

UNHCR TÜRKİYE EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

13 April 2023

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The UN Humanitarian Country Team briefed donors on the emergency earthquake response, early recovery measures and an outlook on activities after the three-month emergency period covered by the [Flash Appeal](#). UNHCR presented the Protection Sector, activities related to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Accountability to Affected Populations

(AAP) and disability inclusion. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave panel remarks at the briefing which took place on 11 April. Donors raised questions on the transition phase, linkages with international financial institutions and development actors, and the engagement of civil society in the response.

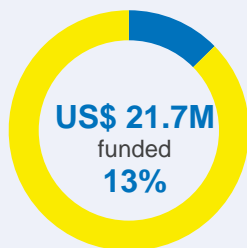
UNHCR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(as of 11 April 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 38%

UNHCR ITEMS DELIVERED TO DATE



**Overall:
661,000**

core relief items dispatched to Turkish authorities and partners; including among other:



180,200
sanitary
items



112,300
high-thermal
blankets



62,800
hygiene kits



56,700
sleeping mats/
mattresses



47,700
beds and
bedding



45,000
sleeping
bags



34,700
tents



32,500
kitchen
sets

UNHCR CAPACITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Delivery of Assistance

UNHCR continues to distribute core relief items (CRIs) to municipalities in the affected areas. In Hatay Province, UNHCR delivered tents to Iskenderun municipality for earthquake survivors, and a rub hall will be installed as office space. Another rub hall will serve as a school in Kırıkhan municipality.

UNHCR is also delivering CRIs to PMM-managed centres, including temporary accommodation centres, AFAD, MoFSS, local authorities and partners. To date, UNHCR has delivered over 661,000 CRIs to these counterparts.

Resettlement

UNHCR has resumed interviews in the resettlement facility in Gaziantep to expedite the assessment of cases related to refugees with vulnerabilities, who have remained in the earthquake-affected areas. More families are being interviewed, and many have expressed urgent accommodation needs as conditions remain dire. Many of these refugees sustained injuries or have lost loved ones to the earthquake, and their living circumstances in Türkiye make it difficult to recover from the trauma.

Field Response

UNHCR's protection partners' assessments and observations continue to highlight the specific needs of women and children. UNHCR interviewed and counselled 380 people this past week and completed protection assessments for 250 people. Around 230 individuals were identified as having resettlement needs owing to specific vulnerabilities and protection needs. Others were referred for medical, protection or legal services as well as UNHCR cash-for-protection interventions.

UNHCR presence in affected areas

UNHCR conducts daily missions from Gaziantep and Sanliurfa to affected provinces. To reinforce the emergency response capacity in the southeast, UNHCR has carried out 80 support missions with deployments to key areas of the response such as supply, protection, field security, and inter-agency coordination. As of 12 April, UNHCR has 83 staff in Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa, as well as in the temporary Office in Malatya, established on 13 March.

BACKGROUND

- The three-month state of emergency remains in place for the 11 provinces directly affected by the earthquakes of 6 February with close to **22,500 aftershocks** recorded since. According to authorities, over **50,300 people** have lost their lives, of which at least **6,800 are foreign nationals**, most of them Syrians.
- 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 community members. 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 upon request of the Turkish government from its stocks, private sector donations, and locally procured items, including emergency shelter materials, tents, blankets, hygiene and kitchen items, solar lamps, heaters and winter clothes. UN agencies also support with 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, with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting weekly in Ankara.

INTER-AGENCY

Latest developments

- OCHA has published the [Humanitarian Needs and Response Overview Interim Update](#) on 11 April, providing an overview of needs, response, gaps and priorities for the remaining period of the Flash Appeal until 17 May 2023.
- The Protection Sector has launched a [Community Engagement and Communication with Communities mapping tool](#). Channels such as WhatsApp, counselling hotlines, community centres and groups for refugees and host communities have been expanded to support earthquake-affected people with information on humanitarian services and government assistance.
- UNHCR has handed over coordination of the PSEA Network to the dedicated Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Coordinator. Collaboration between the PSEA Network, the AAP Task Team and the Protection Sector is ongoing to ensure the response maximizes existing systems and tools. Meanwhile, PSEA messages on the role and expected conduct of humanitarian actors during service provision have been disseminated to communities. New volunteers are trained on humanitarian principles and codes of conduct when assisting affected people.
- The Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI-TWG) reported that 9,240 people have so far received multipurpose cash assistance from six agencies. The CBI-TWG has also developed targeting criteria and recommended a harmonised amount for multipurpose cash across all partners (TRY 6,000 per household, some USD 310).
- The International Donor Conference in Brussels on 20 March has resulted in [pledges](#) amounting to just over EUR 6 billion in grants and loans for Türkiye.

Background

- 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, together with partners, NGOs and UN agencies in collaboration with the local authorities and provincial directorates.
- Additionally, four area-based coordination hubs operate in the worst-hit provinces with participation of representatives from AFAD, local authorities and provincial directorates, thereby enhancing the local coordination to address the needs of persons with specific needs.
- To strengthen localization, NGOs co-chair the Protection Sector (Association for Solidarity with asylum-seekers [SGDD-ASAM](#)), as well as the sub-sectors on child protection ([Support to Life](#)) and violence against women, girls and vulnerable groups ([KAMER Foundation](#)).
- 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.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the earthquake response with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds' as well as to those who have provided earmarked contributions.

DONATE