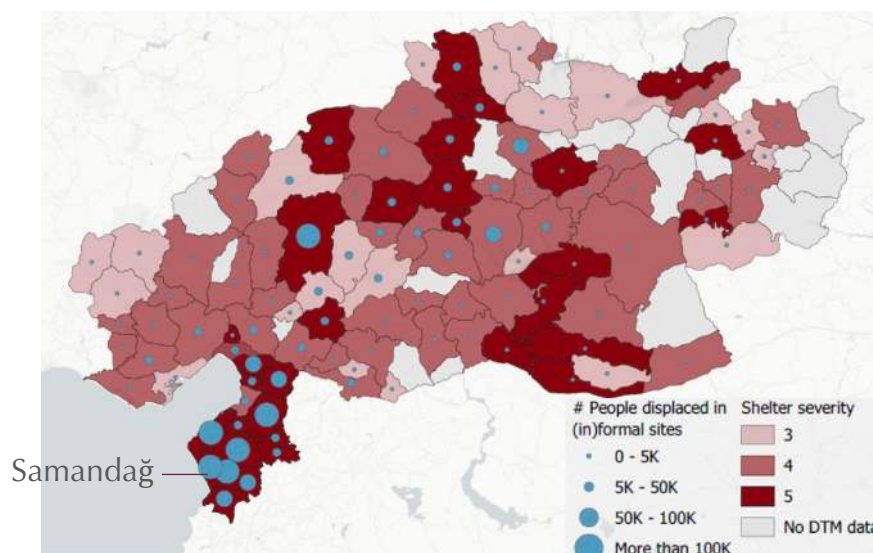
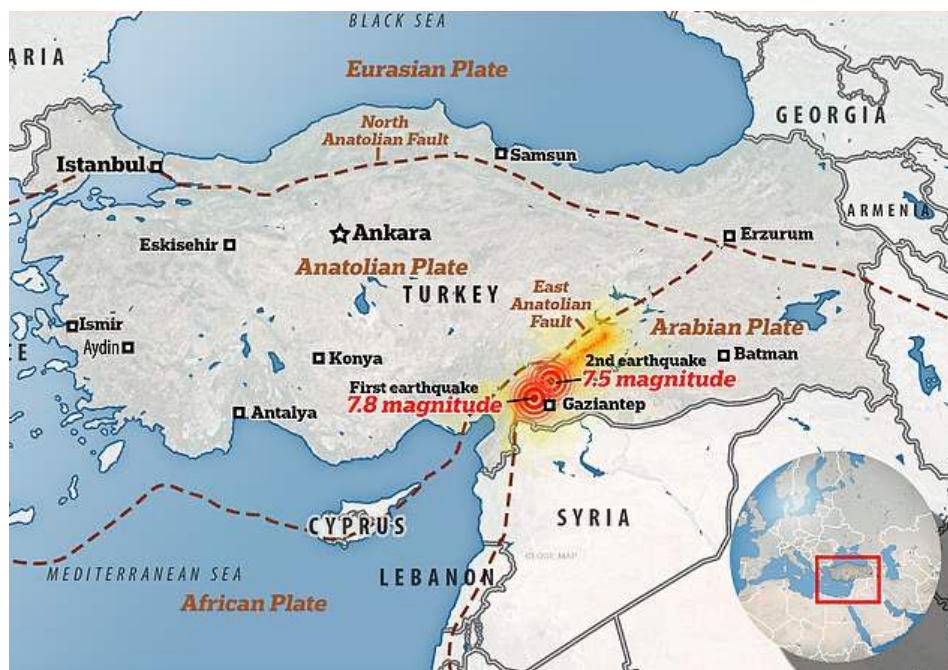


## Background

On 6 February 2023, two devastating earthquakes, measuring 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude on the Richter Scale, struck Pazarçık and Elbistan in Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye. The initial earthquake was followed by over 3,100 aftershocks, including a 7.6-magnitude earthquake that hit Elbistan, according to the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD). Impacts have been felt across the 11 provinces in which a state of emergency has been declared (Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Kilis, Hatay, Malatya, Diyarbakır, Adana, Osmaniye, Kahramanmaraş, Şanlıurfa and Elazığ), with Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Gaziantep provinces reportedly hardest hit. These earthquakes are the largest to hit Türkiye in the last century, and the most significant to strike the country's south-east region in hundreds of years.

## Maps



# Infographics



## Damage

**710K** Heavy damage<sup>1</sup>  
**180K** Medium damage<sup>1</sup>  
**1.8M** Light damage<sup>1</sup>



## Tents

**720K** Tents distributed<sup>1</sup>  
**2.8M** People in tents<sup>1</sup>  
**600K** People in formal sites in tents<sup>2</sup>  
**2.2M** People in informal sites in tents<sup>2</sup>



## Containers

**63.5K** Containers distributed<sup>1</sup>  
**107K** People in containers<sup>1</sup>  
**304** Planned container cities<sup>1</sup>  
**77** Completed container cities<sup>1</sup>

**Source:** Shelter Sector Turkey information brief 28/4/23. (1: AFAD (12/04/2023) 2: DTM (28/03/2023)

## Rotary response

We toured the area of Samandağ with the Rotary District governor Emre Ozturk on our first day in country to understand the current situation and the local Rotary response.

