

**FEBRUARY 2023 EARTHQUAKES IN TURKEY AND SYRIA: OBSERVATIONS FROM  
THE FIELD AND THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING OFFICE**

Ayse Hortacsu

Applied Technology Council

**Abstract**

The Learning From Earthquakes (LFE) program of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) deployed several teams to conduct reconnaissance activities in Turkey following the February 6, 2023 earthquakes. The findings from the teams, along with the observations from the GEER Association field teams are summarized in the report available here:

[https://learningfromearthquakes.org/2023-02-06-nurdagi-turkey/images/2023\\_02\\_06\\_nurdagi\\_turkey/GEER\\_2023\\_Turkey\\_Earthquake\\_FullReport\\_ReducedSize.pdf](https://learningfromearthquakes.org/2023-02-06-nurdagi-turkey/images/2023_02_06_nurdagi_turkey/GEER_2023_Turkey_Earthquake_FullReport_ReducedSize.pdf).

This presentation brings forward highlights from the field observations with a focus on typical damage to reinforced concrete frame structures, and the impact of this damage to property and to the community functions. The presentation also reports on the post-earthquake functionality of two hospitals serving the same community, along with data collected from additional healthcare facilities in the region. Although the code requirements pertaining to structural engineering in the last two decades are on par with the requirements in the U.S., the observations from the field indicate that lack of code enforcement during the design and construction phase may have an impact on the performance of the buildings.