



POST-QUAKE RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR TÜRKİYE

FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Introduction and background

About us:

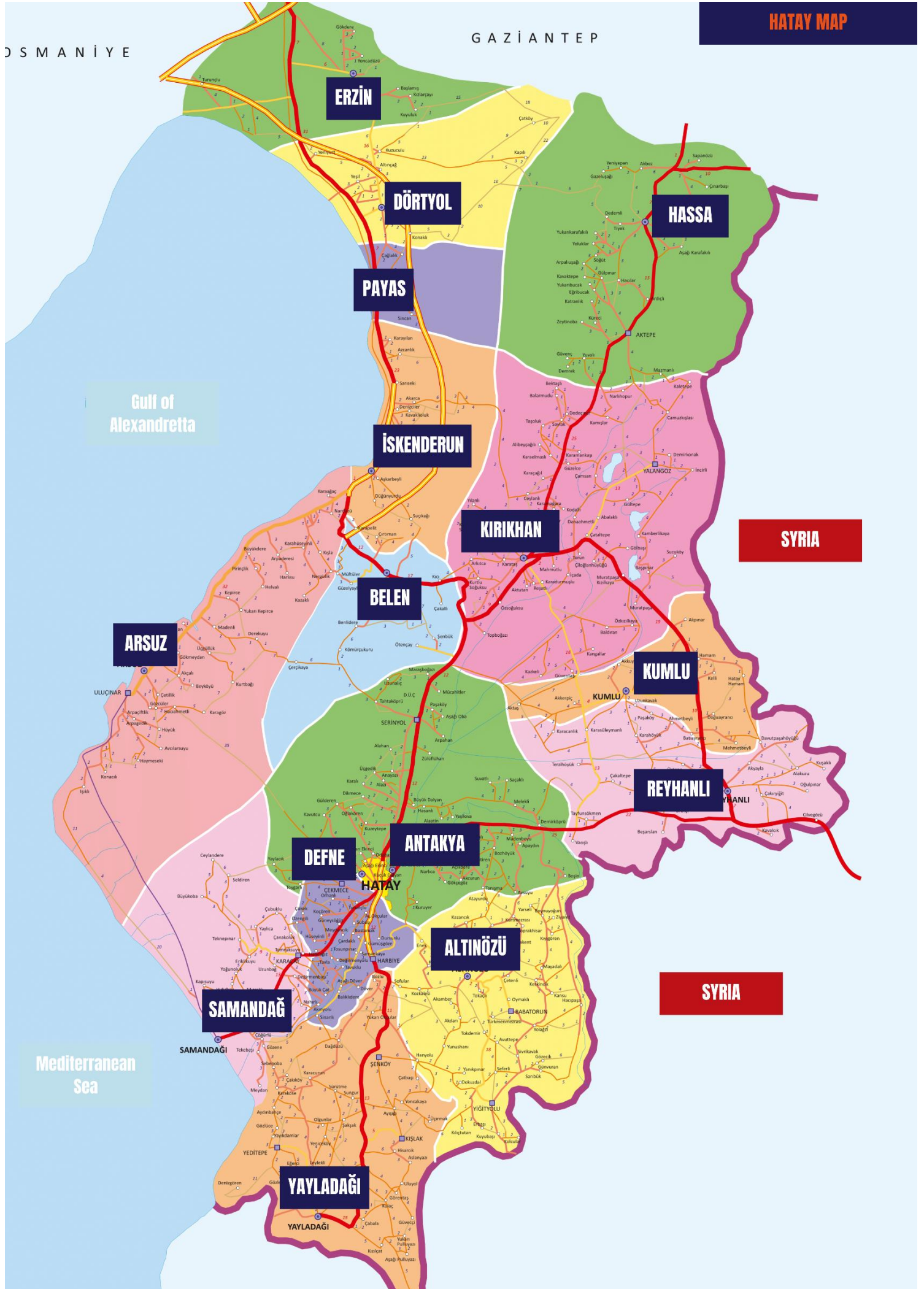
Doctors of the World (DoTW) Türkiye/Médecins du Monde (MdM) Türkiye is registered as Dünya Doktorları Derneği (DDD). DoTW is a Türkiye-based humanitarian non-governmental organization that facilitates access to healthcare for populations affected by armed conflict, violence, natural disasters, disease, famine, poverty and exclusion.

DoTW collaborates with partners and key stakeholders to implement projects that facilitate access to primary and secondary healthcare services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to respond to the medical needs of the affected populations.

