# Protection Sector Earthquake Situation Analysis
# Update #2

## Protection Overview

This document aims to provide an overview on the current protection situation including needs, challenges and opportunities of/for all affected populations by the EQ. Findings of the Joint Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Needs Assessment (MIRA), assessments of Protection Sector members, and field observations are the main sources of information.

***Access to assistance and services for most vulnerable/at risk groups***

- There is a need for increased support to persons with specific needs and those at risk in facilitating their access to services.
  - According to MIRA findings, unaccompanied older persons, persons with disabilities, persons with pychological disorders, lactating individuals and female headed households are among the most vulnerable / at risk groups.
  - Partner observations support these findings and indicate that hard-to-reach populations, such as those in rural areas, LGBTIQ+ individuals, women and children at risk of violence, persons in need of access to registration and documentation are also among the most vulnerable.
  - The need for specialized services vary based on locations, capacities of different social groups, such as refugees, as well as age, gender and diversities.
  - Persons residing in informal settlements require additional support in access to services and assistance provided through public institutions and complementary support by UN Agencies and I/NGOs.
  - At provincial level, sector members closely cooperate with Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Services within the framework of relevant approvals and the national legal framework. Provision of PSS as well as identification and referrals of high risk Protection cases are two of the most prominent cooperation areas.

***Limited service capacity as impacted by EQ***

- As a consequence of the EQ, service delivery capacity including on I/NGO side (inc. due to destruction of premises and staff well-being) has become limited against scale of needs. To mitigate this challenge, both public institutions and I/NGOs are working towards scaling up of their response and gradually expand their service capacities.

***Protection, gender, GBV and CP sensitive approaches in service delivery***

- Need to ensure that needs/capacities of vulnerable/at risk groups are mainstreamed in programming across sectors. Principled interventions and integrating do no harm approach across all interventions is crucial.
  - In view of the most vulnerable groups especially persons with disabilities, there is a need for specialized arrangements in WASH and shelter facilities.
  - Sector members' observations support the assumption that it is highly likely the number of persons with disabilities has increased as a consequence of the EQ.

- Within the spirit of protetion mainstreaming, there is need for arranging WASH facilities in a way that segregates spaces for men and women. Additionally, locks on toilet doors and lighting arrangements would reduce safety and security risks related to violence against women, girls, and other risk groups.
- Child safeguarding procedures need to intensify in informal settlements and through structruing volunteers' interactions with children. Within the scope of coordination efforts, dedicated groups for AAP and PSEA will provide know-how and guidance in this regard in the upcoming days.

***High PSS needs (community and service providers)***

- PSS needs are reported to be very high across communities and service providers.
- Duty of care should be a key consideration (the obligation to maintain the safety, security, health and well-being of humanitarian personnel and their family members), particularly vis a vis continuity and sustainability of response.

***Frequent rotation of personnel on the ground (new I/NGOs and increasing deployments)***

- While duty of care is key, continuity in service provision is another key aspect of standardized service provision.
- Public service providers and I/NGOs introduced rotation schemes to minimize service gaps and preserve staff well-being.
- Significant increase in deployments of internationals and number of new I/NGOs show strong ownership in responding to the needs. All organizations are highly encouraged to ensure strong knowledge of context and engagement/collaboration with authorities in in place.

***Ongoing importance of social cohesion between different social groups***

- Protection sector members operate by taking into consideration possible or existing social distance between different community members.
- It is necessary to mitigate tension risks during service delivery and introduce safeguards to ensure most vulnerable access to services across age, gender, and other diverse groups.

***Information needs are a priority on different protection-related areas***

- Per feedback received from local communities and/or authorities, the top information needs of communities are related to assistance and services, changes in procedures and newly introduced support schemes. Information needs also exist at service provider level, particularly for non-protection actors on available protection assistance/services and referral pathways
- Some public institutions are emphasizing the need to mobilize community leaders in supporting disseminating information.

***Child protection risks***

- There are unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) identified by sector members. In such cases, sector members swiftly refer them to Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Services. Reporting through 183 hotline is also a method of referral. The Ministry of Family and Social Services directly intervenes and place UASC into institutional care.

- Sector partners foresee a risk of child labor increasing in the region, particularly due to loss of livelihoods and as a survival strategy for those unable to meet their basic needs. Child labor monitoring and prevention programming will be crucial in the coming period.
  - For children with disabilities, there is risk of being forced into begging.
  - The risk of commercial sexual exploitation of children is another problem, especially for vulnerable groups like LGBTI children.
  - In addition to child labor, there is also a risk of increase in child marriages due to precarious living conditions and socio-economic difficulties.

