



UNHCR TÜRKİYE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE

16 February 2023

BACKGROUND AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Two earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.5 magnitude were recorded in Kahramanmaraş Province in Türkiye's southeast region on 6 February, impacting eleven provinces. Over 4,300 aftershocks have been registered in the region so far.
- According to official reports by The Disaster and Management Authority of Türkiye (AFAD), as of 09:00 on 16 February, 36,187 people have lost their lives, while 216,347 people have been evacuated to other provinces.
- A three-month state of emergency has been declared for 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, while 5,800 students have been transferred to schools in other cities according to the Ministry of National Education. Institutions of higher education teach virtually until summer, so that the student dormitories can be vacated and used for earthquake survivors in need of emergency shelter.
- Close to 11,500 search and rescue aid workers from other countries are working in affected areas according to AFAD on 16 February, and over 250,000 personnel, including volunteers, local authorities and support team, are working on relief efforts.
- 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. The Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) is coordinating the response with regards to refugees and asylum-seekers, among others.
- Relief and shelter are being provided by the Government of Türkiye in sports and youth centres, schools and university dormitories. Municipalities in provinces outside of the earthquake zone are opening their centres and community spaces to receive people who have lost their homes. Organisations are delivering blankets, tents, relief items, setting up mobile kitchens and WASH facilities, and providing hot meals and beverages in the affected provinces.
- UNHCR is responding with life-saving core relief items upon the request of the Turkish government. These include mainly emergency shelter materials, blankets, hygiene and kitchen items, and solar lamps.

UNHCR OPERATIONAL FIGURES TO DATE



25,500

UNHCR high-thermal blankets delivered



21,000

hygiene kits delivered



19,500

kitchen sets delivered



15,000

tents delivered



14,000

mattresses delivered



10,000

tarpaulin delivered

UNHCR CAPACITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Delivery of Life-Saving Assistance

- UNHCR is supporting the relief efforts of the Government of Türkiye in liaison with AFAD and PMM, prioritizing the delivery of core relief items and shelter interventions for the time being, and working with partners and communities to identify and assess the overall needs of refugees and the host community.
- With PMM, UNHCR is coordinating the provision of core relief items, including blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, heaters, food packs and warm clothing for PMM-managed centres, including the 12 temporary accommodation centres (TACs) to accommodate affected refugees and local residents.
- So far, UNHCR has provided 19,500 high thermal blankets, 12,000 foam mattresses and 19,500 kitchen sets, 12,000 supplementary food packs as well as heaters, hygiene items, winter clothes and boots, and other standard core relief items to PMM for distribution in the 12 TACs.
- UNHCR has also provided AFAD with close to 14,300 family tents, some 600 all-weather tents, 10,000 tarpaulin, 6,000 high-thermal blankets, and close to 12,000 hygiene parcels. UNHCR is also supporting the Ministry of Family and Social Services with tents, Rub Halls and powerbanks.
- UNHCR is procuring and dispatching additional in-kind items and hygiene materials from its stocks in-country as well as globally in Europe, the Middle East and Asia regions to provide urgently needed shelter assistance. Items are dispatched through airlift and road transport.

UNHCR Response

- UNHCR field units are carrying out preliminary assessments and coordinating with partners, communities and local NGOs to follow the movements of people, identify basic shelter needs and understand the needs on the ground. So far, the most pressing needs of people living in tents are blankets, mats, winter clothes, socks, diapers, baby food, and shoes.
- UNHCR's field teams are meeting with authorities from provinces neighbouring the affected areas to identify challenges, needs and population movements as they start receiving individuals from the earthquake affected provinces.
- Organisations and community initiatives, with which UNHCR operates, are mobilising to support earthquake-affected people who are moving into their provinces from the directly affected areas. These include associations in Ankara, Konya, Trabzon, Nevşehir and Kırşehir, among many others, which are organizing collection of relief items to respond to the urgent needs of families arriving in their provinces.
- Refugee-led associations are organising campaigns to support the population. For example, the Afghan Refugee Support Association (ARSA) in Kayseri organized a blood donation campaign in 62 provinces and mobilized around 300 volunteers to assist with Farsi interpretation support in the affected areas.

Communications with Communities (CwC)

- Through its CwC channels, UNHCR disseminates information and messages related to the earthquake from official sources (mostly PMM and the Ministry of Family and Social Services) to communities in multiple languages, including Arabic and Farsi.
- The UNHCR [Türkiye Information Board](#) posted information related to the movement of refugees and asylum-seekers from areas impacted by the earthquake, postponement of registration for international and temporary protection and residence permits, contact information and procedures related to unaccompanied children, as well as announcements for working group meetings for partners.
- A dedicated page has been set up on the [UNHCR Türkiye's Help website](#) for earthquake resources.
- Reach to UNHCR's CwC channels has increased almost threefold in the past week. Compared to the week prior, the Türkiye Information Board on Facebook recorded a 270% increase in reach and an almost 300% increase in new followers. The WhatsApp communication group had a 600% increase in clicks.

INTER-AGENCY

- At the inter-agency level, UNHCR has been supporting the UN earthquake response by participating in the Emergency Response Preparedness Working Group (ERPWG) and exchanging information on the humanitarian impact with 3RP sector and sub-sector coordinators. UNHCR is also contributing to discussions on an effective coordination mechanism for the earthquake, building on existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms, tools and initiatives and supplementing them where needed to support the inter-agency response to the earthquake.
- The inter-agency and information management teams jointly developed an ActivityInfo-based information-sharing tool to monitor partners' ongoing and planned actions and requests received from Government of Türkiye counterparts. The tool, which aims to prevent potential duplication in response, was shared with partners to compile data and bring out the most pressing emergency and basic needs items.
- The inter-agency and information management teams also developed a tool to track population movements occurring as a result of the earthquake. The tool aims to collect preliminary information with regards to immediate needs and interventions required for groups arriving in provinces and will serve to establish a general understanding on the scale of individuals arriving in provinces across Türkiye.
- To support an informed and coordinated response to the earthquake, UNHCR started to carry out an inter-agency assessment with 3RP partners to capture essential information obtained on an evolving needs and immediate response.

APPEALS AND FUNDING

The Türkiye Earthquakes Flash Appeal was launched on 16 February upon the Government of Türkiye's call for international assistance, to galvanize resources and enable humanitarian organizations to rapidly ramp up their operations in earthquake-affected areas in support of the government-led response. This Flash Appeal provides an initial estimate of the response requirements, amounting to USD 1 billion to support 5.2 million people. The total population in the eleven most affected provinces is of 15.5 million, of which 9.1 million are directly affected.

DONATE