DoTW is the 16th member of the Doctors of the World (Médecins du Monde) International Network that is committed to meeting the health needs of vulnerable people globally. DoTW also has years of experience safely providing access to health care and support to vulnerable populations in Türkiye and in Syria in collaboration with local and national authorities and in coordination with other humanitarian actors.

Context

On the night of February 6, 2023, at 4:17 a.m. local time, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Türkiye and Syria resulting in more than 50,000 deaths in both countries at the time of this report. Türkiye has announced a three-month state of emergency in 10 provinces worst affected by the earthquake. This marks the most powerful earthquake recorded in Türkiye since 1939. The quake was followed by 78 aftershocks, and it hit the region a second time in the afternoon on the 6th of February at 13:24 p.m. with a magnitude of 7.6 in Ekinozu/Kahramanmaraş province. Another 6.4 earthquake hit Defne and Samandağ districts in Hatay on February 20. More than 15 million people are affected. In Syria, at least 8,000 people (4,400 in NWS) are reported dead as of 20 February with the majority of victims recorded in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia and Tartous. In Türkiye, the authorities count more 46,000 are dead. More than a thousand buildings have completely collapsed, raising fears of even higher human losses.



DoTW Türkiye Response

DoTW has been working in Hatay since 2016. It's cross-border office for ongoing Northwest Syria health operations is based in Antakya which has allowed it to quickly mobilize emergency response in Hatay. With other actors, DoTW had also served displaced Syrians in Hatay from 2016 to 2019, directly providing PHC services through its doctors, PSS services, and PRT (Physical Rehabilitation Services). Its mobile medical teams (MMTs) arrived in the affected region on the night of February 6 to start providing emergency response.

Hatay and Antakya are still extremely hard to reach. The vast majority of the city and buildings are destroyed, blocking roads. Some roads have been completely destroyed in the earthquake. There is no electricity, therefore the city is in darkness at night and the weather condition is unbearably cold. People, including our staff, are sleeping in the freezing cold. A number of collective tent sites are currently being established throughout the city. Regardless, even within the tents there is a high need for heaters. More NGOs are launching responses in Hatay such as CARE, Concern, Danish Refugee Council, and ACTED, among others.

The Antakya district, in particular, has been widely evacuated, with the remaining inhabitants relocating to designated tent sites managed by AFAD. The excessive buildup of dust in the city has reached levels that jeopardize the health of the public. However, residents in other districts remain steadfast in their desire to remain in their homes. The continuing aftershocks in the region pose a significant threat to individuals, as they continue to experience the traumatic impact of the initial earthquake. Additionally, the contamination of water sources poses a significant risk of waterborne illnesses.

DoTW'S mobile medical teams (MMT) are already on the ground and based in Hatay including Antakya city, Defne, Samandağ, Reyhanlı, and Atlinözü. The mobile service modality will allow for serving the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach in all districts of Hatay.

DoTW is the leading health and protection NGO working in Hatay earthquake response. It has been made the lead agency for the Health Working Group, the MHPSS Working Group and the Protection Working Group in Hatay. The Turkish MoH has issued a directive that health certified NGOs like DotW can provide health care services and medication in earthquake affected areas.

As of now, DoTW is providing first aid response, health screening, medication distribution, psychological first aid for trauma, and in the process of creating safe spaces.



Figure 1. DoTW doctors providing consultations

DoTW mobile medical teams working in urban and rural areas of Hatay providing health consultations and psychological services. Each team is comprised of a physician, a midwife, a clinical psychologist, a nurse, a case worker, PSS Officer, and Protection Officer. These mobile teams offer on-site assistance on a tent-to-tent basis in areas where governmental and other aid entities are unable to provide services. Inter-group referrals are made based on the needs of the recipients.

DoTW has also set-up WASH and safe spaces where primarily women and children will be able to come, receive individual and group counselling, use laundry rooms, showers, and receive food. DoTW's teams are providing information sessions and kits to prevent the mentioned illnesses.



Figure 2. DoTW Psychologists providing PSS support to displaced children.

Purpose of the report and Data collection methodology

This report aims to collate the findings of various reports released regarding the post – disaster situation in Antakya, Defne and Samandağı as the central and surrounding districts of Hatay province.

A survey questionnaire tool is conducted to capture the extent the basic needs are met and the most pressing needs. The questionnaire also aimed to capture narrative feedback, where relevant.

