

UNHCR TÜRKİYE EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

30 August 2023

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The OCHA-led earthquake coordination structure phased out on 17 August. An Area Based Coordination (ABC) structure has been established under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and co-chaired by UNHCR and IOM. The UN Country Team+ which includes civil society partners from the Local Humanitarian Forum, the INGO Forum, and the Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC, is operating through a recovery framework to address the needs of host and refugee communities affected by the earthquakes.

In transitioning to the recovery phase, UNHCR co-leads with UNDP the multi-stakeholder response under the [Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan \(3RP\)](#) in support of refugees and the host community across Türkiye. The 3RP is being reviewed to incorporate current priorities and needs, including those relevant to the earthquake response.

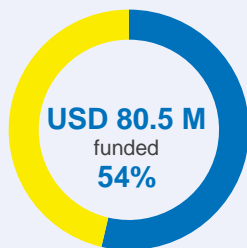
UNHCR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(as of 28 August 2023)



USD 150 M

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 88%

UNHCR ITEMS DELIVERED TO DATE



**Overall:
2.9 million**

core relief items dispatched to Turkish authorities, municipalities and partners; including among others:



449,300

sanitary
items



260,300

sleeping items
(blankets and
sleeping bags)



126,650

beds and
bedding



111,750

hygiene kits



101,350

sleeping mats/
mattresses



72,100

clothing
items



63,600

kitchen sets



34,700

tents

UNHCR CAPACITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Delivery of Assistance

To respond to the needs of the population affected by the earthquakes, UNHCR supports the capacity of national and local authorities. To date, UNHCR has delivered over 2.9 million core relief items (CRIs) to counterparts, including the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), and the Ministries of Family and Social Services, Youth and Sports, and National Education. UNHCR has also delivered CRIs to selected municipalities and youth centres within and outside the earthquake zone for distribution to the affected communities, encompassing refugees and the host community.

UNHCR is providing a one-time Specific Needs Fund (SNF) cash assistance for earthquake survivors. Since February, over 39,100 individuals (7,300 families) have benefitted from this assistance. Complementing this effort, UNHCR also directly disburses cash assistance for people with specific needs.

UNHCR is also carrying out post-distribution monitoring of the SNF, recently completing the process for families who were part of the initial payment list. The SNF cash assistance will continue until the end of 2023.

Protection

Since 6 February, UNHCR has conducted protection assessments to identify specific needs among the affected population, counselling 17,400 refugees, including nationals from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. Individuals with vulnerabilities and protection needs are referred to specialised services; those with protection needs that cannot be addressed in Türkiye are referred for resettlement consideration.

Resettlement

UNHCR increased capacities for expediting the processing of resettlement cases for refugees, many of whom were injured or had lost family members, housing, or livelihoods following the earthquakes. Close to 9,500 refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration to countries by the end of July, the majority of whom were in earthquake-affected areas, and 8,200 refugees departed on resettlement from

Türkiye; approximately 50 per cent of those departing were earthquake-affected refugees.

Accommodation for earthquake-affected refugees had been identified as one of the most pressing needs. To help ease housing needs, UNHCR signed an agreement with [Airbnb to provide emergency housing](#) for the most vulnerable refugees in the resettlement pipeline. To date, 116 refugees impacted by the earthquake and who are awaiting urgent resettlement are being housed with Airbnb.

Communication with Communities (CwC)

UNHCR disseminates information and alerts relating to the earthquake through its CwC channels in multiple languages including Turkish, Arabic and Farsi. The [earthquake section](#) of [UNHCR's Help website](#), which launched on 8 February, has reached close to 87,500 page views so far. Posts have included information on legal aid, child custody, anti-fraud messaging and recent policies issued by the Turkish government. The highest numbers of site visits were recorded from Istanbul, followed by Gaziantep and Adana.

Since 6 February, the UNHCR counseling line received almost 8,000 earthquake-related calls mostly from Syrian, Afghan and Iranian nationals, who primarily sought information on accommodation and financial assistance.

Field Observations and Response

UNHCR carries out regular site visits to assess the situation of refugees and their protection needs in the southeast region of Türkiye. By the first week of August, UNHCR had visited over 230 formal and informal sites hosting refugees. The visits allow UNHCR to assess the conditions of the affected population, identifying and referring people with specific needs to relevant service providers, and to follow-up on specific issues with authorities and affected communities.

UNHCR also works with refugee-led organizations (RLOs) across the country, to discuss areas for collaboration and to remain better informed of issues

affecting refugees, while exploring opportunities for enhanced community engagement and social cohesion.

PMM and its provincial directorates in the 11 provinces affected by the earthquake and UNHCR, met in Antalya in July to discuss temporary protection procedures.

UNHCR shared observations on the challenges encountered by refugees in the aftermath of the earthquake, such as gaps in access to registration, documentation and services.

Education

UNHCR supported the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) in their earthquake response efforts, delivering over 195,300 CRIs to affected refugee and host communities, and MoYS centres in seven earthquake-impacted cities. In addition to the CRIs, UNHCR has delivered 8,960 tables and is arranging the delivery of chairs and bed frames for the centres.

To follow up on the deliveries, UNHCR conducted monitoring missions to three provinces in the southeast and met with recipients of the CRIs and staff of the provincial directorates of youth and sports. In Adıyaman, 16,000 people received CRIs, 45 per cent of them refugees; in Kilis, 780 people benefited from the

supplies, more than half of them refugees; while in İslahiye, 1,500 people received the CRIs, about 60 per cent of them refugees.

Temporary exits to Syria

Based on open sources compiled by UNHCR, over 70,000 Syrians had temporarily exited to Syria.

