



A boy warms himself by a fire in a tented, temporary shelter in south-east Türkiye. After the earthquake, UNICEF is providing winter clothes and essential supplies for affected children and families.

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Humanitarian Action for Children

Türkiye Earthquake Response

HIGHLIGHTS

- On February 6, earthquakes, with magnitudes 7.7 and 7.6, struck south-east Türkiye, devastatingly impacting 10 provinces¹ and affecting 15.2 million people,² including 5.4 million children,³ living in affected provinces. An estimated 9.1 million people,⁴ including 2.5 million children,⁵ require immediate support.
- Humanitarian consequences are significant and increasing. As of 15 February, at least 35,418 deaths and 80,278 injuries have been confirmed,⁶ and up to 47,000 buildings have been affected.⁷ Over 1 million people are staying in temporary accommodation,⁸ facing adverse winter conditions. Over 1,360 unaccompanied children have been identified.⁹ Access to education is hampered for nearly 4 million children, including 350,000 refugee and migrant children.¹⁰ School opening is postponed to 1 March 2023 in affected provinces.
- Displacement and disruption of essential services has been massive. Immediate support is required to complement the Government of Türkiye's humanitarian response. Under the leadership of the Government and within the interagency framework for the earthquake response, UNICEF will continue to support and scale up the provision of supplies and services, building on national systems and existing programmes, capacities, and partnerships to reinforce life-saving support.
- UNICEF requires US\$196 million to reach 3 million people, including 1.5 million children, for three months. This includes the provision of critical supplies and water, sanitation and hygiene, health, nutrition, child protection, education, early childhood development and social protection (humanitarian cash) services for children, adolescents, and families.

IN NEED

**9.1 million
people**¹¹

**2.5 million
children**¹²

TO BE REACHED

**3 million
people**¹³

**1.5 million
children**¹⁴

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



1 million

children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support



1 million

population reached by critical hygiene and WASH supplies



500,000

households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system with UNICEF technical assistance



1.5 million

people reached with UNICEF-provided non-food items

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 196
million**

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

On 6 February 2023, two major earthquakes (7.7 and 7.6 magnitudes) struck south-east Türkiye, devastatingly impacting 10 provinces (Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Gaziantep, Kilis, Osmaniye, Malatya, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa and Adana), where approximately 15.2 million people (13.5 million Turkish citizens, 1.7 million registered refugees), including 4.6 million children, of whom 811,000 are refugees, live. An eleventh province, Elazığ, has also been affected. The Government of Türkiye has declared a three-month state of emergency in the 10 worst affected provinces and requested international support as it leads the national response effort. UNICEF is targeting these 10 provinces, with a possible gradual expansion to Elazığ. Humanitarian consequences are significant and increasing. As of 15 February, at least 35,418 deaths and 80,278 injuries have been confirmed,¹⁵ and up to 47,000 buildings have been affected.¹⁶ Preliminary findings in Kahramanmaraş report 23 per cent of the city as collapsed or heavily damaged,¹⁷ and in Hatay, the center of Antakya, the figure is over 50 per cent.¹⁸ It is estimated that 9.1 million people are likely to have been directly impacted, including 2.5 million children.¹⁹ Over 1 million people are currently residing in temporary accommodations centers (TACs).

Overcrowded conditions in TACs, limited access to water and sanitation facilities, and proper waste/debris management, pose risks for disease outbreaks. As of 13 February, the Ministry of Family and Social Services identified 1,300 unaccompanied and separated children, of whom 369 are reunited with families and 435 continue treatment in hospitals. In such a scale of crisis, numbers could be huge, requiring specialized protection services. The psychosocial impact on children, young people and families is high and will have long-lasting negative consequences. Children, young people and families may be exposed to abuse, violence, and trafficking, and the protection of children and women remains a key concern.

The devastation has displaced millions of children, adolescents and families. Conditions are aggravated by extreme winter, and families are left without means of support and unable to meet basic necessities. There is an urgent need for cash assistance to restore their dignity and enable them to fulfill their primary needs, particularly as goods and markets remain unavailable.

With health facilities and service providers affected, overstretched health systems may lead to interruption in access to routine health services, including perinatal, neonatal health and routine immunization, putting children, newborns and mothers at risk. Access to education has been compromised for nearly 4 million children, including over 350,000 refugee and migrant children, as the opening of schools in affected provinces has been postponed until 1 March 2023, and affected families are temporarily using schools as shelter. Students in earthquake-affected provinces will be transferred to the other 71 provinces in the country, where capacity will need to be increased to accommodate them. Foreseen impacts on education include learning loss, school dropout and psychosocial distress.

