



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

Contents: Family Tent - Fire Retardant (Item # 08038)  
PO No.: 5674  
PO Quantity: 4500  
Consignor (Supplier & Manufacturer): National Tent House - National Tent House  
Country of Origin: Pakistan  
Consignee: AEEU S - CE3 Warehouse (UAE)  
Destination: Doha (UAE)  
No. of Tents: 15

## UNHCR TÜRKİYE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE

13 February 2023

Tents and thermal blankets received in Istanbul, airlifted from UNHCR's warehouse in Dubai, are being prepared for delivery to Gaziantep. © UNHCR/Osman Orsal

### BACKGROUND

- Two earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.5 magnitude were recorded in Kahramanmaraş Province in Türkiye's southeast on 6 February, impacting eleven provinces. Over 2,700 aftershocks have been registered in the region so far.
- According to [official reports](#) by AFAD, as of 10:55 on 13 February, 31,643 people have lost their lives, while 158,165 people have been evacuated to other provinces.
- A three-month state of emergency has been declared for ten provinces directly affected by the earthquake. Schools are closed until 20 February across the country, and at least until 1 March in the impacted region. The second semester in institutions of higher education will be held virtually, so that the student dormitories can be vacated and used for earthquake survivors in need of emergency shelter.
- State authorities have declared a Level-4 emergency entailing a call for international assistance. Close to 35,500 search and rescue workers were deployed from state institutions to the earthquake areas and over 9,700 personnel from other countries, according to AFAD on 13 February, while the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) has stated that Türkiye has received commitment of support from 99 countries, with 74 countries currently on the ground and mainly working on search and rescue operations. Almost 240,000 personnel, including volunteers, local authorities and support team, are working on relief efforts.
- UNHCR is responding with life-saving core relief items based on the request of the Turkish government to international organizations and bilaterally to UNHCR. These include mainly emergency shelter materials, blankets, hygiene and kitchen items, and solar lamps.

## KEY FIGURES



**3**

UNHCR offices in Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa with a total of

**85**

staff



**9,600**

tents and

**660**

tent accessories were dispatched so far by UNHCR from global stocks and the Gaziantep warehouse and more are on the way



**4,000**

high-thermal blankets were dispatched from the Dubai warehouse



**Thousands**

of NFIs were dispatched from the Gaziantep warehouse

## UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS

- The Turkish government is leading the response through coordination by the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). The Turkish Red Crescent and several humanitarian organisations are working alongside AFAD.
- Search and rescue operations continue as a priority a week after the earthquake which has impacted local residents and persons under temporary and international protection. Hatay Airport has re-opened on 12 February for delivery of aid and the evacuation of people to other provinces.
- Relief and shelter are being provided by the Government of Türkiye in sports and youth centres, schools and university dormitories. Organisations are delivering blankets, tents, relief items, setting up mobile kitchens and WASH facilities, and providing hot meals and beverages in the affected provinces. Mobile social service centres are so far active in Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Osmaniye, and Malatya provinces with services and psychosocial support being provided to people in and outside the earthquake zone.
- To facilitate the evacuation of people from the affected zones, and inter-city movement of refugees and asylum-seekers from provinces hit by the earthquake, the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) lifted the need for travel permits provided persons under temporary and international protection approach the provincial directorates in the province to which they travel (with the exception of Istanbul), to receive a 90-day valid travel permit. PMM has advised foreigners traveling to go to provinces where they have relatives and where they can meet their urgent and basic needs, especially accommodation.

## UNHCR CAPACITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

UNHCR has declared the Türkiye and Syria earthquakes a Level 2 emergency (out of 3) for a period of six months. This allows for an enhanced and more agile support to the response.

### Delivery of Life-Saving Assistance

- UNHCR is supporting the relief efforts of the Government of Türkiye in liaison with AFAD and the Presidency for Migration Management (PMM). UNHCR is prioritizing the delivery of core relief items and shelter interventions for the time being and working with its partners and communities to identify and assess the overall needs of refugees and the host community. UNHCR's partners are also supporting the search and rescue efforts.
- UNHCR is coordinating with PMM the provision of core relief items including blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, heaters, food packs and warm clothing for PMM-managed centres, including some 12 temporary accommodation centres (TACs), five of which have been re-opened to accommodate affected refugees and local residents.
- So far, UNHCR has released 9,000 kitchen sets, 3,000 hygiene kits, 3,000 sanitizers, over 2,100 foam mattresses and 3,300 blankets to TACs in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Osmaniye, Malatya, Kilis and Hatay.
- UNHCR is dispatching further tents and winter kits from its global stocks in Europe and the Middle East regions to provide urgently needed shelter assistance in coordination with AFAD who is arranging airlifts through Turkish Airlines and road transport to Türkiye.

### UNHCR Response

- UNHCR is using its communication with communities (CwC) channels and to disseminate information and messages to communities in multiple languages. During the first week of the emergency, the UNHCR Türkiye Information Board posted information about travel permits for refugees and asylum-seekers, contact information related to children found and rescued, as well as information on the UNHCR counselling line, and various ways to support the relief efforts. A dedicated page has been set up on the UNHCR Türkiye's Help website for earthquake resources.
- As of 10 February, UNHCR's counselling line responded to 690 calls from 19 locations. The majority of calls were from Syrian nationals followed by Afghan and Iranian nationals. The top three provinces where calls were made were Gaziantep, Malatya and Hatay, and the top queries were related to support for accommodation, food and core relief items.
- To meet with communities affected, and support staff and their families, UNHCR Representative visited Hatay and Gaziantep on 10-12 February. He also met with the President of Migration Management at Nisip temporary accommodation centre, which has been re-opened to provide shelter to refugees impacted by the earthquake.
- Buildings in the three provinces of southeast Türkiye where UNHCR has field offices (Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Hatay) have been impacted by the earthquake. A UNHCR mission is assessing office premises in the region for necessary safety recommendations, including staff residences. Initial findings indicate that office buildings in Gaziantep are safe.





Tents and thermal blankets received in Istanbul, airlifted from UNHCR's warehouse in Dubai, are being prepared for delivery to Gaziantep.  
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## APPEALS AND FUNDING

- On 10 February, UNHCR held a donor briefing in Ankara focused on the earthquake emergency response. Over 30 donor representatives from 18 countries were present at the briefing.
- UNHCR is grateful for all support and queries from government donors and the private sector. So far, offers from private sector companies have been confirmed for shelter, blankets, hygiene and cleaning products as well as food and medicine, the latter will be delivered directly to AFAD.
- The United Nations Country Team is using existing mechanisms such as the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) to prioritise a rapid needs assessment to support the Government of Türkiye and coordinate its requests for assistance. Furthermore, a UN-centred Earthquake Response Team to coordinate the response has been formed consisting of the Resident Coordinator and UN agencies.
- The European Commission and Sweden announced on 8 February an initiative to host a donor conference, in coordination with the Turkish authorities, to mobilise funds from the international community in support of the people of Türkiye and Syria. The conference will likely be hosted in Brussels this March and chaired by DG NEAR and the Swedish Ministry for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade.
- The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Martin Griffiths, visited Ankara and Gaziantep on 10-11 February prior to a visit to Syria to advocate for support for the relief effort. The ERC met with the Turkish Foreign Minister, the Vice President and the President of AFAD. The ERC also visited Kahramanmaraş and Hatay to meet with communities impacted by the earthquakes and oversee search and rescue efforts.