Why first 72 hours crucial for rescues

AFP, *Paris*

Time was running out for survivors buried in the rubble of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, as search efforts near the crucial 72-hour mark, a rescue response expert said yesterday.

More than 90 percent of earthquake survivors are rescued within the first three days, said Ilan Kelman, a professor of disasters and health at University College London. With the 72-hour window closing early this morning, Kelman told AFP why this timeframe is so important.

INJURIES, TEMPERATURE

"Generally, earthquakes do not kill people, collapsing infrastructure kills people," said Kelman, who has published research on quake rescue responses. The most pressing factor is getting medical attention to people crushed under collapsed buildings before "their bodies fail" or they bleed out, he said.

Weather is also a key factor, and "it is completely against us" in Turkey and Syria, Kelman said. "This very sadly means that hypothermia is possible, and people are probably unfortunately perishing due to the weather," Kelman said.

GETTING HELP TO THE SCENE

Kelman said that normally "the vast majority of survivors are brought out within 24 hours by local teams, often using no more than their hands or a shovel."

Dozens of nations have pledged to send search and rescue teams as well as relief supplies to Turkey and Syria. But the quake occurred in "a remote area, in a conflict zone, which is very difficult to get into," Kelman said. It generally takes at least 24 hours for international rescue teams to arrive, get set up and start working.

"At that point, a good number of the people who could have survived have already perished," Kelman said.

HOW TO FIND SURVIVORS?

Once on the scene, there are a range of ways that rescue teams can find earthquake survivors, including dogs which sniff through rubble. A particularly famous team of quake rescue dogs from Mexico is on its way to Turkey, Kelman pointed out.

BEFORE THE 72 HOURS STARTS

Kelman emphasised that "ultimately, a successful rescue operation starts decades before the earthquake to try to stop the infrastructure collapsing in the first place".

During an international rescue operation such as those in Turkey and Syria, it costs an average of $1 million per life saved, he said. "If we would see levels of investment in disaster prevention that we are seeing in disaster response, we would not be in this situation."

Rescuers carry a Syrian boy after he was pulled from the rubble in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake in Hatay, Turkey, yesterday.

PHOTO: **REUTERS**

TURKEY, SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

Hope, heartbreak as children pulled from rubble

AGENCIES

A photograph of a father holding the hand of his teenage daughter who died trapped under the rubble of a flattened building in the Turkish region of Kahramanmaras conveys the scale of the suffering provoked by Monday's magnitude 7.8 earthquake and its aftershocks.

Sitting amid the rubble, Mesut Hancer held on to his 15-year-old daughter's hand which was all that showed from under the slabs of concrete piled above her lifeless body. Nearby, rescuers manually worked through the ruins.

It is just one of a number of harrowing images that have emerged of some of the millions of children caught in the catastrophic earthquake in Turkey and Syria, which was followed by a second magnitude 7.6 earthquake hours later and more than 100 aftershocks.

Rescue efforts are ongoing, with moments of hope in the midst of the disaster.

A one-year-old baby was found alive yesterday in the Turkish province of Sanliurfa after spending 53 hours trapped under a collapsed five-storey building, Turkey's Anadolu Agency reported.

A mother and her two-year-old daughter were rescued in Iskenderun nearly 44 hours after the first tremor hit the Hatay province, which was among the most affected.

In the city of Kahramanmaras, Al Jazeera's Resul Serdar detailed how rescuers saved a 14-year-old girl who was trapped under the rubble for more than 40 hours.

"When the rescue team took her out, the first thing that she said was, 'Please save my father as well.'

Her father was very close to her and he was also alive. Later, during the night, her father was also pulled out from the rubble, but two of the other family members, unfortunately, could not survive," Serdar said.

The rescued are the fortunate ones as the UN on tuesday said thousands of children might have died in the disaster that struck when people were speeling.

UNICEF said the images of so many children being caught up in the disaster were "heart-wrenching".

Anger grows

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people out of here alive are very high," he added.

Officials and medics said 9,057 people had died in Turkey and 2,992 in Syria from Monday's 7.8-magnitude tremor, bringing the total to 12,049 -- but that could yet double if the worst fears of experts are realised.

The World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned that time was running out for the thousands injured and those still feared trapped.