The Government has strong capacity and established institutions and is leading a robust response. Given the overwhelming needs from the devastating impacts of the earthquake, on 10 February 2023, they welcomed international humanitarian assistance to reinforce their national response efforts. UNICEF is committed to complementing the Government's humanitarian response, working to reinforce life-saving support for vulnerable children, young people and their families, in line with the Core Commitments for Children.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Zeynep Çakaloz, UNICEF Education Officer in Office, says “While it’s hard to see the effects of the earthquake on children, even though traumatized, they can at least keep their smile during our psychosocial sessions. Playing, drawing, reading, help them let their fear and trauma out.”

“Children say that they are afraid. Some want to go home, some want to go to school. So, giving them a sense of normalcy with these activities is critical.”

UNICEF provides psychosocial support to children in service points, tents, camps, schools or wherever they are accommodated in collaboration with government, municipalities, NGOs and other partners.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

Under the leadership of the Government of Türkiye and within the interagency framework for the earthquake response, UNICEF will complement and leverage existing national systems, programmes, capacities, and partnerships to respond to the overwhelming needs resulting from the earthquakes. UNICEF will provide life-saving humanitarian assistance through supplies, technical support, and service delivery, working with local authorities in affected provinces to ensure inclusive age- and gender-appropriate services for children, adolescents and their families. This will include water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and nutrition, protection, education, early childhood development (ECD) and social protection (humanitarian cash). UNICEF efforts will focus on the 10 earthquake-affected provinces, as well as provinces hosting and providing services for the population from affected areas. UNICEF will coordinate with the Government and the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC) ²⁰ on sectoral assessments, including identification of critical gaps in services and support and needs for immediate response.

In coordination with government partners and accredited non-governmental organizations working at the provincial level, UNICEF will focus on the provision of safe drinking water, as required, as well as the provision or re-establishment of critical WASH facilities, supplies and solid waste management in critical infrastructure including health facilities, TACs and other collective centres where people are seeking shelter. The health and nutrition response will focus on critical primary health care services, ensuring continuity of routine health, nutrition and immunization services and promotion of young child feeding through supplies and technical support. Child protection will focus on urgently addressing critical child protection concerns, evacuations of vulnerable children, including those in government care institutions, building national capacities for identification and provision of individualized care to unaccompanied and separated children, violence against boys, girls, and women prevention, risk mitigation and response, with a focus on GBV and provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to adolescents, parents and caregivers and establishment of age-specific friendly spaces for provision of integrated response. UNICEF will support the Government to ensure continuity of education, ECD services and learning in TACs, provision of recreational and teaching/learning materials and enhancement of educational personnel's capacity on psychosocial support/referral mechanisms. Building on existing youth and volunteer platforms, UNICEF, in coordination with the Government, will mobilize youth volunteers in the response in affected provinces. Cross-sectoral interventions on gender, disability, social and behavioural change, and accountability to affected populations will be a focus within sectoral priorities.

Immediate provision of critical, urgently needed supplies will be supported to ensure the well-being of children, young people, and their families. Supplies will include winter clothes for infants, children, and adolescents, as well as blankets, heaters, and other critical supplies, according to the needs identified by the UN, the Government, and other partners in the areas affected by the disaster.

2023 PROGRAMME TARGETS²¹



Health and nutrition

- **500,000** primary health care services provided to children and women through UNICEF-supported mechanisms (number of contacts/visits/services)
- **700,000** infant and young child feeding counselling sessions received by children/caregivers through UNICEF-supported mechanisms



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA²²

- **1,000,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **500,000** people with access to safe spaces, protection and support hubs
- **1,500,000** women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,500,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **200,000** people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities
- **1,000,000** population reached by critical hygiene and WASH supplies



Social protection

- **500,000** households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system with UNICEF technical assistance²³



Education and ADAP

- **200,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning, through UNICEF-supported system-strengthening and programmes
- **600,000** children receiving learning materials



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **2,700,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services (including social protection, health, nutrition, education, etc)
- **10,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
- **5,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change

