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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



ISLAMIC RELIEF DELIVERS AID TO SURVIVORS OF TURKIYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

“Every building was shaking, people were shouting for their lost children and I saw so many people under the rubble.”

Islamic Relief is launching a RM103 million global appeal to provide urgent aid in Syria and Turkiye after today’s deadly earthquakes.

Islamic Relief aid workers on the ground witnessed the horror first-hand, seeing people trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings and children separated from their families in the chaos. At least 4,300 people are reported killed so far and the death toll is rising by the hour. Homes, hospitals, schools, mosques and other infrastructure have all been flattened by the two 7.8 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes – the worst to hit Turkiye in 20 years and the worst to affect Syria for over a century.

In northwest Syria, we will be providing urgent medical supplies to help hospitals and clinics that are overwhelmed by casualties, as well as blankets and tents for people who are now homeless in the middle of a freezing winter. In southeast Turkiye we will provide cash vouchers to survivors so they can meet their immediate needs such as buying food.

Affected communities in northwest Syria are especially vulnerable as years of violence and humanitarian crisis has destroyed vital infrastructure and left millions of people in extreme poverty.

Mohammed Hamza, Head of Islamic Relief’s office in Idlib, northwest Syria, witnessed the destruction first-hand:

“It was 4 am and I woke up to the house shaking from side to side. Everything was shaking, bricks were falling out. It felt like Judgement Day and everything would be completely destroyed. My wife was screaming and I went to my children but I didn’t know what we could do. We fled outside and saw thousands of people on the streets with just the clothes on their backs. People were shouting for their lost children – whole families were separated and lost.

“So many buildings were totally destroyed and I saw tens of people under the rubble, with crowds trying to pull them out. People are still out in the streets – they don’t have anything to go home to and we are all scared of aftershocks.

“Right now the Islamic Relief team here is distributing blankets, sheets and mattresses that we have in stock – but these will run out today and we need more as soon as possible. People urgently need tents, food parcels and blankets. Hospitals are inundated with injured people so we’re providing them with medicine and other supplies.”

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About Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief is an independent international humanitarian aid and development organization. Islamic Relief is headquartered in the United Kingdom and was founded in 1984. Islamic Relief serves in more than 45 countries, assisting more than 120 million people. The scope of Islamic Relief assistance covers emergency assistance, integrated sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and advocacy.

Islamic Relief has been operating in Syria since 2011 and in Turkey since 2012 by implementing various humanitarian aid projects involving the emergency sector, health, food, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, shelter, and sustainable livelihood.

About Islamic Relief Malaysia

Islamic Relief Malaysia was established in 2005, which aspires to continue Islamic Relief humanitarian assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. Islamic Relief Malaysia serves as a fundraising and project implementer for international and local projects.

Kindly visit the Islamic Relief Malaysia website, www.islamic-relief.org.my for more information.

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