Temporary exits granted by the Turkish government for refugees who had lost their homes or needed to check on family in Syria ceased as of 2 June from the four border gates between Türkiye and Syria. By 17 August, according to PMM some 62,700 Syrians had returned.

UNHCR presence in affected areas

UNHCR carries out regular missions from Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana to earthquake-affected provinces, reinforcing its response capacity in protection and coordination. To date, UNHCR has carried out 220 support missions from its country and field offices. As of mid-August, UNHCR has 98 staff in Gaziantep, Hatay, Şanlıurfa, Malatya and Adana.

INTER-AGENCY

- The latest Protection Sector meeting on 17 August presented protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) related updates and challenges from the field and sub-sectors. Provincial protection sector updates included the need for psychosocial support activities for women in the earthquake-affected regions, the importance of education for children, particularly with disabilities and transportation challenges.
- UNHCR led the Inter Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Round 7 under the Protection Sector with the participation of 25 partner organizations which interviewed 3,802 households (20,882 individuals), of which 2,959 are Syrians, 663 Turkish, and 180 individuals of other nationalities, in 44 provinces covering all regions in Türkiye. The aim was to assess the impact of the southeast earthquakes on the four most affected provinces, particularly with regards to earthquake survivors' access to information, essential services, WASH, work/income and basic needs, social assistance, civil documentation, legal assistance and aid, and to identify protection concerns at community level. Preliminary findings of the Protection Needs Assessment can be found [here](#).
- On 12-13 July, as lead of the 3RP Protection Sector, UNHCR co-led a Disability Inclusion Mainstreaming workshop with the Disability Inclusion Task Team (DITT) under the 3RP framework, with over 150 participants from 3RP sector partners, disability specialists from UN agencies and I/NGO partners, and organizations of people with disabilities. The workshop, which focused on disability inclusion and accessibility,

was an important step to achieving disability inclusive data collection and roll-out of the revised inter-agency referral forms which incorporate the [Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Functioning](#).

- In July and August, two rounds of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) trainings for non-protection and small/medium-sized organizations supporting the earthquake response were co-led and delivered by UNHCR, the Resident Coordinator's Office, UNFPA, and national partners, ASAM and Support to Life (STL). They took place in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman and Malatya. The trainings targeted new humanitarian and development actors, and promoted a shared understanding of risk mitigation, prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse. Across the two rounds of training, 330 individuals from 55 organizations participated. The 3RP National Protection Sector coordinator (in its capacity as interim chair of the PSEA Network and Task Team) visited the region to coordinate the PSEA trainings and discussed potential areas of collaboration with the earthquake GBV coordinator, cross-border PSEA Network coordination team and partner organizations.
- In August, the Türkiye PSEA Network and Network Task Team agreed to look into organizing capacity development initiatives targeting I/NGOs related to the investigation of SEA incidents, deliver training of trainers for PSEA focal points, and review the existing PSEA community messaging with the Disability Inclusion Task Team. Based on the PSEA Network meetings, UNHCR drafted an incident referral form for SEA complaints. The tool is designed to safeguard that safe, survivor-centred, confidential, harmonized and protection-sensitive referrals are undertaken for alleged SEA incidents. The tool is meant to be used for internal and external referrals of complaints, including for victims' assistance and GBV case management.
- At the meeting of the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Task Team held on 8 August, participants from UN Agencies and NGOs discussed new studies by the NGO [Ground Truth Solutions](#) and the [CDAC Network on community engagement](#) and AAP.
- The Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI TWG) met on 9 August with 50 participants from UN agencies and national and international NGOs and donors. A preparatory survey was shared with participants to agree on details of a second round of the Joint Market Assessment and to decide on a way-forward.

BACKGROUND

- The three-month state of emergency set by the Turkish government expired on 6 May, with a three-month extension period in effect until 17 August. An Area-Based Coordination structure is currently in place to oversee the coordination in the earthquake-affected region.
- According to [authorities](#), around 51,000 people lost their lives in the earthquakes, of which at least 7,300 are foreign nationals.
- Earthquakes and aftershocks continue to be reported. In Malatya three earthquakes were reported in August of magnitudes between 4.7 and 5.3 in certain areas, where damaged buildings are reported to have collapsed as a result.
- As per UNHCR's tracking of population movements of refugees who left their provinces of residence after the earthquakes, over 226,500 were reported to have arrived in 63 provinces as of 28 July, while about 41,950 refugees have reportedly returned to their provinces in the earthquake zone.
- UNHCR monitors the needs of refugees in South-East Türkiye closely while adopting an inclusive approach to all affected, in line with the UN response to the earthquakes.
- UNHCR continues to lead the Protection Sector, co-lead the Cash-Based Intervention Technical Working Group, and contribute to other sectors including the cross-cutting coordination on Accountability to Affected Populations, Disability Inclusion Task Team, and the PSEA Network.

The coordination is established in collaboration with partners, NGOs, UN agencies, and local authorities and provincial directorates.

- The Turkish government is leading the response through [AFAD](#) and provincial governors. The Turkish Red Crescent ([TRC](#)), local partners and humanitarian organizations are working alongside AFAD. The PMM is coordinating support to temporary settlements accommodating refugees and community members. The MoFSS offers

protection and psychosocial services for women, children and at-risk groups.

- UNHCR is keeping donors informed of changes in coordination structure, operational progress and main humanitarian needs through regular briefings in Ankara and the field, highlighting advocacy areas and policy-related issues.

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

Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Kuwait | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | Türkiye | United Kingdom | United States of America | Qatar | CERF

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from individuals and the private sector.

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