Syria Earthquake February 2023

Daily Highlights - 09/02/2023

Key Developments

- **Priority geographical areas**: In the northwest, residents interviewed by ATAA stated that 75% of the population in 18 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo governorates have been affected, notably the cities of Harem, Salqin, Sarmada, and Dana. In Government-controlled, OCHA reports 6 million people affected, including 2.04 million in Aleppo, 1.28 million in Hama, 1.21 million in Lattakia, 963,000 in Homs, 521,600 in Tartous and 27,000 in Idlib.

- **Priority needs** in both government-controlled areas and northwest include heavy machines for debris removal; medical supplies, including ambulances and medicine; shelter and non-food items, including heating; emergency food assistance and WASH. Fuel, machines and equipment for debris removal are urgently needed in northwest Syria, where only 5% of reported sites had been covered by search and rescue operations as of late 8 February according to the Civil Defense.

- **Priority affected groups**: More than 298,000 people left their homes due to the earthquakes in Government-controlled areas

- **Shelter/NFIs**: In the northwest, Violet organization estimated that 100% of buildings were damaged in Besnaya-Bseineh and Atma (Idlib governorate), 90% in Armanaz (Idlib) and Atareb (Aleppo), 80% in Sarmada, Dana, Termanin and Milis (Idlib), 75% in Jandairis (Aleppo). At least 11,000 families are homeless.

- **Health**: Already strained health facilities are being overwhelmed by the number of casualties, with at least 5,252 injured people and 3,317 deaths across areas. Casualties numbers are expected to rise significantly. While medical structures in the region were already severely lacking before the earthquake, the largest two medical organizations in the area, UOSSM and SAMS, reported many of their facilities being out of service and evacuated.

- **WASH**: In Lattakia, structural damage to water reservoirs and tanks are reported, with the Ghaniri reservoir threatening to burst in a residential area. Access to WASH in north-west Syria is extremely challenging, with a significant internal displacement wave expected from communities to camps.

- **Response**: Humanitarian aid was finally allowed to enter northwest Syria through Bab al-Salama, al-Rai and Bab al-Hawa border crossing points. However, no earthquake-related aid reached the area yet.

◯ Crisis Overview

Two of the strongest earthquakes in southeastern Türkiye, of 7.8 and 7.7 magnitude, occurred on Monday 6 February, affecting more than 18 million people. 1,117 tremors were felt since the first earthquake.

One of the strongest earthquakes in the region in more than 100 years, of 7.8 magnitude, occurred on Monday 6 February in southeastern Türkiye at about 4:15 am local time (1:15 UTC), centered about 70 kilometers from Gaziantep, in Şekeroba (ADAM WFP 06/02/2023). A strong 6.7 aftershock was felt in Türkoğlu, a few kilometers north from the first earthquake, about 10 minutes later (ADAM WFP 06/02/2023). More than 2.65 million people were living in the 50 kilometers radius of the epicenter (ADAM WFP 06/02/2023). Up to 70,000 people were exposed to violent shaking, according to USGS (USGS 06/02/2023). Another 7.7 earthquake occurred 100 kilometers north of the first one, in Ekinözü, with an aftershock of magnitude 6, at 1:30 pm local time (ADAM WFP 06/02/2023).

A series of earthquakes have been following the initial tremors, with more than 1,117 tremors happening since the first worst earthquake until 9 February morning (AFAD 09/02/2023). The continuous shaking is hampering search and rescue activities and contributing to fuel panic, with residents evacuating their shelters in a rush (KI 06/02/2023, The Guardian 07/02/2023). Experts estimate that aftershocks could last up to two years (Hurriyet Daily 08/02/2023). For comparison, following the earthquake in Bodrum in 2017, 9,009 aftershocks were recorded in a year (Hurriyet Daily 09/02/2023).

The earthquakes have been felt throughout the region, in neighboring countries, especially Syrian border regions with Türkiye (Anadolu Agency 06/02/2023). They severely affected northwest Syria, where Syrian authorities reported deaths as far south as Hama, about 100 kilometers from the epicentre, including in the cities of Aleppo, Idlib, Homs and Hama, home to about 4.5 million people. WHO fears that up to 23 million people, including 1.4 million children, could be affected in both countries (Reuters 07/02/2023).

Map 1 | Earthquakes intensity map | Source: UGSS, DFS & iMMAP, 7 February 2023
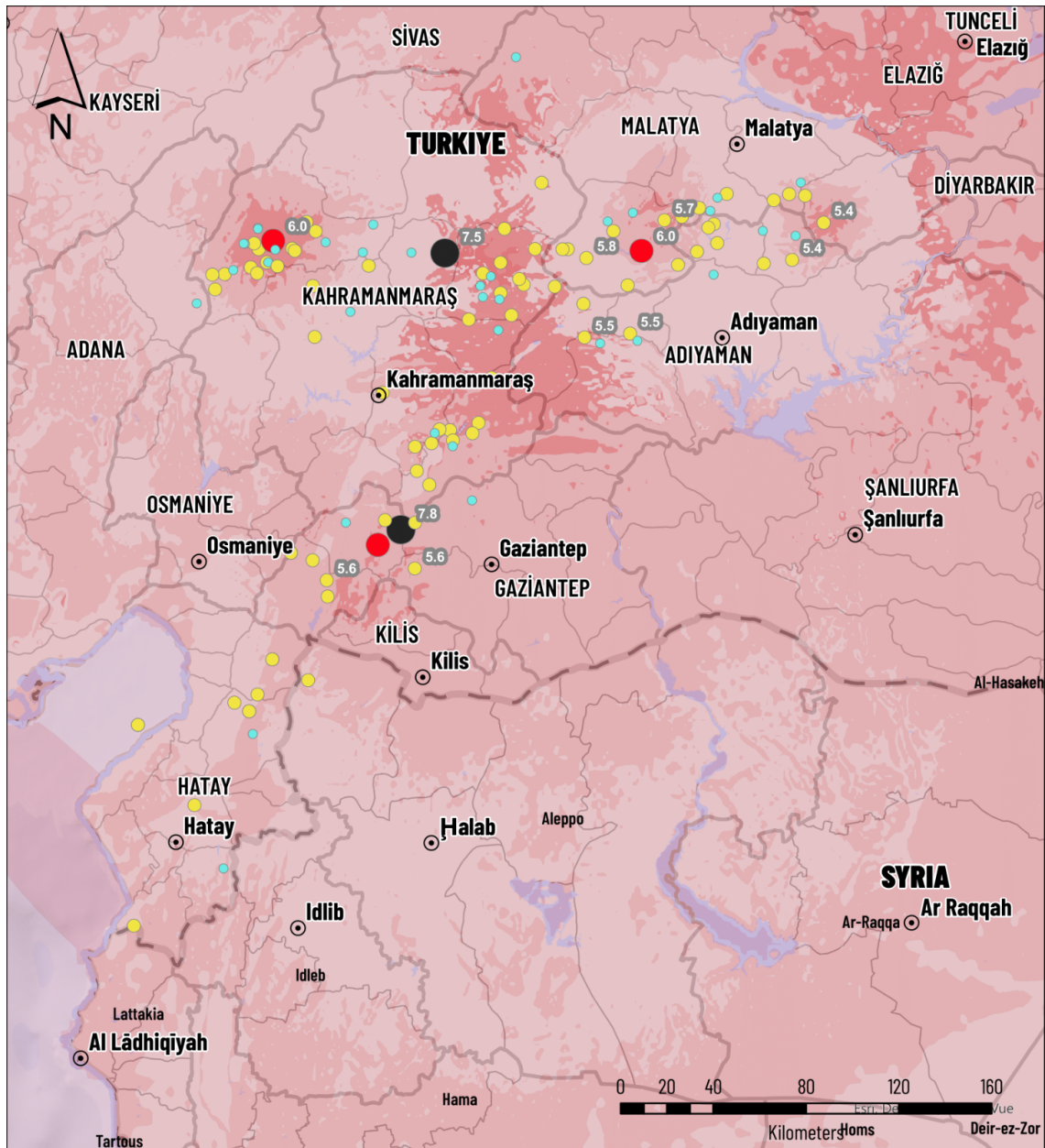
Turkiye and Syria: Earthquake intensity data 03 Feb - 07 Feb
07 Feb 2023

