



Young boys stand next to supplies delivered by UNICEF for children and families at Kahramanmaraş Temporary Accommodation Center, after earthquakes hit southeastern Türkiye on 6 February 2023.

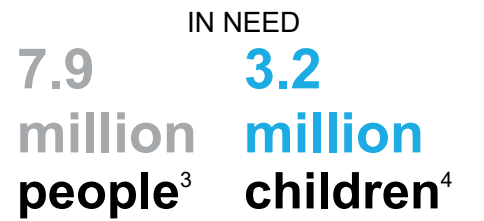
unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

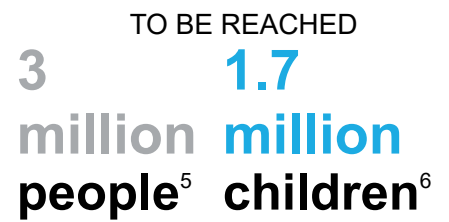
Türkiye

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 6 February 2023, two major earthquakes with magnitudes 7.7 and 7.6 struck southeastern Türkiye, impacting 15.6 million people, including 1.8 million refugees, in 11 provinces.¹ As of November 2023, 7.9 million people, including 3.2 million children, remained in need of humanitarian assistance.
- Protracted displacement, overstretched social services and difficult socioeconomic conditions triggered by higher inflation have compounded the vulnerability of affected children and families, posing risks to children's welfare. And, as of August 2023, there were still an estimated 181,264 households living in temporary sites in the four most affected provinces.²
- In support of the Government's strategy, UNICEF will focus its response on key remaining humanitarian needs by providing access to adequate sanitation and hygiene, mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence mitigation and response, continued education and humanitarian cash transfers, to assure children's well-being and sustain the livelihoods of their families.
- UNICEF requires \$116 million to address the humanitarian needs of 3 million people, including 1.7 million children, suffering from the consequences of the earthquakes.



2023 2024



2023 2024

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
US\$116 million

2023 2024

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



1.3 million children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support



1.5 million children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



1.8 million people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



164,000 households reached with cash transfers through an existing national system with UNICEF implementation

Figures are provisional and will be amended in line with an upcoming needs assessment planned by UNICEF and other partners.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Two major, devastating earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude struck southeastern Türkiye in February 2023, impacting the lives of 15.6 million people, including 1.8 million refugees, in 11 affected provinces. In August 2023, 7.9 million people, including 3.2 million children, remained in need of humanitarian assistance.⁸

The earthquakes destroyed 518,000 individual housing units,⁹ forcing more than 2 million people to seek shelter in formal or informal settlements. Seven months into the response, 181,264 households were reportedly still living in temporary sites in the four most affected

provinces (Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya).¹⁰ Adequate shelter remains the priority concern. Limited access to water and sanitation facilities, and especially hygiene items for women and girls, is a major issue in the overcrowded settlements.

The affected communities continue to face multiple challenges, including socioeconomic difficulties. The disaster destroyed assets and interrupted opportunities to generate income; this has forced the displaced population, in particular, to rely on informal employment to sustain themselves.⁷ Multifaceted challenges have translated into such harmful coping mechanisms as reduction in food intake (for children reduced by 3 per cent more than for adults), reduced expenditures on health, and girls and boys being exposed to child labour, forced child marriages and begging.¹¹

While many unaccompanied and separated children have been successfully reunited with their parents or extended families, or are in government care services, close follow-up remains necessary to prevent separation and/or adoption of negative coping mechanisms. The psychological impact of the earthquakes on children and families remains evident. There is also heightened risk of violence, abuse and exploitation. Surveys of the most affected population have revealed increased conflict among household members, domestic violence, sexual violence against women and girls, tensions in the community, peer bullying and substance abuse.¹² Mental health and psychosocial support, identification of protection risks and individual case management and gender-based violence prevention and response are key concerns for children and families.

The earthquakes disrupted access to education for nearly 4 million children, including more than 350,000 refugee and migrant children. Long-term effects may include learning loss, school dropout and a negative impact on children's psychosocial well-being. As of August 2023, a significant number of children in earthquake-affected areas had still not returned to school.¹³ Many people cited financial constraints as the reason, along with transportation and school building security.¹⁴

STORY FROM THE FIELD



"The challenges we face today will not determine what kind of life my children will have in the future," says İmge, 35, the mother of two young children. "I know very well how strong and resilient they are. That's why I will do everything in my power to ensure that their tomorrow is brighter than today."

With the generous financial support of partners, UNICEF provides hygiene kits to families in earthquake-affected areas.

"UNICEF's hygiene kit is a very important support, providing us with essential supplies for our baby's health, helping us stay clean and uphold our human dignity," İmge says.

[Read more about this story here](#)

İmge and her son Demir wait to receive UNICEF-procured supplies in an informal temporary accommodation shelter in a neighborhood in Hatay, following the earthquakes that hit southeastern Türkiye.

