



UNHCR TÜRKİYE EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

30 March 2023

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Authorities [informed](#), on 27 March, about the government’s ongoing and planned rebuilding efforts for the earthquake-affected region: construction of residences, workplaces, village houses and hospitals have begun, with plans to build 319,000 houses within a year, and a further 14,600 small-scale industrial stores. Government efforts to provide temporary accommodation continue, including through distribution and installation of 525,000 tents and 36,000 containers so far.

On 27 March, schools began gradually reopening in different districts of the earthquake-affected provinces of Malatya, Adiyaman, Kahramanmaraş and Hatay. On 26 March, the Minister of National Education [informed](#) the public that 15,000 televisions were installed in containers to enable students in the earthquake zone to follow remote classes.

UNHCR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(as of 28 March 2023)



US\$ 150M

UNHCR's requirements for the earthquake emergency response in Türkiye, targeting 1.5 million people



The overall funding to the Syria and Türkiye Earthquake Emergency Appeal is 24%

UNHCR ITEMS DELIVERED TO DATE



103,600

high-thermal blankets



50,500

hygiene kits



45,000

sleeping bags



33,282

tents



28,728

foldable beds



22,500

kitchen sets



16,8160

foam mattresses



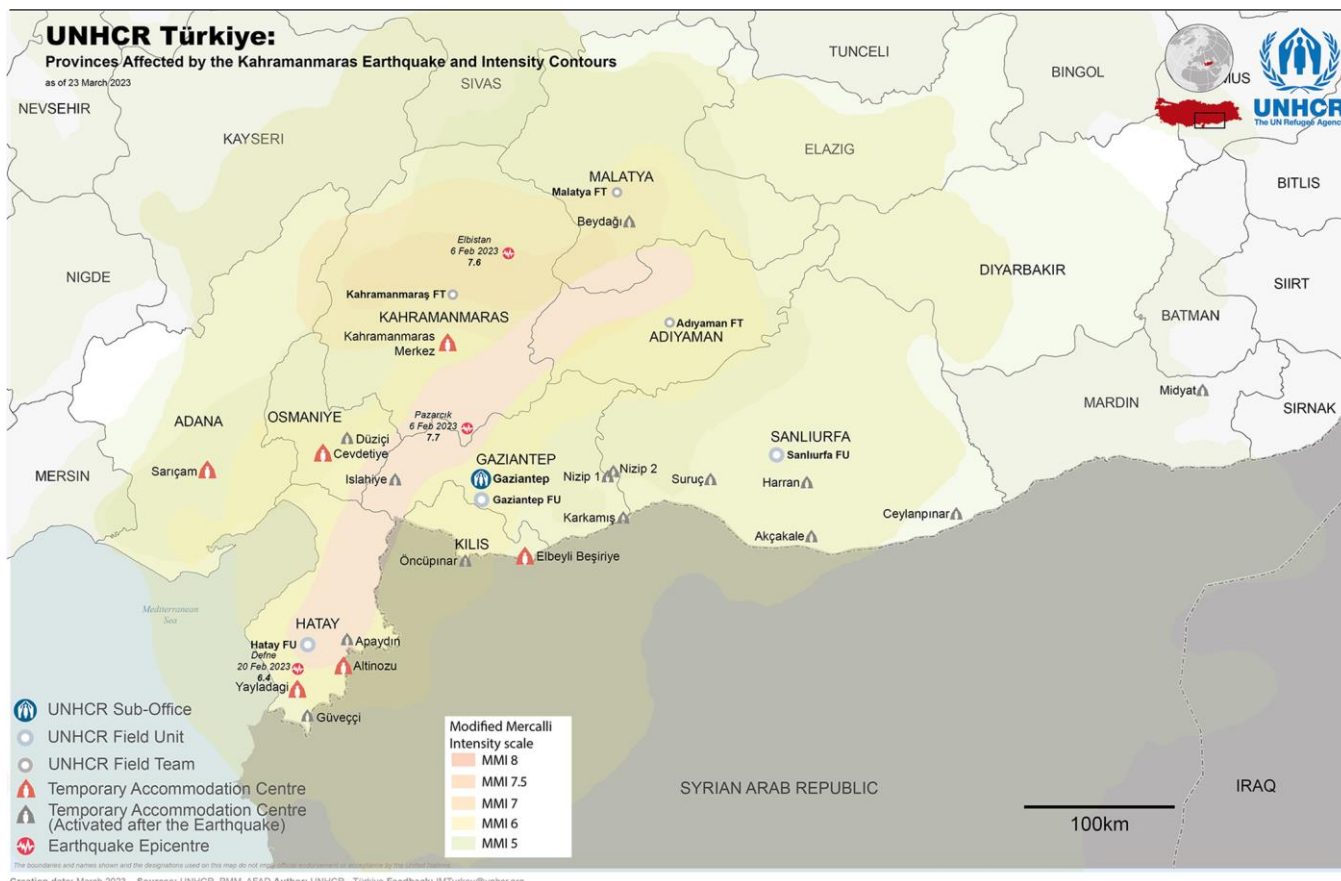
10,000

plastic tarpaulin



Overall 557,471

core relief items dispatched to Turkish authorities and partners



BACKGROUND

- Close to 18,200 aftershocks have been recorded since the earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.5 magnitude on 6 February, of which at least 45 were between 5 and 6 on the Richter scale, including one of 5.3 magnitude in Kahramanmaraş as recently as 23 March. The three-month state of emergency remains in place for the 11 provinces directly affected by the earthquakes.
- According to authorities, over 50,000 people have lost their lives in the earthquakes, of whom at least 6,800 are foreign nationals, most of them Syrians. The Minister of National Defence, estimates that, as of 27 March, close to 60,000 Syrians have, temporarily, exited to Syria, reportedly to check on family in earthquake-affected areas and attend funerals in Syria, and due to destruction of residences in Türkiye.
- The Turkish government is leading the response through the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Türkiye (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. The Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) offers protection and psychosocial services for women, children and other at-risk groups.