Legend

Admin01 Capital

Events by Magnitude

mag
- Mag < 3
- Mag 3 to 4.5
- Mag 4.5 to 6

Mag 6 to 7.5
Mag 7.5 or >

Shake Intensity
grid_value
I (Not Felt)

II - III (Weak)
IV (Light)
V (Moderate)
VI (Strong)
VII (Very Strong)
VIII (Severe)

IX (Violent)
X+ (Extreme)
International Border
Admin01
Admin02
Water

Source: USGS

Crisis Impact Overview

5,252	**3,317**	**75%**	**6 M**	**298,000**
Injured	Deaths	of the population affected in 18 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo governorates	people affected (OCHA 09/02/2023)	people homeless in GoS-controlled areas
(Health Ministry, White Helmets, Rojava 09/02/2023)	(Health Ministry, White Helmets 09/02/2023)	(ATAA 07/02/2023)		(SANA 08/02/2023)

Table 1 | Casualties

As the 96 hours after the initial earthquake approaches, chances of survival are significantly decreasing and casualties numbers are expected to rise significantly.

	Injured	Death
Syria Government-controlled areas	2,295 (Health Ministry 09/02/2023)	1,347 (Health Ministry 09/02/2023)
Northwest Syria	2,950 (White Helmets 09/02/2023)	1,970 (White Helmets 09/02/2023)
Northeast Syria	7 Rojava 07/02/2023	/
Cumulative	**5,252**	**3,317**

Impact - Cross Sector

Major damage has been reported in northern Syria. More than 298,000 people have been displaced following the earthquake in Government-controlled areas.

▶ Displacement

More than 298,000 people left their homes due to the earthquakes in Government-controlled areas according to SANA, quoting the Ministry of local administration and Environment (Reuters 08/02/2023).

▶ Priority areas

OCHA reports 6 million people affected, including 2.04 million in Aleppo, 1.28 million in Hama, 1.21 million in Lattakia, 963,000 in Homs, 521,600 in Tartous and 27,000 in Idlib. About 52,800 people in the northeast are also affected, inclinding 34,300 in Ar-Raqqa and 18,550 in Deir-ez-Zor (OCHA 09/02/2023).

- *Northwest*

In Idlib, according to Syria Report, the cities of Harem, Salqin, Sarmada, and Dana are the most affected (Syria Report 07/02/2023). Residents state that 75% of the population in 18 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo governorates have been affected (ATAA 07/02/2023).

- *Government-held areas*

In Aleppo, the sub-districts of Shaar, Kalaseh, Salah Eddin, Myassar, Akabeh, Azizieh, Baroun, Ein Al Tal, Nubol, Zahra, Bustan AzZahra, Azamieh, Fardous, Salheen are among the worst-hit areas (OCHA 08/02/2023).

In Lattakia, according to the local authorities, affected areas include Al Oweiniyeh, Al Kazzazin and Al-Raml Janoubi neighborhood in Lattakia city, as well as Demsarkho, Jablah, Al-Qabu and Astamo villages (OCHA 06/02/2023).

The cities of Tartous and Hama, under government control also reported major damage (The Guardian 06/02/2023). In Tartous, Qadmous, Qallue, and Banyas towns are also affected (OCHA 06/02/2023).

56,164 Palestinian refugees living in four camps (Lattakia, Neirab, Ein-el Tal and Hama) in the northwest are in need following the earthquake (OCHA 08/02/2023).

| **Map 2** | **Earthquake exposed communities in Syria** | Source: REACH, 08 February 2023