Demographics of the sample

DoTW Türkiye interviewed 77 quake – affected community members in more than 10 sub – districts of Antakya, Defne and Samandağı districts. 75% of the sample consists of females and 25% are males. 74% of the respondents are adults (aged between 18 and 50) and 26% are elderly.

While the respondents are largely either married or single, widow or separated female respondents are also reached. Infographic 1 can be seen for the detailed information about the sample.

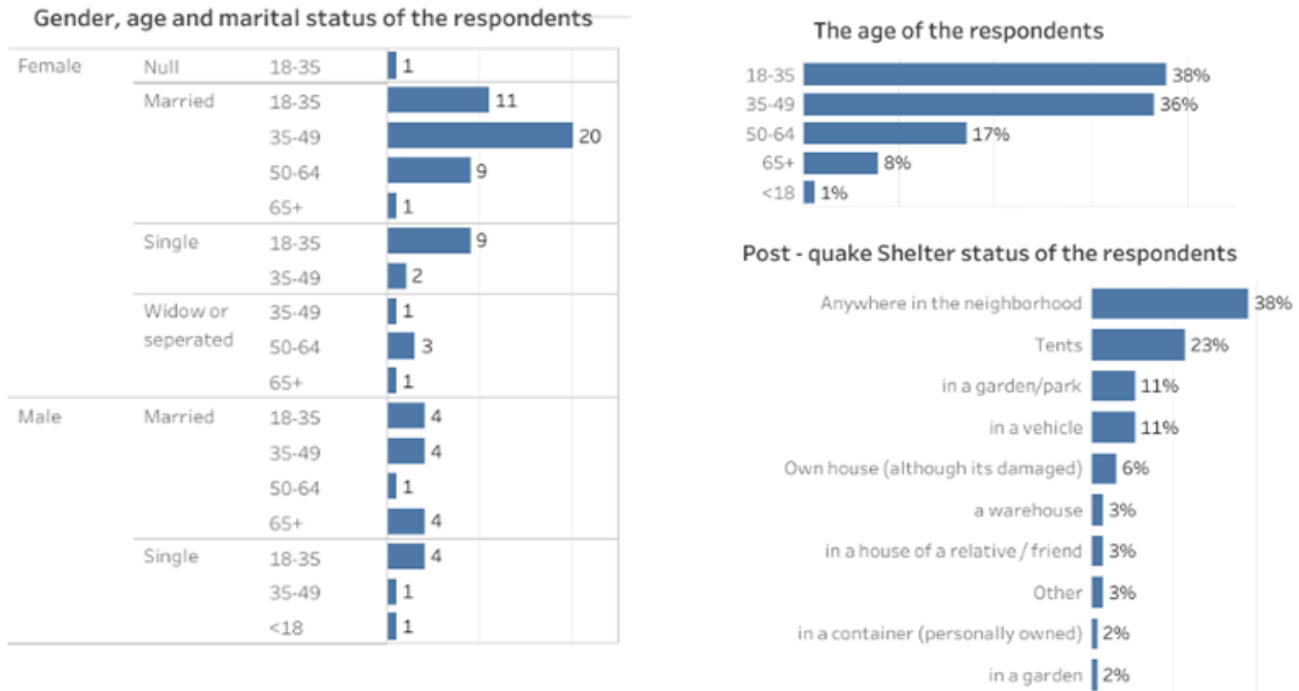


Figure 3. Demographic of respondents

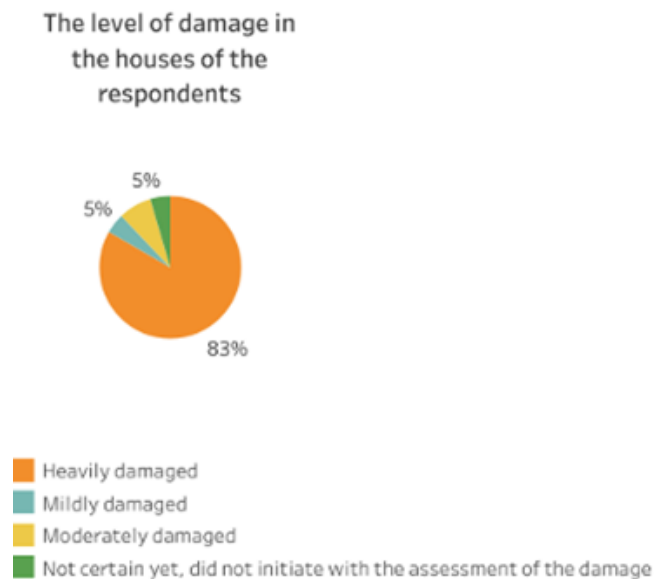
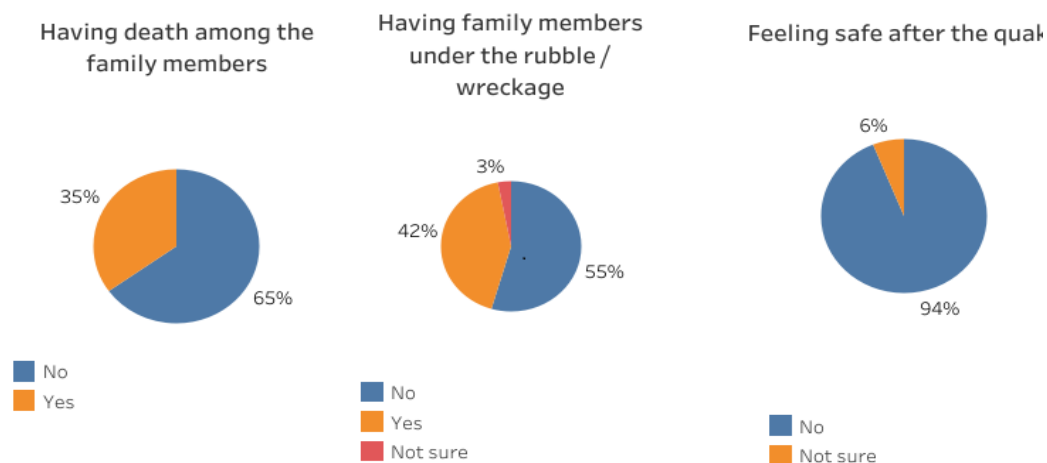


Figure 4. Respondents with damaged shelter

The Main findings

Access to shelter, heating, and winter clothing