**GBV risks**

- Women's organizations based in the EQ area were impacted significantly both in terms of service delivery capacity and staff well-being.
- Difficulties continue to be faced in access to assistance and services for LGBTI predominantly due to visibility related issues, discriminatory approaches and stigma.
- Overcrowded tents increase risks for gender-based violence in temporary settlements.
- Need to increase capacity of women's shelters operated by ŞÖNİM (Ministry of Family and Social Services), including through establishment of new shelters.
- Older unaccompanied women (particularly in rural areas) are observed to be at risk of abuse.
- Need to strengthen gender-sensitive approaches + GBV risk mitigation especially in shelter and WASH service provision.
- Strengthened collaboration between women's NGOs and municipalities is suggested as a modality to increase gender-sensitive programming in local service delivery.
- Some concerns are reported regarding women and girls saved during search and rescue who were transferred to other cities for medical care, particularly related to their safety and security. Hence, GBV partners are expected to carry out a study at the hospitals.
- GBV risks and incidents are observed to be on the rise for LGBTI during and after relocation to other provinces. Accessing housing/shelter is a significant challenge for LGBTI. Gender identity and gender visibility pose a security threat. LGBTI are facing stigmatization and discrimination while accessing assistance and services, including food and WASH.
- LGBTI, sex workers and individuals living with or at risk of HIV continue to face difficulties in accessing shelter solutions, both in the EQ-affected provinces and provinces where they are relocating to. Accounts of GBV were reported particularly by LGBTI while accessing shelters and alternative community-based solutions, as some have been staying with their LGBTI peers whom they don't know previously.

## Coordination Priorities

### *Centrality of Protection*

- Need to ensure that protection analysis is informing response as in EQ context, protection issues are and will increasingly become widespread with risks of challenges/barriers to accessing services and information.

- In short/medium term, sector will lead on/support complementary information/data collection and analysis to shape sector programming and response.
- Protection Coordination team is regularly participating in all UNDAC Hub meetings with a view to contribute to localization of coordination and solutions, particularly with regards to protection and all cross-cutting issues for protection mainstreaming.
- Protection Coordination team has assigned focal points for each sector and regularly participate in other sector meetings to support protection mainstreaming across sectors.

### *Working with Authorities and Area-Based Approach/Coordination*

- With the transition of Inter-Sector Cell from Ankara to Gaziantep, the Protection Sector Coordinator based in Gaziantep is participating in the Inter-Sector Coordination meetings. Protection coordination focuses on all affected communities.
- Protection Sector for the EQ Response is active. The sector convened on March 3rd to discuss MIRA findings, partner updates, AAP, Protection Sector Terms of Reference and Operational Plan, and announcement of Protection Sector NGO Co-lead processes.
- In Hatay, Provincial Protection Sector started convening regularly. The 3rd meeting was held on March 4, Saturday. In the upcoming days and in line with local needs and dynamics, Protection Sector meetings can take place in other provinces.
- Protection coordination team is closely communicating with provincial level authorities, including assigned governors and MFA Ambassadors and cooperating with relevant public and local authorities, including but not limited to Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Services and Provincial Directorate of Migration Management.

### *Service Mapping and Referral Mechanisms/Pathways*

- Protection Sector partners are updating (per existing services on the ground) and using Services Advisor as the main service mapping platform.
- Protection Sector is currently preparing guidance on protection referral pathways, including GBV and CP multi-sectoral response services, to enable access to rights and services, taking into account disruption of services and arrival of newer/non-protection actors.

## Response/Priority Interventions

### *Community-Based Protection*

- Strong engagement with local actors and community-based organizations (including women-led, refugee-led, local CSOs/CBOs) resumed after the initial days of the disaster and will be expanded to empower communities as a first responder in emergency response.
- Response will build on and strengthen local/community-based initiatives wherever possible.
- Sector will reinforce and mobilize community capacities towards self-protection and self-reliance.

### *Accountability to Affected Populations, Protection Mainstreaming and Related Action*

- As a key component of AAP, sector members started introducing two-way communication practices, such as face to face interaction with households and utilizing hotlines.
- A dedicated task team consisting of AAP focal points of sector members will be in place to provide all sector members with know-how and capacity on AAP. In doing so, sector will continue to identify barriers in access to services and develop AAP tools/guidance as related to mainstreaming protection, gender, GBV risk mitigation and child safeguarding, including in distributions, shelter/temporary settlements, WASH (etc.). For list of compiled AAP, PSEA, protection/CP/GBV (risk mitigation) mainstreaming and disability inclusion guidance please refer to this link.
- Disability Inclusion Task Team is and will continue to support sectors with practical guidance to ensure disability inclusion across response and to mainstream inclusion at sector programming level.
- PSEA Network and Task Team active and is working on community messaging, mapping complaints mechanisms/referral pathways and PSEA refreshers.
- Sector will prioritize delivery of trainings on protection mainstreaming (inc. AAP, DI, PSEA, child safeguarding, GBV risk mitigation etc.) building on existing material.