Northwest Syria - Earthquake Exposed Communities
Macroseismic Intensity VI (Strong) or Higher during 7.8 and 7.5 Magnitude Earthquakes on 6 Feb 2023
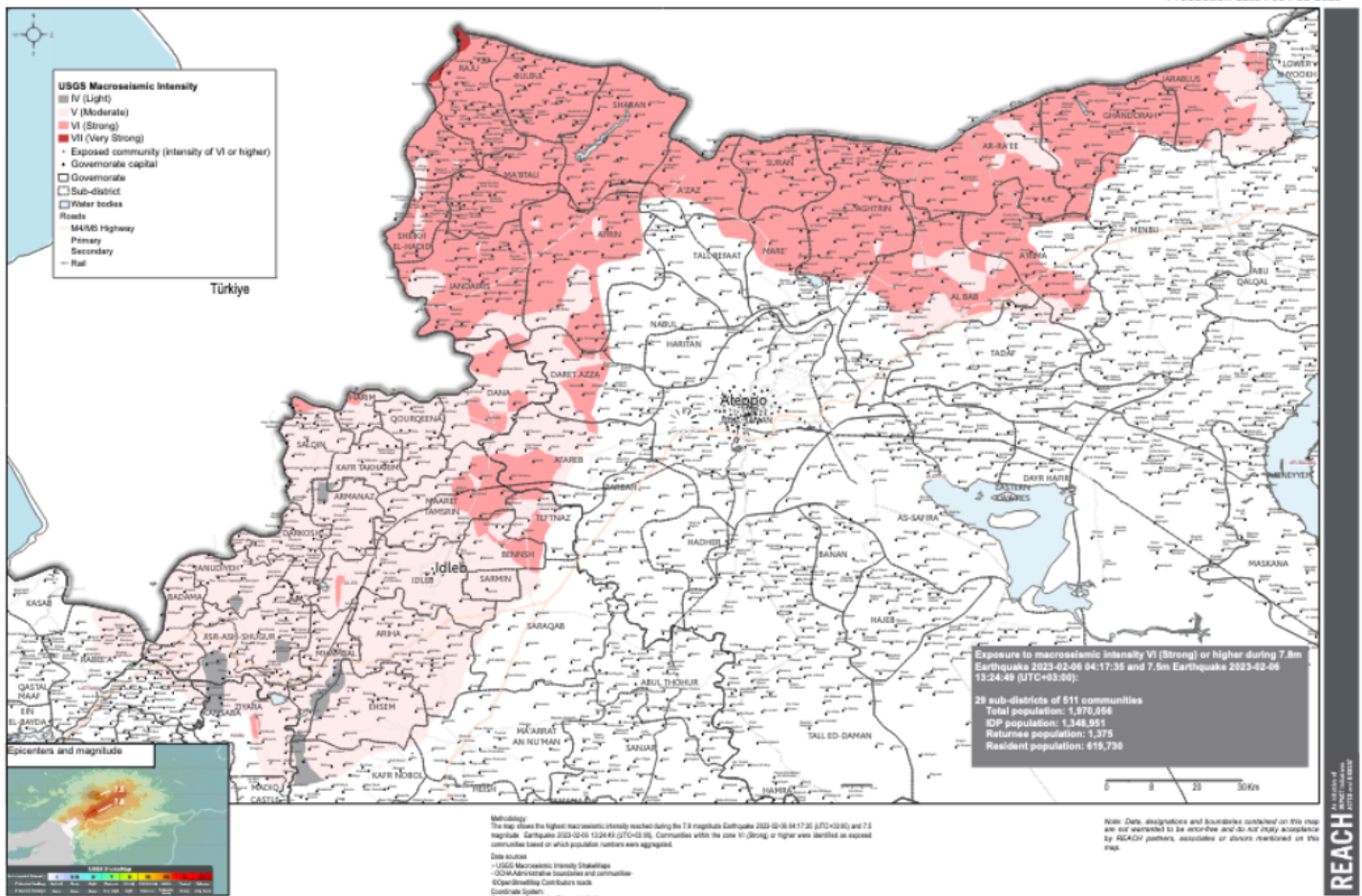
▶ Priority needs

Priority needs in both government-controlled areas and northwest include heavy machines for debris removal; medical supplies, including ambulances and medicine; shelter and non-food items (tents, isolation sheets, blankets, tarpaulins, mattresses and hygiene kits, including for women and girls), including heating; emergency food assistance and WASH (White Helmets 09/02/2023, OCHA 08/02/2023, OCHA, UNRWA). Fuel supplies are also needed to allow for rescue operations, heating and medical provision (OCHA, The Guardian 07/02/2023). Heating and cash are also in high demand (ATAA 07/02/2023).

Machines and equipment for debris removal are urgently needed in northwest Syria, where only 5% of reported sites had been covered by search and rescue operations as of late 8 February according to the Civil Defense (OCHA 08/02/2023). Rental trucks and vans to transport people, reception centers for IDPs and safe spaces for women and girls are also needed (OCHA 08/02/2023).

▶ Aggravating factors

- *Access*

Due largely to pressure from Moscow, the UN Security Council has reduced humanitarian access to the northwest from Türkiye to only one border crossing, Bab al-Hawa, which itself appears to have suffered heavy earthquake damage (New Humanitarian 06/02/2023). Late 8 February, Turkish authorities announced that humanitarian aid was allowed to enter northwest Syria through Bab al-Salama, al-Rai and Bab al-Hawa border crossing points, after being closed in the first few days following the earthquake (Al Watan 09/02/2023, enab baladi 08/02/2023, MEI 07/02/2023).

The road from Antakya to Bab al-Hawa crossing point has been severely damaged, complicating the response (Journalist 06/02/2023). As of 8 February, two alternative routes to reach the UN Transshipment Hub were identified, from Gaziantep via Kilis-Kirikhan and from Mersin via Adana-Kirikhan (OCHA 08/02/2023). Additionally, as humanitarian hubs for northwest Syria -Antakya, Hatay, Gaziantep- have also been impacted by the earthquake, response is likely to be slowed down.

The Autonomous Authority of the Northeast was still waiting at the crossing for approval to send 30 tanks loaded with fuel and 2 trucks containing relief aid for northwest Syria (Rojava 09/02/2023).

Asked about the possible opening of new crossing points from government-held areas to allow international response following the earthquake, the Syrian ambassador seemed to reject the idea on Monday (The Guardian 07/02/2023). Reports by opposition groups of overnight shelling in Marea city on 6-7 February is further hampering the response (SADC - Al Jazeera 07/02/2023).

- *Cold weather*

Adverse weather conditions, including low temperatures and stormy weather, have compounded the dire situation. Survivors are waiting in open fields, with no heating source, in freezing conditions (The Guardian 07/02/2023). Due to snowfall and heavy rains over the past week, water levels of the Orontes River in Hama continue to increase, risking floods in adjacent areas (Syria Report 07/02/2023).

- *Previous high needs caseload*

4.1 million people were already estimated to be in need in northwest Syria, including 3.3 million people food insecure (OCHA 06/02/2023). 84,607 suspected cases and 101 deaths of cholera have been reported in Syria since August 2022 (WHO 05/02/2023). The Syria Humanitarian Response Plan is already severely underfunded, with less than 50% of the required USD 4 billion funded. This earthquake will only increase the quantity and severity of needs on the ground (IRC 07/02/2023).

Shelter/NFIs

Northwest: Violet organization estimated that 100% of buildings were damaged in Besnaya-Bseineh and Atma (Idlib governorate), 90% in Armanaz (Idlib) and Atareb (Aleppo), 80% in Sarmada, Dana, Termanin and Milis (Idlib), 75% in Jandairis (Aleppo). At least 11,000 families are homeless.