In the initial phase Rotary supplied tents, hot meals and medical support to victims immediately following the earthquake. Subsequently they moved on to obtain funding from global rotary grants (\$1.5M) and then to plan and construct container cities on two sites in the Hatay region with 210 containers (Samandağ (100), Antakya (120)). These sites have been in cooperation with local government officials, who supplied the land and include electricity, water, security, washing facilities, medical care and an area dedicated for a school. Each container of 7x3 meters contains, a toilet, shower, fridge, four beds, a stove, air-conditioning, and a kitchen kit. Additionally, a further 63 containers were funded for a third site in Adiyaman.

Our assessment was these sites were well-funded, well managed with adequate water facilities and there were no identified needs to support these settlements.

## Approach to identify needs

In order to identify a target geography to focus on and the specific needs in the first four days we networked across Rotary connection and NGO's to gather the required information

1. Rotary
  - a. District Governor/site visits in the Hatay region, focussing on Samandağ
  - b. Adana Rotary Club – Club visit
  - c. Samandağ Rotaract member – the sole remaining Rotary person in Samandağ
2. Shelter Cluster/referrals
  - a. Hatay region humanitarian forum coordinator
  - b. Temporary Settlement Support (Non food items for camps) Sector Hatay Hub focal point
  - c. Hatay shelter sector coordinator
  - d. Samandağ community platform coordinator
3. Own recognisance
  - a. Iskenderun tent informal settlements and container cities
  - b. Samandağ informal tent settlements

## Needs and location selection

Based on the initial networking and site visits we concluded that:

- Given our budget, the enormity of the problem and the timeframe **we decided against any form of shelter solutions**, which were being addressed largely by the government through massive container camps.
- We also decided we would not support container camps and formal tent camps as they were relatively well supported. We therefore agreed to focus on **informal tent settlements** which had to date to receive limited support other than tents, meals and food)
- We narrowed our area of **focus to the city of Samandağ**, which was the location of the first Rotary container project. Samandağ was chosen as the smaller size (pop 100,000) was appropriate for our timeframe and budget and the area was less supported by NGOs, in fact in the week we were there we only saw one truck from Samaritans purse delivering food and baby parcels. The city of Samandağ is largely populated Shia Arab Muslims who are a minority group in Turkey and that combined with the geographical location at the bottom of the peninsular has meant that the town has been under served by the government and NGO's.
- Based on speaking to Samandağ community group coordinator, shelter cluster leads and the people directly affected in various informal tent settlements there was clearly a **need for various non-food items and summer clothing in particular**.
  - 1) We identified one informal settlement in Iskendrun and trialed a small scale "voucher" scheme where we took two ladies from the camp to the shopping centre and gave them a budget to spend to procure summer clothes for the children of their camp.
  - 2) We identified **eight informal camps** directly and spoke to them individually about their specific needs which we were able to source locally and deliver directly to the camps. This was personally fulfilling, provided good marketing opportunities and made a massive difference to a few small groups.

Kitchen	Other	Vouchers
Refrigerators x2	Generator x1	Adult clothes x49
Ovens x2	Diapers x3	Children's clothes x36
Washing Machines x2	Cool boxes x2	Adult shoes x7
Gas burner + bottle x1	Mattresses x37	Children shoes x38
Kitchen set x1	Bed frames x2	Children's books x30

- 3) The Samandağ community group coordinator assisted us in finding a solution for a **clothing** and an **electrical/electronics voucher scheme** which was identified as their greatest need. They were able to identify appropriate stores and coordinated the roll out to the **300 people** in the community. This allowed us to efficiently deploy the bulk of our funds across a large group of people.
- 4) During the week we also purchased toys and footballs to distribute randomly during our site visits which were well received!
- 5) Given the high demand for mattresses in the informal tent settlements we sourced an **additional 35 mattresses** and selected eight sites in Samandağ to deliver them to. These mattresses were funded by the incremental budget approved.

## Actions outstanding

The only outstanding task that will be completed during May is the delivery of three requested water filters which we were unable to source locally. One of those is for an informal settlement with a

heavily pregnant mother so we want to ensure they had clean water for making formula etc. Disaster Aid Europe has kindly agreed to supply three Ujeta water filters which would be well suited to the conditions. We will get them sent to Sila, our interpreter to hand out to the camp and provide them with basic training.

## In Summary

We had a successful deployment and were able to source and deliver nearly all the items requested.

- We positively impacted the lives of over 500 people in a heavily affected area from an underserved minority.
- We worked with and empowered the women of the camps in understanding their needs and coordinating deliveries.
- We listened to the most urgent needs and developed a rapid response that was customised to their needs.