

JUSTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCY REVIEW

Crisis Assistance Request Form - Turkiye, OMB Number 1405-XXXX.

On Monday, February 6, 2023, a devastating earthquake occurred in the Southeast region of Turkey, near Gaziantep. That afternoon, a separate 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck near Elbistan, in Kahramanmaras. U.S. Mission Turkiye remains fully staffed, however, it has deferred all non-essential travel to the areas affected by the earthquake. Large aftershocks are expected to occur for at least a week, if not longer. Furthermore, Turkiye estimates there are 17,000 dead with thousands injured, and infrastructure is severely damaged in affected areas. U.S. citizens are among the potentially injured, homeless, or destitute in the following regions: Adana, Adiyaman, Batman, Bingol, Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Elazig, Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Kahramanmaras, Kilis, Malayta, Mardin, Mersin, Mus, Osamiye, Sanliurfa, Sirnak, Siirt, Tunceli, and Van.

Subsequent to those actions, as reflected in a February 6 press statement from the Secretary of State and a February 6 Travel Alert, the Department has taken further steps to advise U.S. citizens of travel options to depart affected areas, to include cost-free air travel from Adana, Sanliurfa, Adiyaman, Elazig, Diyarbakir and Gaziantep.

With respect to U.S. citizens in Turkiye, the Department's primary role is to keep the U.S. citizen community informed of safety and security developments. The Secretary's press statement and most recent alert advises U.S. citizens in Turkiye who wish to travel out of affected areas and require assistance to contact the U.S. embassy in Ankara so that the Department may better understand and effectively communicate with them about individual consular assistance they may need. Additionally, the Department has advised U.S. citizens needing food and shelter to seek support at various Turkish relief shelters located in affected areas. In order to more effectively assist U.S. citizens directly impacted by this natural disaster, the Department intends to make available an online assistance request form that will be located at <https://cacms.state.gov/s/crisis-intake>.

The Department will use this online form to acquire the most current and accurate data possible to inform our consular assistance efforts. It will allow us to build a true and timely picture of how many U.S. citizens plan to remain in affected areas of Turkiye and support options available. The online form helps avoid unstructured requests for assistance, such as those that arrive via e-mail messages or via social media. These ad hoc efforts may not include important information, such as family size and their

biodata, and which often require entry into other systems to facilitate responses. The proposed online assistance request form is integrated with other elements of the Department's evolving information technology platform used in crisis-management situations, enhancing the efficient handling of individual cases.

The Department has therefore determined that:

1. This collection is necessary without allowing for the time normally associated with a routine submission for review under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collection allows the Department to build a more accurate picture of how many U.S. citizens plan to remain in the affected areas of Turkiye and support options available.
2. This collection is essential to the mission of the Department of State, which has no higher priority than the safety and welfare of U.S. citizens overseas. The purpose of the collection is to enable the Department to better communicate with U.S. citizens and LPRs who are in need of assistance in departing Turkiye, amid continued aftershocks and a breakdown in basic government services affecting U.S. citizens and others visiting or residing in impacted areas.
3. The use of normal clearance procedures would prevent the Department from obtaining this information on a timely basis, amid threats of additional aftershocks and conditions that are unpredictable and may further deteriorate with little notice.

Due to the ongoing crisis, the Department of State requests OMB's formal emergency review and approval of this information collection.



Angela Kerwin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizens Services,
Bureau of Consular Affairs

February 9, 2023

Department of State.