As indicated from a modest size sample, the shelter assistance is almost not existing and the shelter conditions of the communities are very poor that 38% reported residing outdoor anywhere in their neighbourhoods, 11% in vehicles and another 11% in gardens of the houses. Only 23% reported residing in a tent and only one respondent reported staying in a container that is private and not provided by state or non – state actors. In line with the shelter conditions, the need for heating is also immense, which is voiced by almost all respondents. Similarly, the need for winter clothing is immense considering the winter conditions that the temperature decreases up to minus 10 in the night-time (see infographic -5).



To what extent your basic needs in the post - quake settings are met?

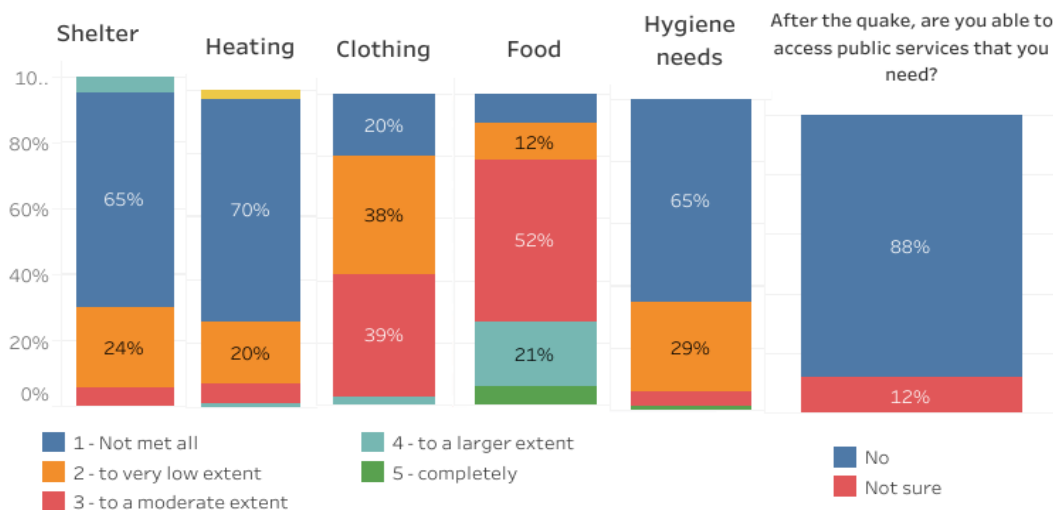


Figure 5. The extent to which basic needs are met, perception of safety, death of family members and having family members under the wreckage and having family members dead and/or waiting to be rescued.