Due to the scale of the damage and the lack of help coming to certain areas, survivors said they felt alone in responding to the disaster.

"Even the buildings that haven't collapsed were severely damaged. There are now more people under the rubble than those above it," a resident named Hassan, who did not provide his full name, said in the rebel-held town of Jindayris.

"There are around 400-500 people trapped under each collapsed building, with only 10 people trying to pull them out. And there is no machinery," he added.

The White Helmets, leading efforts to rescue people buried under rubble in rebel-held areas of Syria, have appealed for international help in their "race against time".

They have been toiling since the quake to pull survivors out from under the debris of dozens of flattened buildings in northwestern areas of war-torn Syria that remain outside the government's control.

"International rescue teams must come into our region," said Mohammed Shibli, a spokesperson for the group known formally as the Syria Civil Defence.

"People are dying every second; we are in a race against time," he told AFP from neighbouring Turkey.

The issue of aid to Syria was a delicate one, and the sanctioned government in Damascus made an official plea to the EU for help, the bloc's commissioner for crisis management Janez Lenarcic said.

A decade of civil war and Syrian-Russian aerial bombardment had already destroyed hospitals, collapsed the economy and prompted electricity, fuel and water shortages.

The European Commission is "encouraging" EU member countries to respond to Syria's request for medical supplies and food, while monitoring to ensure that any aid "is not diverted" by President Bashar al-Assad's government, Lenarcic noted.

Dozens of nations, including the United States, China and the Gulf States have pledged to help, and search teams as well as relief supplies have already arrived.

A winter storm has compounded the misery by rendering many roads -- some of them damaged by the quake -- almost impassable, resulting in traffic jams that stretch for kilometres in some regions.

The European Union was swift to dispatch rescue teams to Turkey after the massive earthquake struck the country on Monday close to the border with Syria.

But it initially offered only minimal assistance to Syria through existing humanitarian programmes, because of EU sanctions imposed since 2011 on Assad's government over its brutal crackdown on protesters that spiralled into a civil war.

The Turkey-Syria border is one of the world's most active earthquake zones.

Monday's earthquake was the largest Turkey has seen since 1939, when 33,000 people died in the eastern Erzincan province.

In 1999, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake killed more than 17,000.

Chattogram City Corporation

Tigerpass, Chattogram
www.ccc.org.bd

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.36.05.87.23 Dated: 06/02/23

e-Tender Notice-CCC/XEN-5/2022-23/05

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 1.00pm, February 2023.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	ccc/d05/ward8/ rev-2	Development work of Bahaddarhat Jame Mosque at 8 No. Ward	786413	23-02-2023 12:00	23-02-2023 14:00

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (http://www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd).

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e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works:

e-Tender ID No.	Name of the work	Last date and time for tender security submission	Tender/ proposal closing date and time
788317	Installation of Barbed Wire Fence Around Brick Kiln of Mollapara and West Side of Poba Stockyards under Rajshahi PWD Division-2	22-Feb-2023, 11:00	22-Feb-2023, 12:00
788312	False Celling Works and Installation of Cabinet including Necessary Repair-Renovation Works at Academic Office Room of Departmental Head of Surgery and Gynae & Obs Division at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.	22-Feb-2023, 11:00	22-Feb-2023, 12:00
788548	Construction of Remaining Civil, Sanitary & Electrification Works at Govt. Shishu Hospital, Rajshahi.	22-Feb-2023, 11:00	22-Feb-2023, 12:00

This is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered banks' branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-227

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON SYSTEM UPGRADATION

Dear Valued Customer

Please be informed that for better Customer Service experience, we will upgrade our **system** on **10th February (Friday), 2023.** During this period, certain services will be **temporarily unavailable.**

START TIME: 09th FEBRUARY, (Thursday), 2023, 11:59 PM

END TIME: 10th FEBRUARY, (Friday), 2023, 02:00 PM

The following services of LankaBangla Finance will be temporarily unavailable during system upgradation:

- Mastercard Transactions
- FinSmart App and Shikha Chatbot

Once the system is restored, you will be notified accordingly

We apologize for the inconvenience caused and appreciate your understanding.

Thank you for being with **LankaBangla Finance**

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