► Northwest

In northwest Syria, the White Helmets described the situation in the rebel-held region as "disastrous", with entire buildings collapsed and people trapped under the rubble (The Guardian 06/02/2023). More than 2,000 buildings have been completely destroyed and more than 5,100 buildings have been partially destroyed according to OCHA (OCHA 08/02/2023). However, the real figure is likely higher: Violet organization estimated that 100% of buildings were damaged in Besnaya-Bseineh and Atma (Idlib governorate), 90% in Armanaz (Idlib) and Atareb (Aleppo), 80% in Sarmada, Dana, Termanin and Milis (Idlib), 75% in Jandairis (Aleppo) (Violet organization 07/02/2023). ATAA has verified that 3,193 buildings were partially damaged and 1,460 completely destroyed in 18 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo governorates, most of which in Afrin, Jandairis, Atareb, Armanaz, Dana, Harim, Salqin, and Jisr-Ash- Shugur sub-districts (ATAA 07/02/2023). The White Helmets announced that more than 418 buildings collapsed, with more than 1,300 severely destroyed and thousands more damaged (White Helmets 09/02/2023).

Tens of buildings have collapsed in the city of Salqin, according to a member of the White Helmets rescue organization in a video clip on Twitter (The Guardian 06/02/2023). About 10 buildings collapsed in Harem, 15 in Salqin, one ten-storey building in Dana, eight in Termanin, at least two in Idlib and one in Bisnia. More than 70 multi-storey buildings collapsed in northern Aleppo and dozens in Azaz. Damages were less significant in the cities of Al-Bab and Jarabulus (Syria Report 07/02/2023). In Jinderes, 70% of all 2-storey buildings in Jindires town are destroyed (Rojava 02/2023). Survivors across the Idlib region and Aleppo have been taking refuge in the streets and public squares amid freezing weather conditions (Al Jazeera 06/02/2023).

As many as 11,000 families are now homeless, according to local authorities (OCHA 08/02/2023).

► Government-controlled areas

In Government-controlled areas, at least 52 buildings have collapsed in Aleppo, four in Hama and one in Homs (OCHA 08/02/2023). Before the earthquake, more than 1,500 buildings were at risk of collapse in the city of Aleppo, most of them in eastern Aleppo, home to informal housing areas (Syria Report 07/02/2023).

In Tartous, dozens of old houses near the Qadmous Castle partially collapsed, and houses were damaged in the main market in the city of Banias (Syria Report 07/02/2023). 40 buildings in Bayas, Tartous, have suffered structural damages, leaving hundreds of families to move from the city to the neighboring villages (OCHA 06/02/2023). Other structural damages were reported in Dahr Safra in rural Tartous (UNHCR 08/02/2023).

In Lattakia governorate, more than 100 buildings collapsed, including 50 entirely, most of which in the cities of Lattakia and Jableh (Al-Fayd and Al-Rumaila neighborhoods and Al-Ghazalat Street) and the villages of Al-Fakhoura and Astamoh. Dozens of buildings were also damaged across the governorate (Syria Report 07/02/2023). UNHCR reported the collapse of 109 houses and 18 partially damaged buildings in Mislun in Al-Haffa, resulting in the displacement of 200 individuals (UNHCR 08/02/2023).

In government-held areas in Idlib, buildings partially collapsed in the cities of Maarat Al-Nouman and Khan Sheikhoun (Syria Report 07/02/2023).

- *Shelter response*

Across government-controlled areas, 180 shelters were set-up according to the Ministry of local administration and environment (Reuters 08/02/2023). The Shelter sector is moving approximately 20,000 tents from Damascus to affected areas, expected to reach there late 9 February (OCHA 08/02/2023).

Lattakia: 700 Palestinian refugees spent the night on 6 February in UNRWA installations in Latakia, including schools (UNRWA 07/02/2023). 24 collective centers within Lattakia city and 9 in Jablah town were identified, identifying 194 households (OCHA 08/02/2023).

Idlib: Four interim shelters were established to host families from Idlib, in the Sheikh Bahr area for 200 families, in Maaret Tamsrin community for 160 families and two other centers in Idilb governorate (OCHA 07/02/2023).

Aleppo: Temporary shelters for affected families were opened in Aleppo, including 150 apartments in Masaken Hanano, 25 apartments in the rehabilitation and training centre in Sheikh Taha, and 17 formal education schools (OCHA 06/02/2023). In addition, 126 sites have been allocated to shelter those affected, including schools, markets, mosques, and churches (Syria Report 07/02/2023). The needs of people accommodated in 15 collective centres were addressed as of 8 February (OCHA 08/02/2023).

Hama: Five shelters were made available in the governorate, to host 177 households. On 7 February, an inter-agency mission identified 150 households in need of shelter assistance. 20 households from Al Mouhjreen are being accommodated in Mahmoud Othman collective centre and SARC is providing NFI assistance (OCHA 08/02/2023).

Health

Already strained health facilities are being overwhelmed by the number of casualties, with Violet Organization estimated that 9,964 people were injured in northwest Syria. 2,295 injured people are reported in Government-controlled areas.

▶ Northwest

Already strained health facilities have had to be evacuated or quickly filled with wounded, according to rescue workers (The Guardian 06/02/2023), with the regional director of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) saying the healthcare system was "overwhelmed" (Al Jazeera 06/02/2023). Hospitals continue to be flooded with injured people and lacking medical staff and supplies to attend to all (Al Jazeera, The Guardian, Al Monitor, UOSSM 06/02/2023). According to MEI, sources on the ground report that every hospital in the northwest is at over-capacity (MEI 06/02/2023). A hospital in Salqin reportedly ran out of space, forcing doctors to leave bodies outside (Al Jazeera 08/02/2023). Medical facilities in Jandairis and Atareb sub-districts are especially overwhelmed (ATAA 07/02/2023). Urgent medical needs in hospitals include serums, gauze bandages, painkillers, medical plaster, blood bags, as well as fuel for generators, heating and burial bags. At least 20 hospitals have registered a request for blood units (OCHA 07/02/2023).

While medical structures in the region were already severely lacking before the earthquake, the largest two medical organizations in the area, UOSSM and SAMS, reported many of their facilities being out of service and evacuated, leaving even higher health gaps. Four hospitals in northern Syria run by UOSSM were being evacuated after their structure was compromised (NPR 06/02/2023). Four medical centers run by the SAMS were considerably damaged, according to their spokesperson, and two had to be evacuated (The Guardian 06/02/2023). At least two hospitals are out of service in the Idlib governorate (OCHA 07/02/2023).

While the White Helmets estimates the number of injured people at 2,950 (White Helmets 09/02/2023), Violet Organization in northwest Syria estimated that **9,964 people were injured**, including 1,200 in Harim (Idlib governorate), 850 in Salqin (Idlib), 250 in Atareb (Aleppo), 200 in Afrin and Jandairis (Aleppo) (Violet Organization 07/02/2023). SAMS hospitals recorded 1,473 injured patients and 237 deaths (SAMS 07/02/2023). MSF received 3,465 injured people and recorded 551 deaths in the health facilities they support in Aleppo and Idlib governorates, as of 8 February (MSF 08/02/2023). Casualties figures are likely to be under-estimated with many residents reporting hundreds of bodies stuck under rubble. In Jindires alone, locals say 600-800 could be buried (MEI 06/02/2023). With the number of casualties expected to increase over the coming days, there is a need for further health support.