## *Access to Registration and Documentation*

*Information under this section is relevant for persons with international protection applications/status-holders and temporary protection beneficiaries.*

- Registration is an important obligation for foreigners seeking international protection in Türkiye as it legalizes their stay in Türkiye. Registration enables foreigners to access public services and available assistance and protects individuals against forced return to their countries of origin. In Türkiye, the responsible authority for all procedures regarding foreigners, including conducting registration and issuance of registration documentation is the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) through their Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMMs).

### ***Obtaining Travel Permits***

- According to the instruction of PMM on February 13, international protection applicants/status-holders and temporary protection beneficiaries registered in Kahramanmaras, Hatay, Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Malatya are allowed to travel to any province across the country except these 5 provinces most affected by the earthquake without obtaining travel permit in the departure provinces. Upon arrival, they have to approach PDMMs in these provinces for the obtainment of travel permit valid for 60 days.
- International protection applicants/status-holders and temporary protection beneficiaries registered in and departing from Osmaniye, Adana, Urfa, Kilis, Diyarbakir, and Elazig shall approach PDMMs in their registration provinces for a travel permit to travel to other provinces.
- Obtaining travel permits is crucial because while it will not grant permanent residence in the relocated province, it will provide access to essential services (in the relocated provinces).

### ***Registration and Documentation***

- General provisions continue to be in effect for international protection applicants seeking registration.

- Registration of new international and temporary protection applications are on hold in 13 provinces affected by the earthquake. Otherwise, registration procedures are accessible in PDMMs in the non-affected provinces.
- For re-issuance of the ID documents lost due to the earthquake, international protection applicants and temporary protection beneficiaries shall approach PDMMs in the provinces they are currently present.
- If an individual's ID is inactive due to failure to notify during the address verification exercise, individuals should be counseled to approach PDMMs (including in relocated provinces) to request reactivation and re-issuance of the ID cards.
- Individuals who moved to the temporary accommodation centers (TACs) after the earthquake and need reissuance of documentation, they should approach PDMM desks in TACs.
- The 16 provinces closed for registration is not relevant in EQ context (they can also go to these provinces). PDMMs should be issuing travel permits (with 60 day validity) to those in the arrival provinces.

### *Access to Civil Documentation*

- Same procedures should be followed for Turkish nationals and foreigners in relation to obtaining death certificates. DNA samples are gathered in hospitals from the deceased individual and the family members. Once identification of deceased individual is finalized, then it should be possible to obtain a death certificate via the health institution and if there the death has occurred outside of the hospital by the doctor of the municipality.
- Deceased individuals who cannot be identified (due to lack of family members to match DNA samples) will be buried in common graves.

### *Psycho-Social Support*

- Age and gender appropriate PSS targeting children, adolescents, caregivers and families is being prioritized by partners, including in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services (per their accreditation process). PSS services will be delivered through mobile/outreach and static child/adolescent/family support hubs.

### *Child Protection*

- Timely family tracing and reunification efforts continue to be pursued under the leadership of the Ministry of Family and Social Services for unaccompanied and separated children to ensure strengthening of kinship care and family based foster care mechanism within country, with institutional care as a measure of last resort. While existing legal procedures still continue, consideration of expansion of emergency foster care arrangements is being discussed with the Ministry.
  - Long-term follow-up of children who have lost their parents and are currently in kinship care arrangements with their relatives is important considering the risk of abuse and exploitation as well.
- Targeted and integrated CP services for children/adolescents particularly at risk of violence, abuse, exploitation (including unaccompanied and separated children, children with disabilities, LGBTQI+ adolescents, adolescent girls, refugee/migrant children).

### *Gender-Based Violence*

- Sector will ensure that GBV risk mitigation mechanisms are in place and availability of multi-sectoral GBV services.
- Referral mechanisms for GBV will be restored and disseminated ensuring safety, dignity and access to care by all people in need, including the most at-risk populations.

### *Access to Legal Assistance and Aid*

- UNHCR has prepared a brief note to guide international and temporary protection beneficiaries registered in ten EQ-affected provinces on the legal deadlines and Court procedures. Brief note to be shared in coming days.
- Per the presidential decree issued recently, in the 10 provinces (with certain exceptions) legal deadlines for certain legal proceedings have been put on hold until April 7.
- For persons who were registered/residing in the affected provinces and/or those that were there during the EQs (including lawyers in both scenarios), legal proceedings were put on hold until April 7.
- Persons who are not registered/residing in the affected provinces but were in any of the affected provinces for search & rescue or family tracing/reunification (among other reasons), legal proceedings were put on hold until March 7.