Under the leadership of the Government of Türkiye, UNICEF will continue to work with partners to complement national efforts to address the remaining humanitarian needs of children and families in formal and informal settlements and residential areas in earthquake-affected provinces. UNICEF will provide critical humanitarian assistance through service delivery, technical assistance and supplies in the areas of health and nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, education and social protection, including cash support. The response will focus on needs identified in the inter-agency need assessment and Humanitarian Transition Overview.¹⁷ UNICEF will reinforce and leverage existing national and local systems and partnerships with municipalities to ensure inclusive and age- and gender-appropriate services for children, adolescents and their families, aligned with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

Health and nutrition support will focus on ensuring access to routine immunization by delivering vaccines to the Ministry of Health. UNICEF will also support infant and young child feeding counselling and capacity building of partners to identify developmental delays and disabilities and initiate subsequent referrals.

UNICEF will work with municipal and civil society partners to expand WASH interventions, including access to water through trucking, provision of water storage tanks and emergency repair/treatment of water systems; improvement of latrines and showers; and distribution of hygiene supplies in formal and informal sites.

Child protection interventions will complement national services through static and mobile hubs; case management; identification and referral of unaccompanied, separated and at-risk/vulnerable children; mental health and psychosocial support; and gender-based violence prevention and response programmes for children and families. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse will be a priority.

UNICEF will support continuity of formal/non-formal learning, including early learning, through identification of out-of-school children and referrals. Interventions will include allocation of school grants for minor repairs, capacity building for education personnel, academic support/catch-up activities and provision of learning materials. UNICEF will also promote skills building, social cohesion and engagement activities in age-appropriate safe spaces.

Leveraging existing cash transfer modalities in partnership with the Government and civil society, UNICEF will continue implementing a humanitarian cash transfer programme for the most vulnerable families with children. This will be complemented by information on child protection and social services. In addition, UNICEF will partner with the Turkish Employment Agency to increase the child- and gender-sensitivity of existing cash-for-work programmes.

Cross-sectoral interventions, e.g., social and behaviour change and accountability to affected populations, will continue to engage communities to increase awareness and knowledge of access to and use of services. UNICEF will invest in feedback and complaints mechanisms to understand the needs, concerns and challenges of those affected. Such non-food items as winter clothes for children, blankets and heaters will be provided.



Health and nutrition

- **50,000** children/caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling sessions through UNICEF supported mechanisms
- **200,000** children with access to vaccines through UNICEF supported mechanisms¹⁸



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **1,300,000** children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **1,800,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,800,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers
- **40,000** children who have received individual case management



Education^{19,20}

- **1,471,125** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **200,000** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **1,800,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **400,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **700,000** population reached by critical hygiene and WASH supplies



Social protection

- **164,000** households reached with cash transfers through an existing national system with UNICEF implementation²¹



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)²²

- **2,100,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services (including social protection, health, nutrition, education, etc)
- **1,800,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms²³
- **900,980** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change



Non-food items²⁴

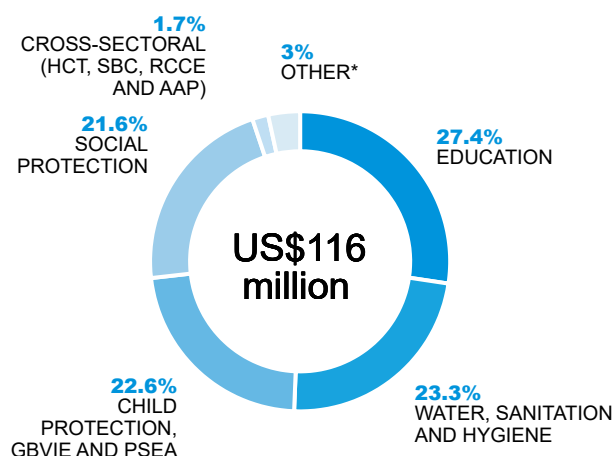
- **65,000** people reached with UNICEF-provided non-food items

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF is appealing for \$116 million to reach 3 million people, including 1.7 million children. Humanitarian funding will be instrumental in ensuring and sustaining prioritized and targeted interventions. Efforts will encompass WASH, health and nutrition, child protection, education and social protection sectors, including humanitarian cash support to vulnerable children, adolescents and families affected by the earthquakes. These programmes are necessary to address residual humanitarian needs that nonetheless remain acute, even many months after the devastating February 2023 earthquakes.

Without resources, the most vulnerable host and refugee communities will suffer greater and more prolonged exposure to the impacts of the earthquakes. They will have limited access to critical services and face increased protection risks, including that of gender-based violence. A protracted lack of access to these services could result in negative long-term impacts for children and families, including learning loss, gaps in routine vaccination, worsened mental health and poverty.