▶ Government-controlled areas

Overall in government-controlled areas, 1,347 deaths and 2,295 injured people are reported as of 0 February ([Health Ministry](#) 09/02/2023). According to an official from the Syrian Ministry of Health, quoted by the official Sana agency, 42 dead and more than 200 injured have been recorded in Aleppo ([Le Monde](#) 06/02/2023). In Hama province, the number of earthquake victims amounts to 49 deaths and 67 injuries, according to the Health Ministry ([SANA](#) 07/02/2023). The Directorate of Health in Hama reported an urgent need for emergency kits in both national hospitals in Hama city and As-Sqailbyah ([OCHA](#) 08/02/2023). In Lattakia, 283 deaths and 173 injured people were recorded in Jableh ([SANA](#) 09/02/2023).

Structural damage was also reported in key infrastructure like hospitals in Latakia and Jablah ([UNHCR](#) 08/02/2023).

▶ Northeast

4 people were reported injured in Kobane and 3 in Manbij due to partial collapse of buildings ([Rojava](#) 07/02/2023).

🚰	WASH

In Lattakia, structural damage to water reservoirs and tanks are reported, with the Ghaniri reservoir threatening to burst in a residential area. Access to WASH in north-west Syria is extremely challenging, with a significant internal displacement wave expected from communities to camps.

▶ Northwest

In Aleppo, water and electricity supplies appear to be cut according to a resident ([The Guardian](#) 06/02/2023). Unconfirmed photos on social media show large cracks on the Maydanki dam, 70 kilometers north to Aleppo and 12 kilometers from Afrin ([Enab Baladi](#) 07/02/2023). Access to WASH in north-west Syria is extremely challenging, according to the WASH Cluster. The Cluster expects a significant internal wave of internally displaced people from communities to camps ([OCHA](#) 07/02/2023).

▶ Government-controlled areas

The water department confirmed that 12 high water tanks were damaged or affected ([OCHA](#) 08/02/2023).

In Lattakia, structural damage to water reservoirs and tanks are reported, with the 200m3 Ghaniri reservoir reportedly falling apart and the Al Bahloulieh Al Rastan station also showing huge structural damages ([OCHA](#) 06/02/2023). On 7 February, the Lattakia City Council

announced the collapse of the high-water reservoir in Dahr Al-Syriani village, stopping water pumping in several villages, including Al-Rama, Al-Qaqaia, Buweib Al-Assal, Dahr Al-Syriani, Al-Mushairfa, Dahr Beit Aqel (Syria Report 07/02/2023). As it is located in a residential area, there is a high risk of flooding. Other tanks and reservoirs have also been damaged, with cracks reported on Al Fawar ground tank (Jableh city), Cemet high reservoir of Wadi Qandil station and the Dam station reservoir. Al-Zoubar and Karkit stations sustained some structural damages. Due to power outage, no information regarding the extent of the damage in the water networks is available (OCHA 06/02/2023).

In Hama, seven collective high-water tanks reportedly collapsed and five others were damaged (OCHA 06/02/2023).

Education

248 schools damaged by the earthquake in Government-controlled areas and 126 are used as shelters.

According to the Ministry of Education, 248 schools in Government-controlled areas have been damaged by the earthquake, including 71 in Aleppo province, 50 in Lattakia, 27 in Hama, 99 in Tartous and one in Idlib countryside (SANA 08/02/2023). 126 are also being used as shelters (Al Jazeera 08/02/2023), including 85 in Aleppo and 7 in Lattakia (UNHCR 08/02/2023). Schools remain closed until 9 February and assessments of damages are conducted (NPA Syria 06/02/2023).

Logistics

Weak internet communication and damages to the electricity grid is hampering the response.

A WFP-funded warehouse, containing food rations, collapsed in Lattakia governorate (WFP 08/02/2023).

▶ Transportation

All ports, except al-Basit, reopened for maritime navigation, according to the General Port Directorate (SANA 08/02/2023).

▶ Telecommunications

Internet communication, already weak before the earthquake, hampers coordination and response operations (The Guardian 07/02/2023).

▶ Electricity

According to the Ministry of Electricity, the earthquakes damaged large parts of the national grid and dozens of power transmissions in Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama, and Tartous, including around 200 electricity poles, seven tonnes of cables in Aleppo, and dozens of transmissions ([Syria Report](#) 07/02/2023).

Response and Capacities - Cross Sector

Humanitarian aid was finally allowed to enter northwest Syria through Bab al-Salama, al-Rai and Bab al-Hawa border crossing points. However, no earthquake-related aid reached the area yet.

▶ Northwest

- *National*

Aid is severely lacking for rescue operations and assisting survivors ([The Guardian](#) 06/02/2023). The White Helmets declare a state of emergency in northwestern Syria ([White Helmets](#) 06/02/2023). Shortages of fuel and other equipment required to carry search and rescue operations are hampering rescue operations ([The Guardian](#) 07/02/2023).

- *International*

The UN CERF emergency fund releases USD 25 million for both Türkiye and northern Syria ([UN](#) 07/02/2023). The UK announced an increased funding to the White Helmets, with, in addition to the USD 2.7 million annual funding, an additional USD 963,000 will be allocated to the group ([BBC](#) 08/02/2023). One Egyptian, one Iraqi and several Turkish rescue teams reportedly entered the northwest to support operations ([SOHR](#) 0209/2023). REACH started its community KI-level RNA on 9 February across Greater Idlib and northern Aleppo, covering around 600 communities directly impacted by the earthquake or locations reporting arrivals of IDPs. Initial data planned to be released late Sunday (REACH 09/02/2023).

Late 8 February, Turkish authorities announced that humanitarian aid was allowed to enter northwest Syria through Bab al-Salama, al-Rai and Bab al-Hawa border crossing points, after being closed in the first few days following the earthquake ([Al Watan](#) 09/02/2023, [enab baladi](#) 08/02/2023, [MEI](#) 07/02/2023). Six trucks of UN humanitarian aid entered Bab al-Hawa border into northwestern Syria on 9 February morning. However, such aid is not earthquake-related, but for previously funded projects, according to the director of the media office of Bab al-Hawa border ([Syria TV](#)- [Enab baladi](#), [White Helmets](#), [MEI](#) 09/02/2023). However, IOM announced it would include blankets, mattresses, tents, and shelter material as well as basic relief items and solar lamps for at least 5,000 people ([IOM](#) 09/02/2023).

