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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Solidarity drive for people affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria: aid that meets needs

Several earthquakes rocked Türkiye and Syria on Monday. According to initial information, the Gaziantep region sustained heavy damage and several thousand people were killed or injured. The outpouring of generosity in support of the people of Türkiye and Syria is evident in towns and cantons throughout Switzerland. Nevertheless, a number of steps must be taken to ensure that the different types of aid provided to the affected areas respond to genuine needs. Please follow these brief steps to ensure that the aid reaches those in need.

The situation in Türkiye and Syria is stirring up strong emotions in Switzerland. Large numbers of Swiss people have been expressing solidarity with the survivors by supporting individual or collective assistance initiatives. Campaigns to collect donations and material supplies are taking place in cantons and communes across the country.

The SDC welcomes all these initiatives, which testify to the generosity of the Swiss people and their commitment to humanitarian values. In order to ensure that this surge of solidarity can best meet the needs of the local population, the SDC wishes to raise awareness of the following points:

Donating supplies

The SDC cannot accept donations of supplies, nor arrange for their delivery or fund their transport. This would require extensive sorting and checking of goods, which would impact SDC relief operations.

If you are planning to send supplies to Türkiye and Syria, make sure that you send items that are really needed. To find out what supplies are actually needed, you can contact local organisations like the national Red Crescent societies or the Turkish Embassy in Bern for supplies intended to Türkiye.

Please also bear in mind that transporting supplies from Switzerland can pose logistical and security challenges. These operations also require careful prior clarification to ensure that the supplies are distributed fairly to people in need.

Cash donations

The SDC recommends making cash donations to humanitarian organisations working on the ground, including Swiss aid agencies, instead of donations of supplies. Swiss Solidarity has also launched a fundraising campaign (www.swiss-solidarity.org/).

Thinking of volunteering as an aid worker?

The SDC deploys only specialists from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit who are trained to work in crisis areas. Therefore, it cannot accommodate volunteers wishing to travel to Türkiye or Syria to be deployed as aid workers.

[SDC Website](#)