



UNHCR TÜRKİYE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE

16 March 2023



Türkiye. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees visits a Syrian family sheltering in a temporary accommodation centre in Hatay province following the devastating earthquakes. 11 March 2023 © UNHCR/Emrah Gürel

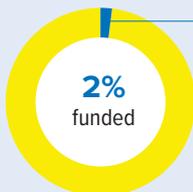
UNHCR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(as of 14 March 2023)



US\$ 150M

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



Funded:
US\$ 2.44M

The overall [funding to the Syria and Türkiye Earthquake Emergency Appeal](#) is 16%

UNHCR ITEMS DELIVERED TO DATE



102,000
high-thermal
blankets



45,000
sleeping bags



40,800
hygiene kits



28,700
foldable beds



31,700
tents



19,500
kitchen sets



15,300
mattresses



10,000
plastic
tarpaulin



Overall 500,000

core relief items dispatched to Turkish authorities and partners

PROVINCES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKES



BACKGROUND AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- At least 14 people have died in the flooding caused by torrential rains in Adıyaman and Şanlıurfa provinces on 14-15 March. Temporary shelters in tent, and container, cities hosting earthquake survivors in the aforementioned provinces, and to a lesser extent in Kahramanmaraş, were flooded, compounding damages for residents. Tent sites at risk of flooding are undergoing evacuation, while some survivors have already been placed in dormitories temporarily.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees concluded a [three-day visit to Türkiye](#), to assess the humanitarian needs following the earthquakes and to offer his solidarity to refugees and the local community, to the government and to UNHCR staff and partners working in these areas. The High Commissioner visited a temporary accommodation centre in Hatay province where he met with refugee and Turkish families. During meetings with state officials and ambassadors of donor countries, the High Commissioner underlined the importance of solidarity with Türkiye, which hosts the largest refugee population globally, and addressed the mounting needs due to the destruction caused by the earthquakes. The High Commissioner reiterated UNHCR's ongoing support to national authorities, exemplified through the delivery of core relief items. Furthermore, the High Commissioner called upon resettlement countries to accelerate resettlement procedures as a responsibility-sharing mechanism.
- On 6 February two earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.5 magnitude took place in Türkiye's Kahramanmaraş province, followed by subsequent earthquakes. Collectively, 11 provinces in Türkiye's southeast region and neighbouring Syria were impacted. A three-month state of emergency was triggered for provinces directly affected by the earthquakes.
- As of 12 March, close to 48,500 people had lost their lives in the earthquakes, of whom at least 6,660 were foreign nationals, most of them Syrian. As of 11 March, close to 55,000 Syrians have temporarily exited to Syria, through four border gates. These temporary exits are reportedly to check on family in earthquake-affected areas in Syria and attend funerals, as 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.
- 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.

- The inter-sector coordination mechanism for the earthquake response 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.



Türkiye. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees visits Hatay province, one of Türkiye's worst-hit provinces of the earthquake. 11 March 2023 © UNHCR/Emrah Gürel.

UNHCR CAPACITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Delivery of Life-Saving Assistance

- In liaison with AFAD and PMM, UNHCR has prioritized the delivery of CRIs, 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 delivering CRIs and hygiene materials to PMM-managed centres (including 11 temporary accommodation centres), AFAD, MoFSS as well as local authorities and partners. Items are procured from stocks both in-country and in the Europe, the Middle East and Asia regions and are dispatched through airlifts and road transport. To date, UNHCR has delivered over 500,000 CRIs to aforementioned stakeholders.
- 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.
- UNHCR teams have completed a comprehensive draft of 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.

