

# Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the Response to the Earthquakes in Türkiye

## Overview

- This is an independent, inter-agency evaluation of the collective response of IASC member agencies in meeting the humanitarian needs of communities affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye (and Syria).
- It covers the period between February 2023 —when the earthquakes happened—and August 2024 (the start of data collection).
- This document only provides information about the collective humanitarian response in Türkiye.

## Methods

Utilization-focused evaluation with participatory, mixed-methods approach and conducted by an independent evaluation team.

### 220 people shared their views:

- 42 female and 60 male informants interviewed
- 33 female and 32 male community members consulted
- 22 female and 31 male aid workers surveyed

150 documents reviewed

3 country visits

## Key Findings



The humanitarian response played a **vital role in saving lives** and meeting urgent needs.



The immediate **response was rapid**, driven by the immediate deployment of search and rescue teams, and IASC members deploying surge staff and using pre-positioned supplies.



**Flexible and timely funding** from internal agency reserves and private donors was a key factor in rapid mobilization, despite slight delays in launching the Flash Appeal.



The Scale-Up helped strengthen humanitarian leadership and fostered a more collective response, though the new **coordination model established was not well-suited to a middle-income country** with strong national disaster management systems.



In the immediate response, IASC members were **slow to develop partnerships with local NGOs** and early collaboration with the **government** was constrained, however engagement improved over time.



IASC members found it **challenging to communicate how they were upholding the principles** of impartiality and neutrality in complementing the government's response, leading to misperceptions about a focus on Syrian refugees rather than Turkish nationals.



**Support for the most vulnerable groups and accountability to affected populations were a key weakness** in the initial humanitarian response.



Aid workers were deeply affected and, while UN agencies provided **duty of care support to their staff**, the **lack of harmonized approaches remains a concern**.

## Recommendations

- Ensure that the existing national and sub-national coordination structure is sufficiently flexible to respond to large-scale emergencies and is inclusive of national/local actors.
- Find ways to engage with the government to demonstrate the added value of the UN emergency response capacity. IASC members should also strengthen their relationships with the Turkish Red Crescent.
- Take action at strategic, sectoral, and individual agency levels to improve preparedness, ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive response.
- Ensure a single knowledge management hub that, using ESMAT and other tools, is ready for large-scale disasters.
- Strengthen relationships with government and local authorities for data collection and collaborate with national/local actors to better identify and address the needs of vulnerable groups.

## Who we are

The **Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group (IAHE SG)** conducts independent evaluations to promote system-wide learning and accountability in major crises.

As an independent body working closely with the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)**, we support the leadership and senior management of humanitarian organizations with evidence-based lessons to improve collective humanitarian action.

**Contact:** Ali Buzurukov, Chair of the IAHE Steering Group [buzurukov@un.org](mailto:buzurukov@un.org) | Maria Isabel Castro, Evaluation Manager [castrovelasco@un.org](mailto:castrovelasco@un.org) | Find all relevant documents [here](#)