

Earthquake in Türkiye

In the early hours of Monday, 6 February 2023, a devastating earthquake of 7.7 magnitude hit Türkiye and Syria. An earthquake of 7.6 magnitude hit the same area nine hours later, followed by over 1000 aftershocks. This caused one of the biggest disasters in recent times, resulting in extensive damage, over 50,000 fatalities and 100,000 injured individuals. The impact of these earthquakes was felt across 11 provinces, with Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Gaziantep provinces being the hardest hit. In hundreds of years, these were the most significant earthquakes to hit Türkiye's southeast region and the largest to occur in the country in the last century.

Türkiye's healthcare system has been significantly affected by the earthquakes, causing damage to hospitals and health clinics in the impacted areas. As a result, there is a shortage of medical facilities for people who are injured or displaced. Additionally, medical supplies were left under the ruins of many locations. However, despite these unfavorable conditions, field hospitals managed to provide necessary initial treatments, and the injured were transferred to neighboring provinces.

The happening of such disasters emphasizes the significance of being prepared. "Kidney Health for All" is the theme of 2023 World Kidney Day as announced by the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), with the motto of "Preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable!"¹ This slogan must be taken into account in all healthcare facilities' preparedness plans.

As the Turkish Journal of Nephrology Editorial Board, we hope to learn from these painful experiences, become better prepared, and express our gratitude to all medical staff who have worked selflessly and courageously.

REFERENCE

1. Available at: <https://www.worldkidneyday.org/2023-campaign/2023-wkd-theme/?gclid>.

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