Mental health and psychosocial support

The effect of the quakes on the communities is indescribable, considering the high death tolls, which is indicated within the sample that 35% of the respondents reported having at least one family member died and 45% reported having family members waiting to be rescued. While the sample does not include adolescents and children, almost all the respondents reported the need of PSS and child friendly spaces for children.

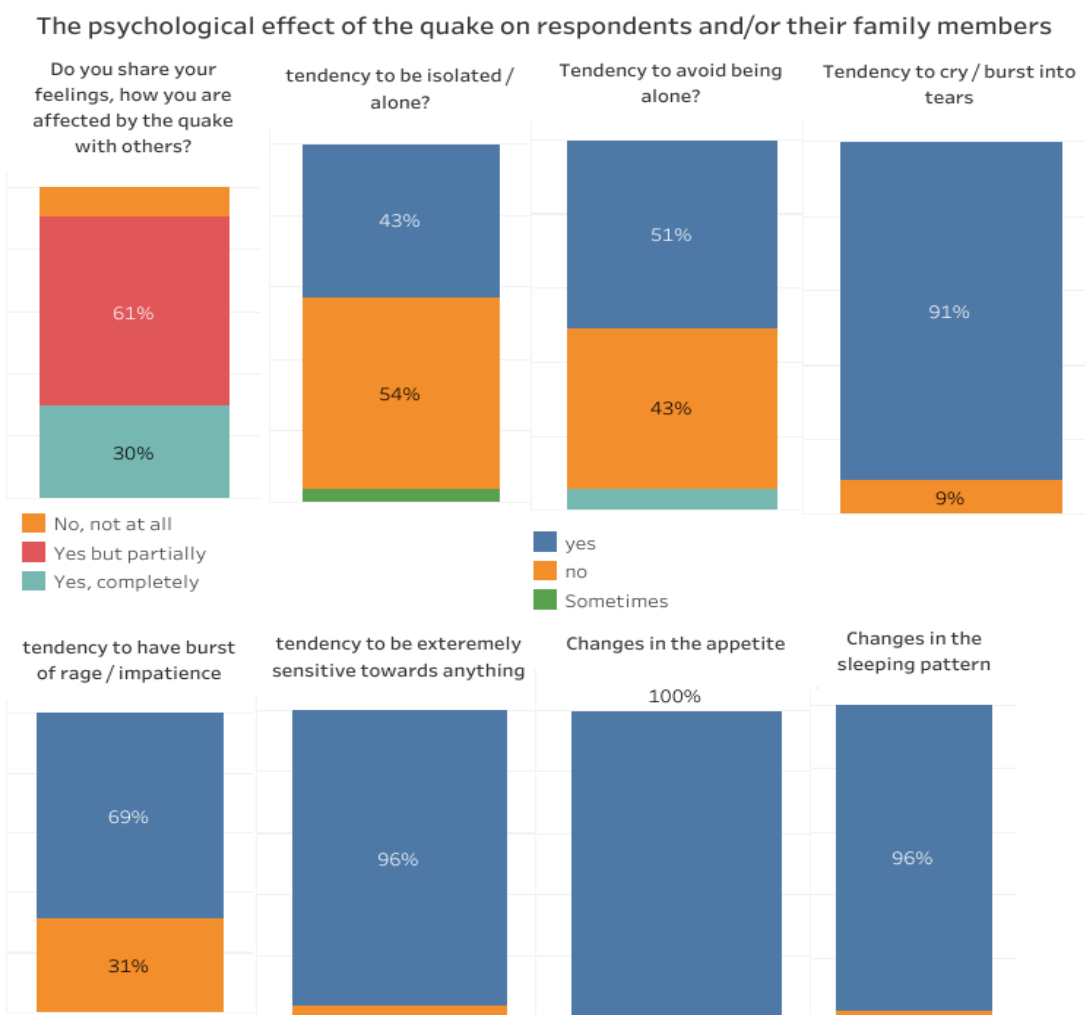


Figure 7. The psychological effects of the quakes on the communities

Among a modest sample, considerable rate of the community members reported symptoms of psychological distress and shock due to the traumatic experience. Tendency to be isolated or to avoid being alone, tendency to burst into tears or to have burst of rage or impatience are reported. All respondents reported having changes in their appetite and 96% reported their sleeping patterns changed. Having nightmares and/or involuntary images of the traumatic experience is reported by 93% and physical symptoms are reported by 91% of the respondents. Infographic 6 can be seen for the related visualizations.