WFP maintains 25,000 ready-to-eat food rations (RTEs) in northwest Syria ([USAID](#) 08/02/2023). WFP provided hot meals to 4,000 affected people at temporary shelters, through its partner

kitchens. Assistance will continue until at least 11 February. WFP is also distributing RTE meals through partners, sufficient for 5,000 affected people in Aleppo (WFP 08/02/2023). 50,000 litres of petrol were distributed to the local governments in the area around the Syrian city of Idlib and to the north of the city of Aleppo (PIN 07/02/2023). IOM and UNHCR partners have a total stock of 2,000 tents and approximately 1,700 Non-Food Item (NFI) kits pre-positioned inside north-west Syria. An additional 1,800 NFI kits are available through Mercy Corps. WHO dispatched 16 trauma kits to hospitals (OCHA 07/02/2023). USAID INGOs partners are broadening existing multipurpose cash assistance to include earthquake-affected communities. WASH activities are being planned, notably in Idlib Governorate (USAID 08/02/2023). MSF is supporting seven hospitals and 12 general healthcare centres in the region and scaled up bed capacities in their medical facilities. MSF also distributed blankets, hygiene kits and food items to 2,500 families in Jindiris area in Afrin district, Aleppo governorate (MSF 08/02/2023).

▶ Government-controlled areas

- *National*

In government-controlled areas, an emergency action plan was developed at the national level. According to the Assistant Minister of Health, four trucks carrying medicines, surgical and emergency supplies were sent to Aleppo, Lattakia, and Hama. Medical convoys from the Health Directorates of Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Quneitra, Homs, and Tartous were also dispatched to the governorates of Aleppo and Lattakia, as well as 28 ambulances. And 7 mobile clinics went to support Aleppo and Lattakia (Al Watan 07/02/2023). Syria requested assistance from the European Union through the civil protection mechanism (Reuters 08/02/2023); the EU granted an initial €3.5 million in emergency humanitarian assistance (EU 08/02/2023). The Syrian Red Crescent called on Western countries to lift sanctions on the country to facilitate relief efforts (SARC 08/02/2023). More than 10,000 hot meals were to be distributed through NGOS and other actors on 7 February (OCHA 08/02/2023).

- *International*

The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team was deployed and will arrive in Aleppo on 9 February (OCHA 08/02/2023). ICRC sent surgical material, enough to treat 100 people, to a public hospital in Aleppo, with more medical equipment on its way to Aleppo, Lattakia and Tartous, along with NFIs and food for tens of thousands of people (ICRC 08/02/2023). Several Syria Humanitarian Fund partners are considering reprogramming activities to redirect assistance to the earthquake affected population, primarily in terms of winter supplies (OCHA 08/02/2023). WFP has 20,000 ready-to-eat (RTE) food rations in government-held areas available for distribution to vulnerable earthquake-affected populations as of 7 February. WFP distributed RTE meals through partners 5,000 people in Tartous and Lattakia governorates until 11 February and 6,000 people in Lattakia governorate. RTE meals sufficient for 30,000 people were dispatched to Lattakia on 7 February, with more to be dispatched on 8 February (WFP 08/02/2023). ICRC will dispatch 2,500 canned food parcels, 1,200 parcels to Lattakia and 300 to Hama. UNHCR distributed 30,000 core relief kits, including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, jerry cans and sleeping mats, stockpiled in Syria -10,000 each in Aleppo, Homs and Tartous in the northwest (UNHCR 08/02/2023). As of 7

February, the NFI sector had 30,000 NFI kits in stock and partially released in the most impacted locations (10,000 in Aleppo, 10,000 in Homs, and 10,000 in Tartous) (OCHA 08/02/2023). UNHCR is also redirecting resources to ensure sufficient psychosocial support for affected people (UNHCR 09/02/2023).

Russia sent a rescue team and the 300 Russian military already deployed there are helping clear debris and searching for survivors (The Guardian 08/02/2023). The Algerian civil protection team landed in Aleppo on 7 February to participate in search, rescue and relief operations (SANA 07/02/2023). Two Iraqi planes carrying relief aid arrived in Damascus on 7 February, carrying 70 tons of foodstuffs, medical supplies and blankets notably (SANA 07/02/2023). The Iraqi Red Crescent sent 60 tons of food, relief and medical supplies, also shelters, first aid, and other items to its Syrian counterparts on 7 February (IRCS 07/02/2023). Three Indian, one Jordanian and two Emirati planes, the last two carrying around 111 tons of humanitarian and medical aid, arrived in Damascus on 8 February (SANA 09/0/2023, SANA 08/02/2023). An Iranian shipment of 45 tons of medical and humanitarian aid also arrived in Damascus on 7 February (Almayadeen 07/02/2023). A second Armenian plane arrived at Aleppo International Airport on 9 February morning, carrying 32 tons of food and medical supplies and medicines (SANA 09/02/2023). Pakistan also sent 40 tons of tents and blankets, which arrived on 8 February in Damascus (SANA 08/02/2023). Venezuela also sent supplies (SANA 09/02/2023).

About This Report

This report is a synthesis of publicly available information, powered by the <u>DEEP</u> - the Data Entry and Exploration Platform - a collaborative analysis platform for effective aid response - and supplemented by assessment data provided by humanitarian partners working in-country. The analysis was conducted independently by Data Friendly Space (DFS) on behalf of the DEEP project, currently funded by USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).

Methodology

DFS Analysts and Information Management Officers collate and structure available information in the DEEP platform daily.

The Data Entry and Exploration Platform (DEEP) is an intelligent web-based platform, offering a suite of collaborative tools tailored for qualitative and secondary data review. DEEP is free, open source, and fully accessible for all humanitarian and development users. Log in here: <u>https://app.thedeep.io/login/</u>

Each piece of information is tagged based on the pillars and sub-pillars of the Analysis Framework, based on the JIAF 1.0 (see below) and developed in line with successful models used across previous projects. The framework is shown below and comprises the humanitarian conditions (by sector) and the operational environment. All the captured information receives additional tags to allow examination of different categories of interest such as affected group, geographic location, etc.

Data Friendly Space analysts follow key steps for ensuring robust and sound humanitarian analysis, relying on an analysis workflow and spectrum (see below). For this report, the analysts relied on the main three first steps of the analysis spectrum – description, explanation, and interpretation.