Timely and flexible contributions remain critical to enable UNICEF to complement the ongoing Government-led response and adapt to the evolving humanitarian needs of those affected by the earthquakes.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$)
Health and nutrition	1,980,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	26,200,000
Education	31,765,303 ²⁵
Water, sanitation and hygiene	27,000,000
Social protection	25,100,000 ²⁶
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	2,000,000
Non-food items	2,000,000
Total	116,045,303

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Non-food items (1.7%), Health and nutrition (1.7%).

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ENDNOTES

1. Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa.
2. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Humanitarian Transition Overview: Türkiye earthquake response, OCHA, August 2023, available at <www.unocha.org/publications/report/turkiye/humanitarian-transition-overview-turkiye-earthquake-response-august-2023>. The four most affected provinces are Adiyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya. Note that, according to the Humanitarian Transition Overview, the number of people in container homes is expanding quickly, while the number in formal tented sites is also shifting as people are relocated from informal sites to formal tented sites, or away from formal tented sites to container sites – therefore, the numbers are indicative only, based on a range of available data sources at the province level.
3. There is no official figure announced by public institutions or inter-agency documentation for the number of people and children in need. These are estimated figures based on the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Province Factsheet Post-Earthquake Neighbourhood and Site Mapping Round 2 Report.
4. There is no official figure announced by the public institutions or inter-agency documentation on the number of people and children in need. These are estimated figures based on the IOM Province Factsheet Post-Earthquake Neighbourhood and Site Mapping Round 2 Report.
5. The total number of people to be reached is calculated based on the following programme targets: 1,471,125 children aged 5–17 years to be reached through formal and non-formal education; children aged 0–4 years to be reached with health immunization (as this intervention does not overlap with the education target age group); plus 1,323,000 people to be reached with access to water (1,800,000 people based on the total programme target minus 26.5 per cent – which accounts for the children covered through this intervention – to avoid double-counting). The total number of people to be reached includes 50 per cent women/girls, 50 per cent men/boys, 2.9 per cent people with disabilities and 1.69 per cent children with disabilities.
6. The total number of children to be reached is calculated based on the following programme targets: 1,471,125 children aged 5–17 years to be reached through formal and non-formal education plus children aged 0–4 years to be reached with health immunization (as this intervention does not overlap with the education target age group). The total number of children to be reached includes 50 per cent girls, 50 per cent boys and 1.69 per cent children with disabilities.
7. In UNHCR, Protection Sector: Post-earthquake inter-agency needs assessment. Sixty-five per cent of refugees stated that they work informally, while 27 per cent of Turkish citizens reported that they also work informally.
8. Refugees include Syrians under temporary protection, international protection applicants and status holders from other nationalities and persons pending registration and documentation with the Ministry of Interior's Presidency of Migration Management. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Protection Sector: Post-earthquake inter-agency needs assessment round 7 – August 2023, available at <<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/103608>>.
9. Government of Türkiye, Türkiye earthquakes recovery and reconstruction assessment, March 2023, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-earthquakes-recovery-and-reconstruction-assessment?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI9-b1zfW5gQMVItoCR2MTgBaEAAYAiAAEgLOTvD_BwE March 2023>.
10. OCHA, Humanitarian Transition Overview. Data from seven provinces are still not available.
11. OCHA, Humanitarian Transition Overview; and UNHCR, Protection Sector: Post-earthquake inter-agency needs assessment.
12. UNHCR, Protection Sector: Post-earthquake inter-agency needs assessment.
13. Back to Learning 2023 campaign, led by UNICEF and the education sector. Source: UNHCR, Protection Sector: Post-earthquake inter-agency needs assessment.
14. Twenty-two per cent of Turkish citizens in UNHCR's Protection Sector: Post-earthquake inter-agency needs assessment and 28 per cent of children of other nationalities in the Back to Learning campaign are not attending school primarily due to financial reasons.
15. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
16. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
17. OCHA, Humanitarian Transition Overview.
18. The Government of Türkiye has resumed its vaccine procurement functions, so the target is adjusted based on this positive development.
19. Education sector targets include targets for adolescent development and participation as well.
20. The Ministry of National Education has been actively involved in ensuring that educational facilities are made accessible and that learning resumes in provinces affected by earthquakes. Residual humanitarian needs are defined as those that have not yet been addressed by the Government. It's important to note that this appeal does not specifically highlight a focus on the education recovery.
21. The reduction in the target is due to the increase in the amount of cash transfers and the number of installments per household.
22. Humanitarian cash transfers are covered under social protection.
23. Targeting takes information on feedback mechanisms into consideration as well.
24. Supplies include winter clothes for infants, children and adolescents, blankets, heaters and other critical supplies according to needs identified by the United Nations, the Government and other partners in the areas affected by the disaster. Targets for non-food items do not include such programme supplies as education materials and hygiene kits, which are covered under related sectors.
25. Education sector funding requirements include funding requirements for adolescent development and participation as well.
26. Humanitarian cash transfers are covered under social protection.