- UNHCR is providing core relief items (CRI) upon the request of the Turkish government, including emergency shelter materials, tents, blankets, hygiene and kitchen items, solar lamps, heaters and winter clothes. UN agencies also support through in-kind and financial contributions through the UN coordination system. The UN inter-sector coordination mechanism for the earthquake response has been operating out of Gaziantep since 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 CAPACITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Delivery of Life-Saving Assistance

UNHCR is delivering CRIs to PMM-managed centres, including its 12 temporary accommodation centres, AFAD, MoFSS, local authorities and partners. Items are dispatched through airlifts and road transport from stocks in-country and in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. To date, UNHCR has provided close to 32,500 family tents and 600 all-weather tents to AFAD and the MoFSS, and has delivered over 557,471 CRIs to these counterparts. Additional items are in the pipeline and will be delivered based on outcomes of rapid assessments and needs identified by partners and community members.

Communication with Communities (CwC)

Since 6 February, the UNHCR counselling line received over 5,700 earthquake-related calls that were predominantly placed by Syrian, Afghan and Iranian nationals in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş. The callers mainly sought information on accommodation and financial support.

UNHCR is disseminating official information and messages related to the earthquake in multiple languages, including Arabic and Farsi, through its CwC channels. Last week, the Help website's earthquake section reached over 50,500 page views since its launch on 8 February. The website provides information on post-earthquake recommendations, emergency hotlines, information on family tracing, eligibility for cash assistance and anti-fraud messaging.

Education

UNHCR continues to coordinate with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) to support the national earthquake response. UNHCR provided supplies to nine Public Education Centres, and 10 MoNE Coordination Centres in Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya provinces. UNHCR also supported 25 MoYS centres in Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Gaziantep, Osmaniye, Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Kilis provinces with CRIs.

