

Abstract

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Differences in Initial Healthcare Responses Between Turkey and the Conflict-Ridden Area in Syria Following February 2023 Earthquakes

Abeer Santarisi M.D., MSc^{1,2}, Attila J. Hertelendy PhD^{1,3},
Fadi Issa M.D., MScDM, JBEM^{1,2}, Christina Woodward M.D., FACEP^{1,2},
Dana Mathew M.D., FACEP, FAWM, DiDMM¹, Jacob Noel M.D.¹,
Jeffery M. Franc M.D., MS(Stats), MSc(DM), FCFP(EM), D Sport Med^{4,5},
Amalia Voskanyan RN¹ and Gregory R. Ciottone M.D., FACEP, FFSEM^{1,2}

¹Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; ²Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; ³Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA; ⁴University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and ⁵Università del Piemonte Orientale, Vercelli, Piedmont, Italy

Abstract

Objective: This study analyzes disparities in initial healthcare responses in Turkey and Syria following 2023 earthquakes.

Methods: Using Humanitarian Data Exchange, Crude Mortality Rates (CMR) and injury rates in both countries were calculated, and temporal trends of death tolls and injuries in the first month post- catastrophe were compared. WHO Flash Appeal estimated funding requirements, and ratios of humanitarian aid personnel in Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams per population from ReliefWeb and MAPACTION data were used to gauge disparities.

Results: 56,051,096 individuals were exposed, with Turkey having 44 million vs 12 in Syria. Turkey had higher CMR in affected areas (10.5 vs 5.0/10,000), while Syria had higher CMR in intensely seismic regions (9.2 vs 7.7/1,000). Turkey had higher injury rates (24.6 vs 9.9/10,000). Death and injury rates plateaued in Syria after three days, but steadily rose in Turkey. Syria allocated more funding for all priorities per population except healthcare facilities' rehabilitation. Turkey had 219 USAR teams compared to Syria's six, with significantly more humanitarian aid personnel (23 vs 2/100,000).

Conclusions: Significant disparities in initial healthcare response were observed between Turkey and Syria, highlighting need for policymakers to enhance responses in conflict-affected events to reduce impact on affected populations.

Supplementary material. The supplementary material for this article can be found at <http://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2024.210>.