Hygiene items for general and personal use, showers, and latrines

Similar to the level of shelter, the need for non – food item distribution quake affected communities are so high. As reported by various actors, lack of hygiene materials, portable toilets with the presence of dead bodies under the wreckage pose a great risk for public health. The presence of diarrhoea and skin related diseases, although at a minor, are being reported. Almost none of the respondent reported having received non – food item assistance.

To what extent your basic needs in the post - quake settings are met?

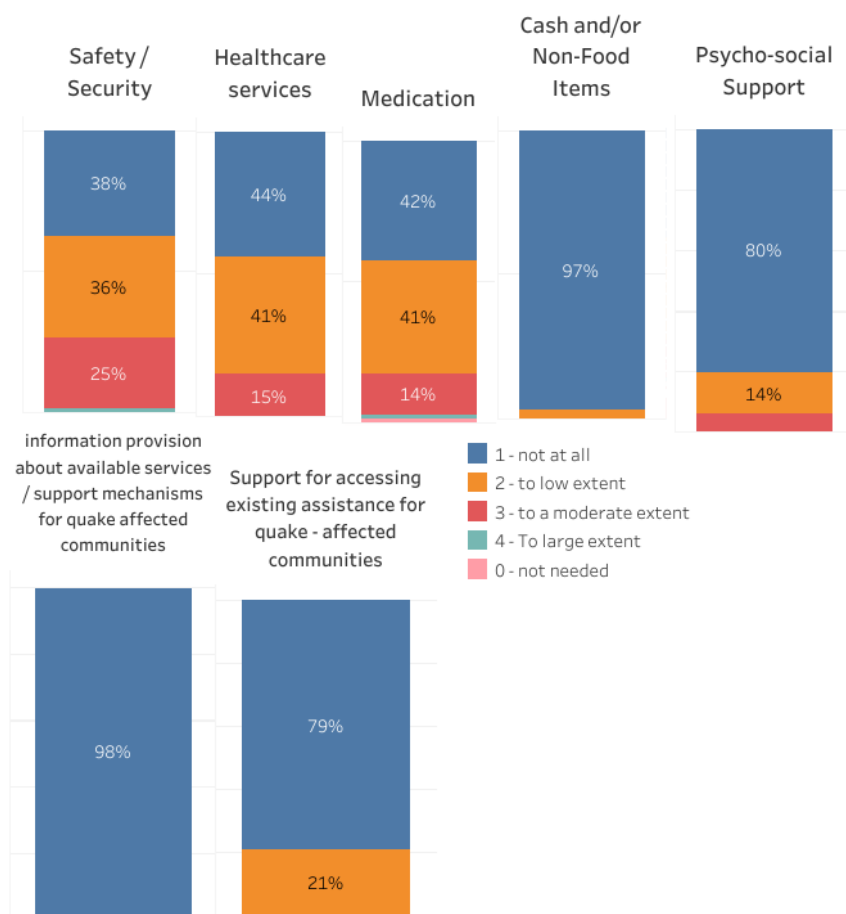


Figure 6. The extent to which the basic needs of the quake-affected communities are met

Information provision about available support mechanism and the need of support to be linked to existing assistance schemes.

Another crucial need is the information about existing support mechanisms, that are managed by various actors, as state and non-state. None of the respondents reported that the information need is met. Similarly, there is a need for supporting the community members to access the available support mechanisms, for which 79% reported not having received any related support to access existing assistance (see infographic 3).

Healthcare services and medication

The public and private hospitals in Antakya got damaged, as well. According to the inputs provided by DoTW – TR senior team members, who are in coordination with AFAD and related authorities, as the map produced by Map Action illustrates (see figure 6), Hatay Education Research hospital is partially operational, and the feasibility assessment continues. Regarding the international support with respect to the healthcare services, a hospital is set up in Antakya with a 72 in-patient capacity. Thus, the ability of the community members to access health care services, either primary or secondary level, is severely affected, which is confirmed by the respondents, as well. The percentage of the respondents reported that their need for accessing health care services and medication not met is respectively, 44% and 42%. 41% reported their needs is met to a low extent.

Figure - 6 Hospital damage in Hatay province by Map Action

