

# ICVA ACTION AREAS FOR EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA - 2023

13 March 2023



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## ICVA Action Areas for Earthquake Response in Türkiye and Syria – 2023

The February 2023 earthquake that struck southern and central Türkiye and northern and western Syria took the lives of over 50,000 people and left millions displaced. Ordinary people and communities were the first to get mobilized in support of each other and in starting the challenging efforts of search and rescue. While the initial response was largely government-led in Türkiye, international and national NGOs were at the frontline in Syria, relying on existing access, staff, and supplies of humanitarian crisis in that region.

As the response moves from the acute rescue phase to more long-term operations, ICVA members on the ground in both Türkiye and Syria are delivering humanitarian aid and responding to the needs of affected populations through a range of humanitarian programmes. ICVA's secretariat is taking the following approach to support NGOs during the current crisis:

### 1. Continued and Reinforced Support to Coordination Mechanisms

ICVA supports collective NGO coordination with the entire Whole of Syria (WoS)I mechanism as well as the newly established Turkish coordination mechanism. ICVA holds bilateral meetings with the heads of the NGO networks both local and international in the concerned countries to exchange updates and information on the situation and the existing coordination's platforms and linking issues on the field to discussions taking place in other global platforms such as the Emergency Directors Group (EDG).

ICVA takes an inclusive approach to coordination, taking into consideration the capacities and needs of local, national and international NGOs, calling on complementarity partnership with other key stakeholders and building upon existing systems wherever possible. The coming period is undoubtedly challenging for the current coordination mechanisms. ICVA will continue supporting the NGO fora and focus on continuation of operations, strengthening communications, increasing advocacy, and maintaining humanitarian access and preserving the humanitarian space.

- **Syria Response: Continued and Reinforced Support to Syrian Network League (SNL):** Given the current needs and based on a direct request from SNL, ICVA has agreed to support SNL by funding a key advocacy position within the network's secretariat. This is a short-term role to improve coordination efforts and ensure local organizations are connected in the various conversations happening at local, regional, and global levels and can amplify their voices through joint advocacy. Furthermore, ICVA will continue to provide information about the different advocacy opportunities and support the new advocacy position to represent and advocate on behalf of the larger Syrian CSO networks in Türkiye whose membership include more than 200 local Syrian CSOs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/whole-of-syria/coordination>

- **Türkiye Response: Deployment of Short-term Coordination Support:** ICVA has deployed a short-term consultant to support ongoing NGO coordination efforts for the Turkish earthquake response, identifying common issues and priorities of NGOs working on the response and those looking at establishing new operations. This role will also provide analysis on coordination models according to varying operational contexts and propose potential communication models.

## 2. Information-sharing and Connecting and Convening around the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

The current situation has fully mobilized the IASC system at all levels in support of the response.

- ICVA represents the NGOs participating in the earthquake response through its seats at the IASC Principals and the EDG.
- ICVA supports NGO collective advocacy and IASC system-wide advocacy, including contributions to high-level statements and other processes.
- ICVA systematically shares the latest information regarding the earthquake response, financial appeals, global opportunities, advocacy messages, etc. through the MENA weekly bulletins and other ad-hoc consolidated updates, the ICVA bulletin, and the various ICVA working groups, as well as through our participation in the coordination mechanisms.

## 3. Engagement of States and Donors

- **ICVA will continue to amplify the messages from members with States and donors, while also facilitating direct exchanges between States and NGOs.**
- ICVA will continue to advocate for the importance of NGOs, especially national and local NGOs working in the frontline of the response, to participate in and influence key global events, such as the EU-Sweden Donor Conference scheduled for March.
- Through the ICVA Humanitarian Financing Working Group, ICVA is facilitating exchanges with members and other NGO partners on funding access and partnership conditions, keeping NGOs abreast of the situation, supporting them to identify gaps and advocate jointly to address them.
- As member of the Pooled Fund working group, ICVA convened discussions with members on the unique funding context in the region, with two active humanitarian pooled fund covering the area, the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF).



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