

# UNHCR TÜRKİYE EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

28 April 2023

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The five legal clinics in Gaziantep, Kilis, Malatya, Hatay and Şanlıurfa, supported by UNHCR through a partnership with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, have all resumed their counselling and psychosocial services for refugees and asylum-seekers.

The Hatay legal clinic, which had been destroyed during the earthquake, has taken up counselling services online on 17 April. Meanwhile, options are being assessed to install containers for in-person counselling in Hatay and Malatya, where the clinic has also suffered significant structural damage.

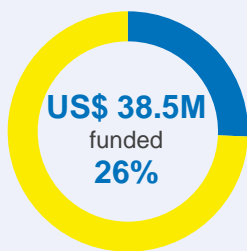
## UNHCR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(as of 27 April 2023)



**US\$ 150M**

UNHCR's requirements for the earthquake emergency response in Türkiye, targeting 1.5 million people



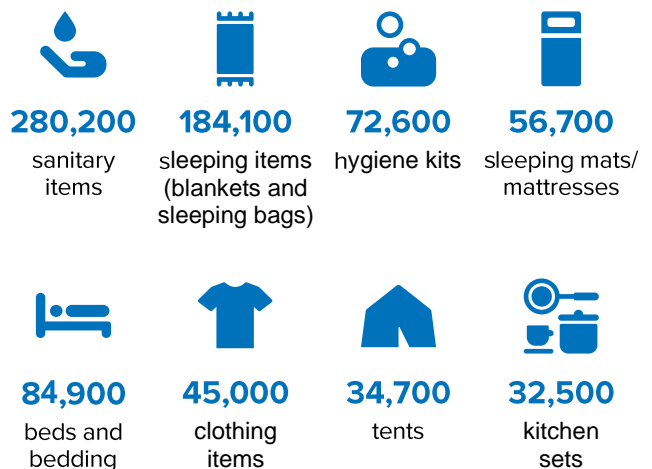
The overall funding to the Syria and Türkiye Earthquake Emergency Appeal is 44%

## UNHCR ITEMS DELIVERED TO DATE



**Overall:**  
**800,300**

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 the delivery of core relief items (CRIs). To date, UNHCR has delivered over **800,300 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), including some **73,800 CRIs** to municipalities in the south-east region for direct distribution to the earthquake-affected communities.

In the past week, UNHCR, with partners and local authorities, also distributed 225 hygiene kits to Syrian earthquake survivors who had arrived in Aydin Province in the Aegean region.

### Protection

Since 6 February, UNHCR has conducted protection assessments to identify specific needs among the affected population, counselling over **6,000 people**.

Last week, UNHCR completed 560 protection assessments and identified close to 500 people with urgent resettlement needs, referring others for medical, protection, legal or UNHCR cash-for-protection interventions.

The [earthquake section](#) of the [UNHCR Help website](#), launched on 8 February, has reached close to **60,000 page views** so far.

### Field Observations and Response

Field teams have consolidated the insights from monitoring discussions with UNHCR partners in the four hub locations (Adiyaman, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya and Hatay). Main findings indicate that improving access to information is one of the main priorities among affected local and refugee populations, along with access to safe accommodation, WASH, psychosocial support, child-friendly spaces, and response/prevention of violence against women, girls and at-risk groups.

### Education

By 24 April and upon safety assessments, schools resumed activities in all districts in Hatay, where education had been significantly affected. Some of the challenges in Hatay, according to the education provincial education authorities, are related to finding accommodation for school staff and teachers, the difficulty of transportation between districts for children, and the psychosocial effects of the earthquake on the children.

### UNHCR presence in affected areas

UNHCR carries out daily missions from Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa to earthquake-affected provinces, and has reinforced its emergency response capacity in areas such as protection and coordination through 105 support missions. As of 28 April, UNHCR has 82 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 11 provinces. According to [authorities](#), close to 50,800 people have lost their lives, of which at least 7,300 are foreign nationals. Meanwhile, removal of debris is almost complete in the 11 provinces.
- Based on official sources, around 16,000 Syrians out of **73,000 authorised** to temporarily exit to Syria had returned as of 19 April.
- 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 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 local coordination to address the needs of persons with specific needs. Details of the consolidation of the provincial hubs for the period following the initial three-month Flash Appeal are being discussed.
- The Protection Sector trained non-protection partners of all sectors online on 25 April on safe referrals of identified persons with specific needs to protection actors and specialised services. The training included use of the inter-agency referral tool package, data protection and consent, and guidance for interactions with persons with specific needs. Similar in-person trainings are scheduled to take place in the four hubs in early May.
- The cash-based intervention technical working group (CBI TWG) is consolidating inter-agency guidance materials on procedures and the legal framework applicable to cash assistance in Türkiye. The first batch of payments in the joint cash assistance programme (TRC, IFRC, WFP) was completed, and IFRC confirmed that over 16,000 households have received cash support.
- The first workshop for partners on Protection and Inclusion Mainstreaming in Cash and Voucher Assistance was jointly facilitated by the Protection Sector and the CBI TWG in Gaziantep on 27 April, to increase awareness about protection issues related to cash and voucher programming, including child safeguarding, safe referrals, accountability to affected populations, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection and violence against women, girls and at-risk groups.

### Background

- The OCHA-led coordination mechanism for the earthquake response, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, operates from Gaziantep with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting weekly in Ankara. UNHCR leads the Protection Sector, co-leads the Cash-Based Intervention Technical Working Group, and contributes to other sectors, including the cross-cutting coordination on Accountability to Affected Populations. The coordination is established in collaboration with partners, NGOs, UN agencies, and local authorities and provincial directorates.
- To strengthen localization, NGOs co-chair with UNHCR 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.**

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