

# Response Review of Türkiye Syria Earthquake (TSE) Appeal 2023 Brief



Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)

Syria Brief



## About the DEC TSE Appeal

Following the devastating 7.8-magnitude earthquake in South-East Türkiye and North-West Syria, fourteen DEC member agencies worked closely with multiple local partner organizations under the DEC-funded Türkiye/Syria Earthquake (TSE) Appeal across the region to deliver humanitarian assistance in both Türkiye and Syria.

The DEC's fundraising campaign raised over £150 million to date and the fundraising is ongoing, with an allocation of £39,408,374 million dedicated to Phase 1 from February to July 2023 of the response in Syria and Türkiye.

### Emergency relief sectors



Food



Cash assistance



Non-food items



Health



Protection



Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

In Syria, DEC member agencies responded in the Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia governorates.

Affected people supported included:



People with disabilities



Members of female-headed households



Children



Refugee population



Older people



Pregnant women



People internally displaced by the ongoing conflict



Host communities

## About the Response Review

The response review of the DEC TSE Appeal covers phase 1 and comprises a real-time review (RTR) with key stakeholders aimed at facilitating collective reflection and learning in real-time to enhance the ongoing response and strengthen efforts to localize humanitarian actions, as well as a perception survey with earthquake affected people to gauge their perceptions and priorities. NSDation Consultancy Services designed the response review evaluation framework in accordance with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and Grand Bargain commitments.

The review engaged with 36 key informants through in-depth interviews and sought the perspectives of 531 affected community members via a perception survey.

## What We Learned

- The DEC's focus on rapid and effective response facilitated the swift adaptation of projects when needed, enabling DEC member agencies to adapt their plans in line with the rapidly changing situation on the ground.
- DEC member agencies delivered targeted assistance amid widespread infrastructure damage and staff impact. However, there is room for improvement in maximizing the use of needs assessments to identify the needs of vulnerable people.
- DEC member agencies and local partners logically prioritized immediate needs, meeting a significant level according to affected people interviewed. There was little parallel focus on how to blend this with mid to long-term priorities such as livelihood support, agriculture, infrastructure rehab, and education.
- Phase 1 efforts lacked emphasis on disaster risk reduction, with expectations for significant developments in Phase 2. In Syria, challenges related to risk assessments, legal frameworks, early warning systems, resource allocation, and political commitment have been noted as potential impediments to successful DRR approaches.
- Communities in Syria are more familiar than in Türkiye with how to give feedback or complaints to NGOs, most likely as a result of the length of the crisis and continued presence of humanitarian agencies.
- DEC member agencies helped local organisations design Phase 1 activities, transferring knowledge, and providing capacity strengthening and technical support. However, some rapidly formed new partnerships present a potential concern for the well-being and development of local partner staff and organisations.

## Actionable Recommendations for DEC Members

### More effective use of needs assessments



Improve needs assessment effectiveness by optimizing the use of secondary data combined with standalone snapshots for key vulnerabilities. Improve coordination on needs assessment between DEC member agencies and local partners, enhance preparedness for targeted assessments during fast-onset emergencies, with a specific focus on vulnerable populations. Strengthen collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and volunteer networks for deeper insights into evolving needs.

### Enhancing disaster risk reduction



Invest in regular training and public awareness campaign activities to develop and implement community-based DRR with local communities in high-risk areas, focusing on knowledge about earthquake preparedness, evacuation protocols, and fundamental first-aid skills. Collaborate with national institutions to ensure that DEC member agencies and local partners have preparedness systems and protocols in place in line with national mechanisms.

### Enabling feedback and complaints



Invest in community groups as vital links between DEC member agencies, local partners, and community members, fostering trust, effective communication, and active participation. Revise existing mechanisms to ensure they are user-friendly, accessible, and culturally appropriate.

### Increasing NGO contribution to the Grand Bargain



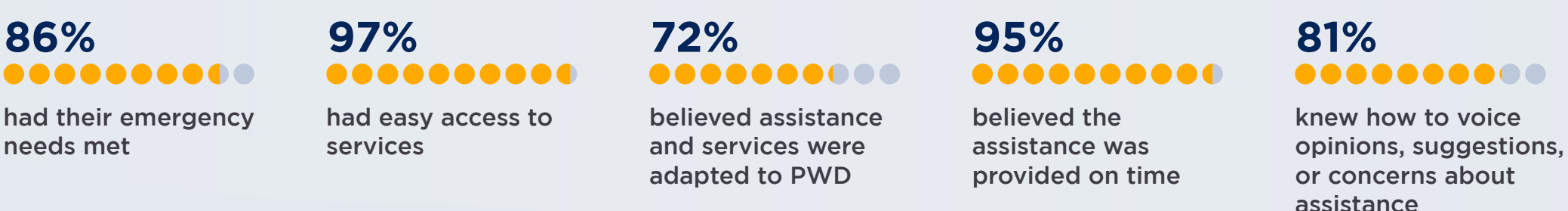
Local partners should continue investing in advocacy to stress the importance of the application of localisation priorities by DEC member agencies and donors for the TSE response (and beyond). Individually, have open discussions with DEC member agencies and donors on areas in need of organisational development support, stronger, more direct connections to funds, and increasing representation in key decision-making forums.

### Meeting mid to long term priorities



Design projects with a dual focus on short and mid-term solutions while aligning with longer-term priorities. Provide support and funding for community-led projects focusing on medium to long-term needs, including rebuilding infrastructure, livelihood support, and psychosocial services. Encourage community-driven resource mobilization initiatives, allowing communities to take ownership of their recovery by leveraging local knowledge, resources, and assets.

## Feedback From Earthquake Affected People



### Affected community satisfaction with.....?



## About NSDation



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