftly responded within 24 hours to the earthquakes by engaging with member organizations, announcing fundraising pages, supporting media response, and facilitating donation collection within Syria.

**Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA):** responded quickly by establishing coordination channels through WhatsApp and Skype groups for information sharing and synchronized response efforts. SNA members supported volunteer networks and local staff playing pivotal roles, especially in debris removal, infrastructure rehabilitation, and capacity-building initiatives.

**Shafak Organization:** 18 million USD were allocated for the cross-border earthquake response which utilized internal resources e.g. WASH equipment (such as available fuel) and project savings. Shafak also advocated for additional funding to aid search and rescue operations.

**Bahar organization:** 8+ million USD budget for response extended beyond Syria, providing humanitarian aid to Türkiye, demonstrating an inclusive approach to address the shared impact and needs of both Syrian and Turkish populations.

## Areas of intervention



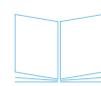
Shelter



Search & Rescue



Advocacy



Education



Protection



Health



Early Recovery & Livelihoods



Nutrition



Cash



Non-Food Items



Fundraising

## Syrian Diaspora Organizations mapped by DEMAC



## Strengths and Potentials of Diaspora Response

- Coordination with international institutional actors, Syrian DOs and local actors
- Active in utilizing digital channels to provide updates and information.
- Advocacy, public statements, and policy coordination
- Swift resource mobilization for the earthquake response
- Collaboration and support to local humanitarian responders
- Wide fundraising networks to mobilize financial resources

**FAST RESPONSE: 75 ORGANIZATIONS** (GLOBAL AND CROSS-BORDER = 77%) RESPONDED WITHIN THE FIRST 4 DAYS OF THE DISASTER

A TOTAL OF **51.5 MILLION USD** EARTHQUAKE FUNDS WERE RAISED BY SIX DO'S

**337,598 INDIVIDUALS REACHED** IN NORTH-WEST SYRIA AND 7,796 IN TÜRKIYE

**45 ORGANIZATIONS** (GLOBAL AND CROSS-BORDER = 46%) STILL ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PROVIDING RESPONSE EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH PHASE

GLOBAL DOS RESPONDED QUICKLY WITH **HIGH LEVELS OF ACTIVITY** WITHIN THE FIRST FEW DAYS DUE TO STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS RESIDING OUTSIDE EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED AREAS

GLOBAL AND CROSS-BORDER DO'S AND NETWORKS UTILIZED THEIR LOCAL ACCESS TO OBTAIN **ESSENTIAL FIELD INFORMATION**