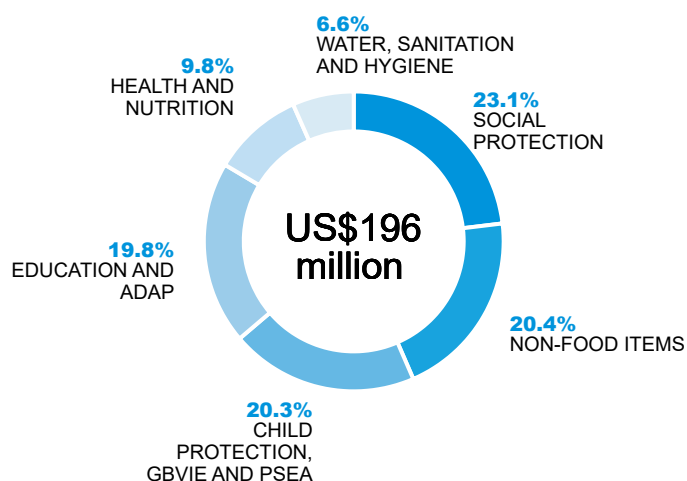


Non-food items²⁴

- **1,500,000** people reached with UNICEF-provided non-food items

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF appeals for US\$196 million to reach 3 million people, including 1.5 million children. The ask aligns with the Türkiye draft Inter-agency Flash Appeal 2023 for the first three months of response (February to April 2023). Rapid provision of funding will be instrumental to ensuring life-saving WASH, health and nutrition, child protection, education and humanitarian cash support to vulnerable children, adolescents and families affected by the earthquake. Without resources, the most vulnerable and affected children, young people and families will suffer greater exposure to the impacts of the earthquake and limited access to critical services and protection, including against gender-based violence. Flexible contributions will be critical to enable UNICEF to complement the Government-led response and promptly respond to current and increasing humanitarian needs.



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$) ²⁵
Health and nutrition	19,250,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	39,750,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	13,000,000
Social protection	45,250,000
Education and ADAP	38,750,000
Non-food items	40,000,000
Total	196,000,000

Who to contact for further information:

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ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF is targeting the 10 most affected provinces for which an emergency has been declared (Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Gaziantep, Kilis, Osmaniye, Malatya, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Elgiz, all in the south-east of Türkiye), with possible gradual expansion to Elazığ, which has also been affected.
2. An estimated 15.2 million people, including 13.5 million Turkish citizens and 1.7 million registered refugees, are living in 10 affected provinces (TurkStat, Address Based Population Registration System, as of 31st December 2022).
3. An estimated 4.65 million Turkish children (aged 0-17 years), and 811,149 registered refugees and migrant children (aged 0-18) are living in 10 affected provinces, <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27>.
4. Inter-agency Flash Appeal: Türkiye Earthquake, February 2023.
5. UNICEF estimation based on >30 per cent children (aged 0-17 years) among the population, as per the 2023 Türkiye population census.
6. Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), as of 11 February 2023.
7. Daily Sabah, 'Stand up again': Türkiye vows swift post-quake reconstruction, 15 February 2023, <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/economy/stand-up-again-turkiye-vows-swift-post-quake-reconstruction>.
8. Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), as of 11 February 2023.
9. Ministry of Family and Social Services, 13 February 2023.
10. Ministry of National Education, June 2022.
11. OCHA Flash Appeal Türkiye, 2023.
12. UNICEF estimation of children is 30 per cent of the total population.
13. This figure was calculated based on the total number of people to be reached with non-food items and the number of children to be reached with humanitarian cash transfers.
14. This figure was calculated based on the total number of children to be reached with humanitarian cash transfers.
15. Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), as of 11 February 2023.
16. Daily Sabah, 'Stand up again': Türkiye vows swift post-quake reconstruction, 15 February 2023, <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/economy/stand-up-again-turkiye-vows-swift-post-quake-reconstruction>.
17. The assessments from the Government and UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) are ongoing. Findings are likely to show even higher impacts and needs.
18. Ministry of Interior, 15 February 2023.
19. This response plan/appeal is developed ten days after the earthquake. Initial focus on the first days has been on search and rescue operations. Needs assessments are now underway, and once completed, sector needs will be made available, and will be used to make any necessary adjustments to programme targets and indicators.
20. UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team with a total of 50 members has been deployed to the aid hub of Gaziantep and to three other hubs in the affected areas to support the coordination of the International Urban Search and Rescue Operations.
21. Indicators and targets are provisional and subject to revision upon completion of ongoing assessments, to ensure strengthened monitoring of results against targets
22. While the number of unaccompanied and separated children in need cannot be estimated yet, pending the finalization of needs assessments, UNICEF plans to reach 100 per cent with alternative care and/or reunification.
23. This includes 1.5 million children.
24. Supplies include winter clothes for infants, children and adolescents, as well as blankets, heaters, tents, and other critical supplies according to needs identified by the government, the UN and other partners in the areas affected by the disaster.
25. The cross-sectoral funding requirements are embedded into the individual sector budget lines.