

Press Release

Humanity & Inclusion mobilizes urgently in response to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

Montreal, February 8, 2023 - **Humanity & Inclusion (HI) Canada is responding urgently to help families and individuals affected by the major earthquakes in southeastern Turkey and northwestern Syria.**

"Since the announcement of the disaster, many people are still trapped under the rubble and a significant number of infrastructures have collapsed. Humanitarian aid is needed more than ever for all the injured, traumatized and extremely vulnerable people. Humanity & Inclusion is currently preparing to assist the victims. - Anne Delorme, Executive Director of HI Canada.



Earthquake survivors wait for news of their loved ones, believed to be trapped under collapsed building on February 07, 2023 in Iskenderun, Turkey © Burak Kara/Getty Images Via AFP

The death toll has been rising since Monday. According to the latest estimates by the Reuters news agency, the total death toll has risen to more than 12,000 and nearly 55,000 people have been injured (nearly 50,000 in Turkey and 5,000 in Syria).

Faced with this type of crisis, Humanity & Inclusion teams already on site will be offering services over the next few days and weeks including psychological support, physical and functional rehabilitation, and mobility aids (wheelchairs, canes, walkers) to the most



affected people, particularly those with disabilities, the seriously injured, and the elderly. Individual support sessions will also be offered and a mobile team will be deployed so that beneficiaries can regain mobility and avoid long-term damage. The international solidarity NGO is working with other humanitarian organizations to ensure that the specific needs of these people are taken into account.

"We expect a huge need for rehabilitation. There are thousands of injured people and many of these injuries can worsen or turn into permanent disabilities if people do not receive appropriate rehabilitation services. In addition, survivors have experienced significant trauma and will need psychosocial support." - Myriam Abord-Hugon, HI's Syria program director.

HI Canada is currently raising funds to support efforts for the most vulnerable and is appealing to the generosity of the Canadian population. To make a donation, visit the organization's website: <http://bit.ly/3lbY04g>

About HI

Humanity & Inclusion (HI) Canada is an independent and impartial international solidarity organization that intervenes in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflicts and disasters. Working with people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, it acts and testifies to meet their basic needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights. HI has been present in Syria since 2012 and carries out various activities such as physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, demining and awareness campaigns for the population on the risks of explosive ordnance. Recognized for its advocacy work, it is one of the six founding organizations of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 and winner of the 2011 Conrad N. Hilton Award.

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