Field Response

- During the week of 6-13 March, 3 of 5 UNHCR supported legal clinics of bar associations (Kilis, Şanlıurfa and Gaziantep) have resumed operational status. The clinics provide legal assistance to refugees and asylum seekers on civil law, exit and re-entry procedures, family re-unification, re-issuing identity cards, queries related to resettlement and civil law as well as various complaints related to the earthquake. Clinic lawyers have noted an increase in custody and guardianship cases. The clinics in Malatya and Hatay are still not operational, as the latter was destroyed during the earthquake. UNHCR is working to identify possible solutions to address this.
- 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 10 surge deployees to support supply, administration, reporting, protection, field security, cash and inter-agency coordination, as well as regular ongoing missions of colleagues from Ankara and the field offices.
- As of early February, UNHCR had three offices in Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa with 85 staff.

UNHCR presence in the affected areas:

SNAPSHOT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND LOCAL RESPONSE

- UNHCR coordinates with local authorities, NGOs, community-based and refugee-led, organizations to provide support in the earthquake-affected provinces. In the south-east region, during the past week, UNHCR conducted 130 interviews with key informants from 13 districts in seven provinces affected by the earthquake, half of which were with mainly refugees from Syria. Interview outcomes revealed that over half the respondents were in accommodation deemed unsafe, and that there were gaps in access to services and assistance.
- Trainees from Ankara Metropolitan Municipality's BELMEK Skills and Vocational Training Courses are manufacturing bed linen for residents in earthquake-affected areas. Several BELMEK centres were transformed into aid collection centres quickly after the earthquakes and have since been turned into sewing workshops. Many of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality's trainees have benefited from UNHCR's vocational training courses.

- In Izmir, UNHCR is visiting local authorities and local NGOs it supports to follow up on the arrivals of earthquake survivors and discuss their emergency response mechanisms. Additionally, UNHCR is exploring possible collaboration with and between partners in the province. The main needs highlighted by local actors in Aydın and Muğla remain to be psychosocial support and basic needs such as food and hygiene, as well as stationary kits for children.
- In Istanbul, UNHCR paid a visit to the Civil Society Organization Platform (ULFED), a Syrian refugee-led organization, and held exchanges regarding the condition of Syrian earthquake survivors in Istanbul. The Platform consists of 35 Syrian NGOs. Roughly 15 NGOs are located in Istanbul, and others are operational on the cross-border operation in southeast Türkiye and north Syria. The Platform members stressed that due to the living conditions in Istanbul, they recommend Syrian earthquake survivors to remain in areas closer to the earthquake zones. They mentioned providing furniture assistance to the survivors but their interventions remained limited.

INTER-AGENCY

- Under the OCHA-run inter-sector regional coordination mechanism, put in place for the earthquake response in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and AFAD, UNHCR leads the Protection Sector and Cash Based Intervention Technical Working Group and contributes actively to other sectors, including the 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 (Adiyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya).
- UNHCR participates in coordination meetings in various capacities at the south-east level in Gaziantep and the provincial hubs, and in Ankara through the Humanitarian Country Team. Provincial and local authorities as well as international and national NGOs, actors, partners and UN agencies participate in the meetings.
- During the past week, the Protection Sector discussed the progress of its operational plan and completed an update of the Protection Sector Earthquake Situation Analysis, including needs, challenges and opportunities of, and for, all affected populations. The findings were based on the Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Needs Assessment (MIRA), as well as assessments and field observations of members of the protection sector. The main protection issues highlighted were regarding access to assistance and services for most vulnerable and at-risk groups as well as the diminished service capacity due to the earthquake. Additionally, UNHCR identified a need for implementing a gender-sensitive, and child protection focused approach in service delivery, as well as a prevalence of psychosocial needs of the community and service providers. Further, results indicated a need to identify long-term sustainable interventions for adults and children. UNHCR also noted the importance of social cohesion between different social groups.
- The cash-based intervention technical working group meeting identified the top priorities as access to cash assistance, basic needs, and access to medical services and psychosocial support. Cash for protection needs, especially in Hatay province has also been identified as a priority especially in crowded communal areas where people are temporarily accommodated.
- For an overview of the activities carried out by all 107 organizations involved in the Türkiye earthquake response, please see the OCHA developed [3W \(Who, What, Where\)](#).

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.
- 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