



# UNHCR TÜRKİYE

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE

09 March 2023

### PROVINCES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKES



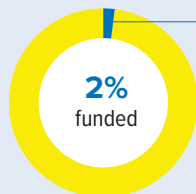
### UNHCR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(as of 7 March 2023)



**US\$ 150M**

UNHCR's financial requirements for the [earthquake emergency response in Türkiye](#), targeting 1.5 million people



Funded:  
**US\$ 2.4M**

The overall [funding to the Syria and Türkiye Earthquake Emergency Appeal](#) is 12%

### UNHCR ITEMS DELIVERED TO DATE



**102,000**  
high-thermal blankets



**45,000**  
sleeping bags



**40,800**  
hygiene kits



**28,700**  
foldable beds



**31,600**  
tents delivered



**19,500**  
kitchen sets



**15,300**  
mattresses



**10,000**  
plastic tarpaulin



A light base camp has been established in Hatay province to facilitate and maximise response efforts and provide office and accommodation space for UNHCR staff.

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## BACKGROUND AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- On 6 February two earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.5 magnitude took place in Türkiye's Kahramanmaraş Province, followed by subsequent earthquakes of 6.4 and 5.8 magnitudes on 20 February. Several other tremors of various magnitude in Malatya province and central Türkiye occurred on 27 February. Collectively, 11 provinces in Türkiye's south-east region and neighbouring Syria were impacted. To date, over 13,700 aftershocks have been recorded.
- As of 6 February, a three-month state of emergency was triggered for provinces directly affected by the earthquakes. On 24 February, the Disaster and Management Authority of Türkiye (AFAD) [declared](#) several districts of cities outside the 11 affected provinces "disaster zones". On 6 March [President Erdoğan](#) announced that over 46,100 people had lost their lives in the earthquakes, of whom at least 4,267 were Syrian nationals, according to the Minister of Interior's [statement](#) on 4 March.
- The [Minister of Interior announced on 5 March](#) that 332 tent sites have been established in the 11 earthquake-affected provinces. The sites include close to 370,500 tents hosting 1.5 million people. Additionally, around 209 container spots are set up across 10 provinces, of which 62 container spots (totaling 3,000 containers) are located in the worst-hit Hatay province. [According to the Turkish President](#), the government plans to set up 100,000 containers and initiate relocating people from tents within two months.
- The Minister of National Defence, [estimates](#) that as of 28 February, close to 42,000 Syrians have temporarily exited to Syria, through four border gates, Akçakale, Cilvegözü, Karkamış and Oncupınar. These temporary exits were reportedly to check on family in earthquake-affected areas in Syria and attend funerals, and well as due to loss of property in Türkiye.
- The Turkish government is leading the response through AFAD and provincial governors. The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), local partners and humanitarian organisations are working alongside AFAD. The Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) is coordinating support to temporary settlements accommodating refugees and members of the host community. Whereas the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) is making available protection and psychosocial services for women, children and at-risk groups.
- The inter-sector coordination mechanism for the earthquake response has moved from Ankara to Gaziantep on 1 March. UNHCR is leading the protection sector and cash-based intervention technical working group, and contributing to other sectors with partners, NGOs and UN agencies in collaboration with the local authorities and provincial directorates.
- UNHCR provides life-saving core relief items (CRI) upon the request of the Turkish government. UNHCR's CRI provisions include emergency shelter materials, tents, blankets, hygiene and kitchen items, solar lamps, heaters and winter clothes. UN agencies also provide support through in-kind and financial contributions through the UN coordination system.

### Delivery of Life-Saving Assistance

- In liaison with AFAD and PMM, UNHCR has prioritized the delivery of core relief items, winter clothing, tents and shelter materials. Additionally, UNHCR is working with partners and community members to identify and assess the needs of both refugees and host communities.
- UNHCR is procuring and dispatching core relief items (CRIs) and hygiene materials from stocks both in-country and in the Europe, Middle East and Asia regions to provide urgently needed shelter assistance. Items are dispatched through airlifts and road transport to provide urgently needed assistance.
- UNHCR is coordinating with PMM regarding the provision of CRIs to **PMM-managed centres**. The centres include 11 temporary accommodation centres (TACs) to accommodate affected refugees and local residents. So far, UNHCR has provided PMM with 19,500 high thermal blankets, 12,000 foam mattresses and 19,500 kitchen sets, 12,500 supplementary food packs, 9,000 hygiene parcels, as well as heaters, winter clothes and boots, and other standard core relief items for distribution in the TACs.
- UNHCR has delivered 4,000 high thermal blankets and 5,000 hygiene kits to **local authorities** hosting people who have moved from their provinces. UNHCR is also providing its **partners** with blankets and mattresses and support items for people with disabilities which include, but are not limited to, wheelchairs, walking sticks, crutches, slippers and hygiene items.
- UNHCR has provided **AFAD** with over 45,000 sleeping bags, 30,900 family tents and close to 600 all-weather tents, 28,700 foldable beds, 78,000 high-thermal blankets, over 26,800 hygiene parcels, 10,000 sheets of plastic tarpaulin and 3,100 foam mattresses. UNHCR has supported the **Ministry of Family and Social Services** with 3 Rub Halls and over 100 tents and 800 powerbanks.

### Field Response

- In provinces neighbouring the affected areas, UNHCR is working with the local authorities to identify needs, challenges and population movements, as they receive individuals from the earthquake-affected provinces. Accommodation is provided by refugee relatives, local associations as well as municipalities, sports centres and dormitories, among others.
- On 1 March, PMM informed UNHCR that provincial directorates of migration management (PDMMs) have so far issued around 126,000 travel permits for international and temporary protection beneficiaries who have been relocated, the majority being Syrian nationals.
- UNHCR teams in the south-east region are conducting district assessments focusing on general and protection-related questions complementing the Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA). Preliminary findings indicate that the top three common concerns of the affected communities are: information on services and assistance, shelter and social cohesion.

