

Türkiye - Syria Earthquake

An earthquake is the shaking of the Earth's crust. Approximately 15 major earthquakes occur each year around the world. Their effects can be devastating.

When Did It Happen?

An earthquake struck near the Syrian border of Türkiye on 6th February 2023 at 4:17 a.m. Approximately nine hours later, a second earthquake of almost the same magnitude occurred.



What Were the Effects?

Infrastructure

Water systems were damaged and supplies of clean water dried up.

Schools and hospitals were destroyed.

Iskenderun port in Türkiye caught fire limiting emergency aid access.

Social and Economic

Over 50,000 people were killed and around 130,000 were injured.

Millions of people were displaced.

Billions of pounds have been spent on repairs and rebuilding.

Response

Food, medical supplies and thermal blankets were given out.

Aid workers helped to clear tonnes of rubble from the streets and roads.

Many aid and rescue teams arrived from overseas. Many countries also donated money to help.

Other Facts

The earthquake was so powerful that tremors were felt as far away as Greece and Israel.

The earthquake occurred during winter so many homeless survivors were terribly affected by the cold conditions.

Where Did It Happen?

The epicentre of the first earthquake was near Gaziantep. This is a city in south-central Türkiye, which had a population of around 2 million people. The second struck further north in Kahramanmaras, Türkiye.

What Happened?

The first earthquake was a magnitude of 7.8 and the second later one was a magnitude of 7.5. Both quakes caused widespread devastation. Ten cities in Türkiye were in a state of emergency for three months. In northern Syria, thousands of buildings were destroyed.