

UNHCR TÜRKİYE EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

20 April 2023

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Some 20 per cent of people who had temporarily relocated to cities outside the earthquake-affected provinces are returning, according to the Turkish [Ministry of Interior](#) on 14 April. Financial constraints and the high cost of living in the hosting provinces may be possible deciding factors for those returning.

UNHCR has observed an increase in returns of refugees to the affected provinces as well, for similar reasons. To meet the needs of the returning population, authorities are strengthening shelter capacity through temporary accommodation, efforts to remove debris in affected provinces is expected to be completed by 21 April, except in Hatay.

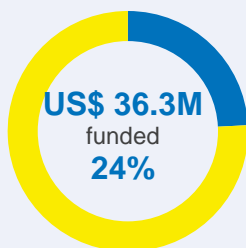
UNHCR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(as of 18 April 2023)



US\$ 150M

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



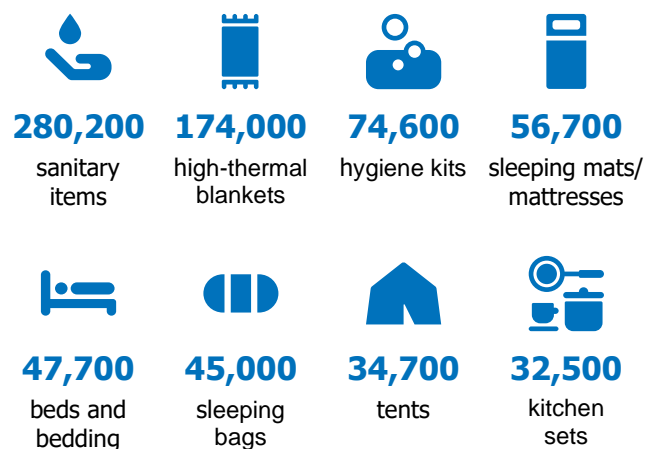
The overall funding to the Syria and Türkiye Earthquake Emergency Appeal is 54%

UNHCR ITEMS DELIVERED TO DATE



**Overall:
755,000**

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



UNHCR CAPACITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Delivery of Assistance

UNHCR is supporting the capacity of national and local authorities to respond to needs, including through deliveries of core relief items (CRIs). To date, UNHCR has delivered over 755,000 CRIs to counterparts including the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), and the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS). During the past week, 4,000 folded beds which UNHCR had provided to AFAD were distributed by the Doğuşehir District Governorate.

Field Observations and Response

Since 6 February, UNHCR has conducted protection assessments to identify specific needs among the affected population counselling over 5,500 people. Last week, UNHCR completed 600 protection assessments and identified 540 people with urgent resettlement needs, referring others for medical, protection, legal or UNHCR cash-for-protection interventions.

In Mersin, a province hosting some 500,000 earthquake survivors, UNHCR met with 28 representatives of Syrian refugee-led organisations (RLOs), business owners, NGOs and authorities to discuss ways to support refugee survivors.

Refugees in receiving provinces raised the lack of accommodation space as the main challenge. Financial hardship may be contributing to an observed increase in child labour, particularly in Istanbul.

Partner organizations are providing psychosocial support to refugees as needed.

Based on UNHCR observations and discussions with refugees, returns to earthquake-affected provinces are driven by financial constraints, challenges securing employment or accommodation, and difficulties accessing services in receiving provinces. Insufficient assistance is also a factor, especially in provinces with a high number of earthquake-affected populations, where capacities have been stretched since February.

UNHCR is adapting its partnership agreements with municipalities. In the south-east region, one project with the Adiyaman Municipality has been revised to provide counselling and information on humanitarian services and assistance, including (re-)issuing civil and identity documents through an 'Earthquake Management Desk'. A second project amended is with the Seyhan Municipality to specifically address home care needs of older people and people with disabilities among the earthquake-affected population.

UNHCR presence in affected areas

UNHCR carries out daily missions from Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa to earthquake-affected provinces. UNHCR has reinforced its emergency response capacity in key areas such as protection and coordination through 93 support missions. As of 20 April, UNHCR has 83 staff in Gaziantep, Hatay, Şanlıurfa, and a 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. According to authorities, **over 50,500** people have lost their lives, of which at least **6,800** are foreign nationals, most of them Syrians.
- According to the **authorities** on 14 April, close to 70,000 Syrians were issued authorizations to temporarily exit to Syria after the earthquake, mainly to check on family and attend funerals. UNHCR estimates, based on information received through its counterparts, that as of 20 April, some 16,000 Syrians have returned to 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 PMM is coordinating support to temporary settlements accommodating refugees and community members. The MoFSS offers protection and psychosocial services for women, children and other at-risk groups.

INTER-AGENCY

Latest developments

- Currently, four area-based coordination hubs operate in the worst-hit provinces with representatives from AFAD, local authorities and provincial directorates, thereby enhancing the local coordination to address the needs of persons with specific needs. The inter-sector coordination group is discussing the consolidation of the provincial hubs in line with the transition strategy following the initial three-month Flash Appeal. An OCHA presence will remain in each of the four provinces. The sectors will decide on the frequency of field-based meetings, with the Protection Sector continuing to meet in the four hubs.
- The Protection Sector rolled out a field observation tracking tool for protection trend analysis throughout the 11 earthquake-affected provinces to inform the response across sectors.
- On 13 April, at the inter-sector coordination meeting, the Protection Sector presented the scheduled coverage of the Safe Referral trainings as well as the Inter-Agency Referral Form, designed for the earthquake response and can be utilized by non-protection actors.
- On 14 April, stakeholders in the Hatay Protection Sector Provincial Coordination meeting called for the revision of the risk matrices for child protection and the prevention of violence against women, girls, and vulnerable groups used prior to the earthquake and developed in line with the national framework and practices of MoFSS. These matrices aim to standardize risk assessments and facilitate protection interventions and referrals. Sector members will launch individual protection assistance schemes next week.

Background

- 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. Under the OCHA-run inter-sector coordination mechanism for the earthquake response, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 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. The coordination is established in collaboration with partners, NGOs, UN agencies, and local authorities and provincial directorates.
- 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 Earthquake 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 aim of UNHCR's action is to improve living conditions of earthquake-affected people, and assist those with specific needs, including refugees, in 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