### UNHCR presence in the affected areas

- UNHCR conducts daily missions from Gaziantep to affected provinces to better understand the situation on the ground and follow up on activities. The emergency response capacity in Gaziantep is being upscaled through the onboarding of nine emergency deployees to support supply, administration, reporting, protection, field security and cash coordination.
- A light base camp has been established in Hatay to facilitate and maximise response efforts. This was made possible through a generous donation by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and their provision of two technical support staff.
- As of early February, UNHCR had three offices in Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa with 85 staff.

## COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES (CWC)

- As of 8 March, the UNHCR counselling line has received over 4,000 earthquake-related calls, seeking information about temporary accommodation or financial support. The top three nationalities calling were Syrian, Afghan and Iranian nationals. Most calls were received from Gaziantep, Hatay and Sanliurfa provinces. During the past week, around 500 individuals were identified from the counseling line as having increased vulnerability risks. They were referred to UNHCR's protection teams for further protection-related assessments.
- Through its CwC channels, UNHCR disseminates information and messages related to the earthquake from official sources to communities in multiple languages, including Arabic and Farsi. During the past week, the Help website [earthquake section](#), reached over 25,000 page views. UNHCR's Facebook Information Board, one of the main channels of information from UNHCR to refugees, received 126 new followers and a 10,850 reach. UNHCR also shared messages through its WhatsApp groups, in Arabic and Farsi, on how to reach services available in the earthquake areas, as well as earthquake preparedness messages.

## RESETTLEMENT

- Refugee resettlement needs continue to be high. UNHCR is asking resettlement countries to accelerate the resettlement of those already identified and accepted prior to the earthquake. Spain has responded to UNHCR's call for rapid resettlement and moved 88 refugees, most of them affected by the earthquakes, via charter flight approximately two weeks after acceptance. UNHCR and IOM issued a [joint press release](#).
- Accommodation for refugees affected by the earthquakes is a serious challenge, with many having lost their homes. UNHCR has been calling refugees in its resettlement pipeline affected by the earthquakes. Out of those called, 27 per cent have moved to a different province, and refugees residing in Hatay are the main group who has moved. Currently 13 per cent of refugees are without any shelter.

## SNAPSHOT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND LOCAL RESPONSE

- UNHCR continues to reach out to both Syrian and Afghan **community-based, and refugee-led, organizations** in earthquake-affected provinces and has conducted focus group discussions, key informant interviews and semi-structured interviews to better understand the needs of the refugees and the host community on the ground. During the first week of March, UNHCR met with representatives of organisations in Malatya, Mardin, Kilis and Sanliurfa provinces, where they support the aid distribution efforts of local authorities. The services provided by these organizations include accommodation, in-kind support, activities for children, and psychosocial services for women, children and people with disabilities. The findings show that the most urgent needs include shelter, blankets, food, and rental and financial assistance, and water, sanitation and hygiene as well as medical services. The affected population's immediate concerns include increased rental fees, loss of jobs and children's psychological conditions.

## INTER-AGENCY

- Under the OCHA-run inter-sector regional coordination mechanism put in place for the earthquake response, UNHCR is leading the Protection Sector and Cash Based Intervention Technical Working Group and contributing actively to other sectors, including Accountability to Affected Populations task team working group. Co-lead structures are still being defined. Additionally, there are four area-based coordination hubs in the worst-hit provinces.
- The recently completed multi-sectoral initial rapid assessment (MIRA), is informing the sectors' discussions on the needs and response priorities. The Government of Türkiye has also shared a consolidated list of needs, which sectors are now reviewing to see what can be prioritized within the Flash Appeal. Sectors are also working on an operational plan for the coming three months and sector log-frames to measure progress. For medium-term needs, the early recovery sector led by

UNDP is working on a Post Disaster Needs Assessment in collaboration with the Government, the World Bank and the European Union.

- UNHCR participates in the sector coordination meetings, including the PSEA network. During the reporting period, the child protection subsector focused on mapping referral pathways to ensure existing mechanisms are utilised; with family tracing, referral pathways and child safeguarding among the priority issues. Furthermore, the sub-working group related to prevention of violence towards women, children and other risk-groups, worked on the preparation and delivery of referral pathways tools to be disseminated among earthquake response teams in the field. UNHCR also took part in the Disability Inclusion Task Team (DITT) earthquake response meeting, where participants discussed the DITT and guidance documents on disability inclusive response, and information on specialized services for people with disabilities.

## APPEALS AND FUNDING

- In alignment with the Türkiye Earthquakes [UN Flash Appeal](#), UNHCR is appealing for USD 150 million to cover the emergency response in Türkiye through an [Earthquake Emergency Supplementary Appeal covering Türkiye and Syria](#). The overall aim of UNHCR's action is to improve living conditions of earthquake-affected people, and to assist those with specific needs, including among refugees, in finding and accessing necessary services including documentation and social protection.

- On 3 March, UNHCR held a virtual field briefing from Gaziantep on the earthquake situation. Some 30 donors from 24 embassies/missions based in Türkiye attended the briefing. UNHCR provided an update on the general situation in the earthquake-impacted provinces, and operational and protection-related developments, including the newly established coordination structure.
- UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the earthquake response, with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds as well as those who have provided earmarked contributions.

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