Analysis Framework | Source: DFS, 2023

			Cross	Education	Food Security & Livelihood	Health	Protection	Shelter	WASH
6. Impact		Drivers & Aggravating Factors							
		Impact on People							
		Impact on Services and Systems							
7. Humanitarian Conditions		Living Standards							
		Coping mechanisms							
		Physical / Mental Well-being							
8. At risk		People At Risk / Vulnerable							
9. Priorities		Priority Needs (pop.)							
		Priority Needs (hum.)							
		Priority Interventions (pop.)							
10. Capacities / Response		Government and Local Authorities							
		National / Local Actors							
		International Actors							

1. Context
- Politics
- Peace and Security — Demography
- Economics — Socio-Cultural
- Legal and Policy — Infrastructure — Environment

2. Shock
- Type and Characteristics — Risks and Threats — Aggravating factors

3. Displacement
- Type, # and Movement
- Push factors
- Pull factors — Intentions — Local Integration

4. Humanitarian Access
- Access of affected population to assistance
- Access of relief actors to the affected population — Security / Physical Constraints — People facing humanitarian constraints

5. Information and Communication
- Information channels and means
- Information challenges and barriers — Knowledge and Information

DATA FRIENDLY SPACE

The Analysis Workflow – Key steps for robust and sound research in humanitarian settings

KEY ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS

1. Starting the right way
Design and planning for quality/credible analysis

The design and planning phase precedes analytical processes and is about selecting the best strategies for capturing relevant and sufficient data and ensuring quality and credible analysis. It involves careful consideration of who will be taking the decisions, the key questions that need to be answered , the data to collect and sets out how analytical standards will be ensured and respected throughout the process

1. What is known, in question or still unknown?
2. Who is the main audience? What inputs do they need and when do they need them?
3. What are the key questions and the depth/levels of analysis to cover (descriptive, explicative, interpretive, anticipative and prescriptive)?
4. What is the broader context of the analysis?
5. What will be measured and how will it be analysed to answer the key questions?
6. What data are required to answer the key questions and which sources and methods will be used to obtain them?
7. With whom, when and how to collaborate?
8. What types of end product(s) will work best?
9. What approaches and techniques will ensure analytical standards are respected?
10. What activities, resources and contingencies should be planned for?

2. Acquiring the data we need
Collecting and collating unbiased data

Sufficient, relevant and trustworthy data must be gathered to provide the evidence that will support conclusions and key messages. The data collection and collation phase involves gaining access to usable and unbiased data (either primary or secondary), managing and safely storing the gathered information so it is ready for further analytical steps.

11. What information is already available and relevant to the research questions?
12. What is missing, how to get it?
13. How to collect new, sufficient and unbiased information?
14. How to manage and safely store data and documents?
15. How to ensure the data is as clean and tidy as possible?

3. Getting ready for analysis
Exploring and preparing data

Exploratory analysis is about getting more familiar with the available data, assessing its sufficiency and usefulness against the research questions, organizing it better and finding potential signals and stories that should be confirmed at later stages. It is an initial foray into the new data sources and a deliberate effort to prepare and transform the data for more targeted analysis to come.

16. How could the data be better prepared for analysis?
17. How usable and trustworthy is the data?
18. How can we fill information gaps?
19. What interesting signals and stories are hidden in the data?
20. What are the main results so far?

1. DESIGN AND PLANNING

2. DATA COLLECTION AND COLLATION

3. DATA EXPLORATION & PREPARATION

OUTPUT

- A clear identification and understanding of the end-users, the specific decisions that will be informed by the analysis and the timeline for delivering conclusions
- An agreement about the key analysis questions to answer and the depth of analysis to go into (descriptive, explicative, interpretive, anticipative, prescriptive)
- An understanding ot the expectations and implications of the analysis and the precision that must be achieved in the presented results
- An analysis framework that will guide data collection and analysis
- An adapted analysis and data collection plan including the list of indicators to obtain, the data required and their source, how the data will be analyzed and presented
- An output template (report, ppt, et.c) aligned with the key questions and the analysis framework
- The strategies and procedures to mitigate the influence of cognitive biases on results
- A workplan and a list of resources (material, financial, human) required to carry the work

- Repository of secondary data with all documents labelled YYMMDD ORG TITLE. Confidential documents are processed separately. Documents are stored in Dropbox.
- Questionnaires tested and translated if relevant
- Clean, reviewed datasets including a change log in case of modifications or corrections (where applicable)
- In the case a situation analysis is required, an updated Assessment Registry will be provided for the areas under assessment

- Secondary information structured and tagged based on the analysis framework pillars and sub pillars.
- A list of preliminary results, assertions or statements, including main outcomes, issues, gaps or challenges coming out of the data
- A list of possible explanations and if-then statements to further confirm in further analysis steps
- A list of what is not seen/reported and should be there
- Agreed upon categories of analysis to use for further analysis steps, e.g. urban/rural, international/national NGOs, emergency/development, etc.
- A list of and definitions for codes used for refining or categorizing the data.
- A list of all transformations operated on the data
- A list of defensible and feasible units of reporting

DFS analysis workflow was inspired by and adapted from the work of Richard Garfield, Stephen Flew, Katherine and Randolph H. Pherson, Patrice Chataigner, Pat Bezeley, Andy Kirk, Ian Dey, Charles Kufs and J. Scott Long

4. Separating the signals from the noise
Making sense of data and drawing conclusions

Analysis is the process by which important stories and messages hidden in the data are identified and transformed into actionable insights. It is based on an iterative, controlled and structured sense-making process allowing to move from observations to current (and future) implications, formulate evidence-based conclusions, and provide proportionate and appropriate recommendations.

5. Conveying messages effectively
Communicating and sharing findings

Communicating and sharing is about ensuring the final products are relevant to end users, meet their needs, answer the key questions and is transparent on limitations and is clearly and easily linked to decision making.

KEY ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS

21. How to group and best summarize the data?
22. What consistent patterns, trends or anomalies emerge from the data?
23. How much evidence we have in support of each result or statement?
24. What factors and causal mechanisms combine and interact to create or aggravate outcomes?
25. What is the strength of the relationships?
26. Are they other alternative hypothesis that could explain what we see?
27. What is important/urgent and why?

28. What are the priorities?
29. How confident are we about our conclusions?
30. What will happen next if nothing changes?
31. What else might happen?
32. How does this change our main conclusions, priorities and key messages?
33. What are the objectives and targets?
34. What set of actions and sequences will have the greatest impact and benefits?
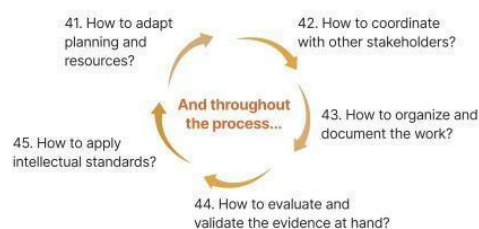35. What are the main assumptions, risks and possible synergies across the response?