Resettlement

This week, the Priority Situation Core Group, composed by 20 resettlement countries as well as EUAA, IOM and UNHCR, discussed how resettlement can further support the response and earthquake-affected refugees. Complementing the interviews carried out in Ankara and Istanbul last week, UNHCR has this week resumed resettlement interviews in Gaziantep in order to facilitate assessments of more vulnerable cases that have stayed in the earthquake-affected areas.

Field Response

UNHCR's protection partners' assessments and observations continued highlighting the specific needs of women and children. UNHCR has completed protection assessments for 698 people so far, identifying 625 individuals as having resettlement needs owing to specific vulnerabilities. Others were referred for medical, protection or legal services as well as UNHCR cash-for-protection interventions.

UNHCR continued working in provinces neighbouring earthquake-affected areas this week to identify needs, challenges and population movements of people arriving from impacted areas. Further, daily engagement with refugee-led organizations (RLOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) working with affected populations informs UNHCR on the needs and developments in impacted areas, with a focus on people with specific needs.

UNHCR presence in affected areas

UNHCR conducts daily missions from Gaziantep to affected provinces to gather updates and follow up on activities. The emergency response capacity in Gaziantep is enhanced with 10 surge deployees who support key areas of the response such as supply, protection, field security, and inter-agency coordination.

As of mid-March, UNHCR had 88 staff in Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa, and through the Office's temporary presence in Malatya. UNHCR established the temporary presence in Malatya on 13 March to ensure timely implementation of activities.

INTER-AGENCY

- Under the OCHA-run inter-sector regional coordination mechanism, established for the earthquake response in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and AFAD, UNHCR leads the Protection Sector, co-leads the Cash-Based Intervention Technical Working Group and contributes to other sectors, including the cross-cutting Accountability to Affected Populations coordination. Co-lead structures are still being defined. Additionally, four area-based coordination hubs operate in the worst-hit provinces.
- Centrality of Protection and Protection Mainstreaming remain at the core of the response, with the Protection Sector proactively liaising with the sectors and providing regular updates on protection-related initiatives at the inter-sector coordination cell in Gaziantep. Cross-sectoral thematic protection discussions are organized for the Protection Sector to further support other sectors.
- To strengthen localization, co-chairs have been elected for the Protection Sector (Association for Solidarity with asylum-seekers [SGDD-ASAM](#)), as well as for the sub-sectors on child protection ([Support to Life](#)) and violence against women, girls and vulnerable groups ([KAMER Foundation](#)). Both of these sub-sectors are jointly finalizing an Earthquake Field Observation Tracking Tool for Protection Trend Analysis to capture protection trends in the earthquake-affected areas, to support an evidence-based response. AFAD and local authorities, in particular the Provincial Directorates of the Ministry for Family and Social Services (PDoFSS), Health (PDoH) and Migration Management (PDMM) have been participating in several provincial protection meetings enhancing the local coordination to address the needs of persons with specific needs.
- The UNHCR-led Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Task Team for the Earthquake Response held its first meeting on 27 March. Initial results of the mapping of community engagement and communication modalities of member organizations of all sectors in the response were presented. The mapping covers modalities, target groups, areas of coverage and diversity of information available. An information session on AAP was also held during the Hatay Hub Coordination meeting on 24 March.
- The cash-based interventions technical working group (CBI TWG) met with participants from 28 organisations last week. The Turkish Red Crescent, co-chair of the CBI TWG, presented some key access barriers related to cash assistance. These relate to ID registration, address registration, access and mobility, and technical issues. Most of these barriers may be worsened because of the impact of the earthquake. UNHCR provided some programming-related lessons learnt from other programmes. The CBI TWG also discussed considerations for the implementation of Cash for Work, and participants, including local municipalities, agencies and organisations shared their experiences in the matter.
- 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. The Appeal is for a duration of three months.

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.

DONATE