

Türkiye Seismic Event Humanitarian Response
Initial Key Environmental Considerations Overview
Issue #1
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Introduction

This **Overview** provides organizations responding to the disaster in Türkiye with summary guidance on the environmental elements to be considered in assessments and planning and delivering assistance.

Further information on the topics covered in the **Overview** can be found at WWF [Environment and Disaster Management](#) and [Environmental Emergency Centre](#). Additional guidance on environmental issues, as well as environmental laws and regulations, will be developed as the scope of the disaster and relief and recovery requirements are better known.

The **Overview** was developed by the Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice.

Disaster Overview

Details on the disaster in Türkiye can be found at these sites, which should be consulted regularly for updates:

- <https://en.afad.gov.tr/>
- <https://response.reliefweb.int/turkiye-cross-border>
- <https://reliefweb.int/country/tur>

Summary Guidance

Sector	Guidance Summary	Environmental/Risk Reduction Implication/Opportunity
Energy	1. Re-establishing electricity and access to bottled gas to minimize use of alternate sources of energy, particularly the use of disaster debris for heating and cooking. 2. Assess needs for generators based on immediate and long term energy needs, fuel availability and noise pollution 3. Establish health-and-safety plans and guidance (e.g., for carbon monoxide poisoning, fuel storage safety) and loan-and-return programs.	1. Enable banking activities, particularly cash points, to enable disaster affected to cover their own needs through commercial markets. 2. Reduce air pollution and public health impacts of open fires. 3. Reduce deforestation to collect fuelwood. 4. Limiting generators to only short-term critical needs and recovering the generators when no longer needed will reduce air and noise pollution and permit reuse of the generators in other disasters. 5. Using bottled gas for small generators will lead to lower emissions compared to using gasoline.
Communications	Re-establishing communications to improve access to information on needs.	Improve information sharing will permit a better matching of relief and commercial supplies to clearly defined needs.
Environmental Information in	1. Incorporating R/UNEAT and REA information needs into needs	1. Improve impact of humanitarian response by more clearly matching

Needs Assessments	assessments and providing analysis of assessment results. 2. Incorporate environmental expertise in assessment and coordination teams.	needs and resources and avoiding negative impacts from assistance. 2. Improve ecological restoration for human security, water management, livelihoods, landslide risk reduction.
Debris Management	1. Develop assessments of the volumes and nature of disaster debris. 2. Use established guidance to plan and execute debris management operations (See https://resources.eecentre.org/resources/disaster-waste-management-guidelines-dwmg-online/) and https://www.humanitarianlibrary.org/collection/debris-management).	1. Quick clearance of debris will speed up physical rebuilding and reduce environmental sanitation hazards. 2. Expert-developed and implemented debris management plans will lead to recycling and reuse of debris and reduce quantities disposed in landfills or elsewhere. 3. Efficient management of debris will reduce transport requirements (reducing CO² footprint) and reduce anarchic debris disposal.
Asbestos	1. Incorporate safe management of asbestos into debris management plans. 2. Do not use asbestos-containing materials in emergency, transitional or permanent shelter.	Asbestos presents a short- and long-term health hazard. Although now banned, it is likely present in building and debris (see https://www.duvarenglish.com/health-2/2019/12/30/asbestos-continues-to-threaten-public-health-in-turkey https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/14/11/1293, https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/10.1164/rccm.201810-1922LE; http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_asb_ban_turkey.php).
Winter and Spring Forecasting	1. Medium- and Long-term forecasts should be developed to assess potential impacts from Winter and Spring weather, including risks of flooding.	1. Winter forecasts of temperature and precipitation can be used to project heating and shelter (including clothing) needs. 2. Spring forecasts can identify the potential for flooding and be used to identify flood zones as well as drainage systems which need to be cleared to reduce flooding risks.
WASH	Damage assessments and response plans should include impacts of seismic actions, debris management and shelter operations on the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene and include solid and liquid waste management.	1. Shelter sites need sufficient water supplies and sanitation management capacities before occupation. Shelter sites without basic water and sanitation are not likely to be occupied and be a waste of resources. 2. Solid and liquid waste needs to be properly collected and managed to limit environmental damage.
Biohazard Waste Management	New or upgraded systems are needed to handle an expected increase in biohazard considering	Poor management of biohazard waste can lead to negative impacts on human health and environment.

	likely widespread damage to existing specialized management systems.	
Procurement	1. Avoid air transport of non-life saving or life sustaining supplies. 2. Shift to ground transport as quickly as possible. 3. Shift to local environmentally and socially responsible procurement as soon as markets allow. 4. Incorporate measures to reduce packaging to minimums. 5. Develop waste management plans as part of supplies procurement planning.	1. Minimize transport CO² footprint. 2. Minimize packaging waste and pressure on existing waste management systems. 3. Use environment-impact-based specifications for non-food items (NFI) and in planning distribution of funds to affected populations.
Fire Safety	Minimize fire risk in emergency/transitional shelter from heating, lighting and cooking (see https://www.kindlingsafety.org/ for more guidance.)	Fires destroy shelter and relief assistance, leading to an unnecessary doubling in the quantity of assistance for affected populations.
Donated Commodities	1. Match donated commodities to assessed needs and avoid sending commodities for which an explicit need has not been identified. 2. Establish an online or physical market place for sharing commodities across response programs.	Donated commodities can often exceed needs or be culturally or functionally inappropriate. Matching commodities to needs reduces unnecessary transport and eventual waste management requirements in the disaster-affected area.

Acronyms

1. R/UNEAT: Rural/Urban Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool
2. REA: Rapid Environmental Assessment