36. How can we present our case in the most effective and compelling way?
37. How can charts and/or maps best support our messages?
38. How and when to communicate uncertainty?
39. How to ensure our product is as good as it gets?
40. How to document data and methods?

4. ANTICIPATE — 5. PRESCRIBE — 3. INTERPRET — **4. ANALYSIS & CONCLUSIONS** — 1. DESCRIBE — 2. EXPLAIN

5. COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION

OUTPUT

- Summary statistics and statements for each category and unit of reporting (geographical area, affected group, sector, etc.), including absolute numbers/percentages
- Information about the number and type of evidence available
- Main confirmed patterns, trends, theories, messages and stories
- Key assumptions checklist to challenge assertions and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis
- Theories, best explanations, guesses and conjectures as to what is related or leading to what
- A fishbone diagram or problem tree representing causal mechanisms and which ones are contributing the most to humanitarian outcomes
- A list of focal issues the recommendations should adress
- A list of rival or alternative hypotheses

- Updated key assumptions checklist to challenge explanations and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis
- Key findings and messages
- Key priorities
- Confidence in main conclusions and statements
- Updated key assumptions checklist to challenge explanations and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis.
- Baseline scenario
- Alternative scenario and drivers
- Current and forecasted priorities
- A list of recommended response options, modalities and their weighted benefits
- A set of assumptions and requirements that underpin the response sucess
- A list of risks that would impact the viability of the response
- A list of areas for collaboration or synergies that would increase impact and success

- Tailored, relevant and readable analysis outputs, providing solid cases and reasoning, reviewed by subject experts;
- Clear and explicitly communicated limit of knowledge and how it impacts confidence in the results;
- Accessible and safely stored products, data, documents and methodology for audience seeking more details or intending to replicate findings.

41. How to adapt planning and resources?
42. How to coordinate with other stakeholders?
And throughout the process...
43. How to organize and document the work?
45. How to apply intellectual standards?
44. How to evaluate and validate the evidence at hand?

DATA FRIENDLY SPACE

DFS's Analysis Spectrum
Key steps for deeper insights and a more effective response

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4. ANTICIPATORY ANALYSIS
What if, what else, what then? Predict and forecast

Anticipative analysis identifies the probability of future events and outcomes at a specific time, based on current and historical data. It combines predictions (What will happen under current conditions?) and forecasts (What else might happen?). Anticipative analysis goes beyond current conditions and provides an assessment and best estimates on what might happen in the future, in addition to what will happen in the future. This prolongs the shelf-life of the analysis by integrating a forward-looking perspective into the analysis of the current situation.

KEY ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS

- What will happen next if nothing changes?
- What else might happen?
- How does this change our main conclusions, priorities and key messages?

OUTPUTS

- Baseline scenario
- Alternative scenario and drivers
- Current and forecasted priorities

TOOLS

- Analysis Framework
- Probability and impact scales
- Risk matrix

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5. PRESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS
What are the most appropriate and proportionate course of actions? Suggest and advise

Prescriptive analysis translates the previous findings into a feasible plan and provides recommendations and advice about policy, strategy and interventions. It determines the response options available, the objectives to plan for and their alignment with more desired outcomes. It also articulates what choices are not possible and why, detail opportunities and risks and show the implications of decisions or the absence of decisions.

KEY ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS

- What are the objectives and targets?
- What set of actions and sequences will have the greatest impact and benefits?
- What are the main assumptions, risks and possible synergies across the response?

OUTPUTS

- A list of recommended response options, modalities and their weighted benefits
- A set of assumptions and requirements that underpin the response sucess
- A list of risks that would impact the viability of the response
- A list of areas for collaboration or synergies that would increase impact and success

TOOLS

- Analysis framework
- Response analysis matrix
- Response trees or theory of change
- Logical and strategic framework

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3. INTERPRETIVE ANALYSIS
What does it mean? Conclude and build your case

The focus of the interpretation stage is to bring everything together, build an integrated and cohesive picture of what was found and answer the original research question(s). Interpretive analysis aims at drawing well-supported conclusions through careful argumentation, an evaluation of the strength of the evidence and attention to plausibility in context.

KEY ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS

- What is important and why?
- What are the priorities?
- How confident are we about our conclusions?

OUTPUTS

- Key findings and messages
- Key priorities
- Confidence in main conclusions and statements

TOOLS

- Analysis framework
- Interpretation sheet
- Severity scales and confidence ratings
- Updated key assumptions checklist to challenge explanations and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis.

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4. ANTICIPATE
5. PRESCRIBE
3. INTERPRET
1. DESCRIBE
2. EXPLAIN

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1. DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS
Compared to what? Contrast and summarize

Descriptive analysis is about grouping, summarizing and comparing data. To effectively interrogate a large amount of data, analysts break it down into manageable chunks and summarise the information into various dimensions of interest, e.g. a particular affected group, geographical area or time period. Comparing and contrasting these summaries helps to identify and confirm similarities and differences between or within dimensions; further investigation allows the identification of meaningful patterns, trends or anomalies.

KEY ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS

- How to group and best summarize the information?
- What consistent patterns, trends or anomalies emerge from the data?
- How much evidence we have in support of each result or statement?

OUTPUTS

- Summary statistics and statements for each category and unit of reporting (geographical area, affected group, sector, etc.), including absolute numbers/percentages
- Information about the number and type of evidence available
- Main confirmed patterns, trends, theories, messages and stories
- Key assumptions checklist to challenge assertions and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis

TOOLS

- Analysis framework
- Key assumptions checklist to challenge assertions and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis
- Information gaps matrix

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2. EXPLANATORY ANALYSIS
Why is it like this, how come? Connect and relate

Explanatory analysis looks for the reasons behind why the current situation exists. It asks about the drivers of the crises or issues and the factors and underlying vulnerabilities that contributed to the situation. Explanatory analysis attempts to answer these questions by looking for associations, correlations and causation and to use these to formulate and refine causes and effects hypothesis and theories. It is based on the careful investigation of relationships, underlying processes and causal mechanisms.

KEY ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS

- What factors and causal mechanisms combine and interact to create or aggravate outcomes?
- What is the strength of the relationships?
- Are they other alternative hypothesis that could explain what we see?

OUTPUTS

- Theories, best explanations, guesses and conjectures as to what is related or leading to what
- A list of focal issues the recommendations should later adress
- A list of rival or alternative hypotheses

TOOLS

- Analysis framework
- A fishbone diagram or problem tree representing causal mechanisms and which ones are contributing the most to humanitarian outcomes
- Updated key assumptions checklist to challenge explanations and identify faulty logic, weak evidence or flawed analysis

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Get in touch with us

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