Impact on children

More than six months after the devastating earthquakes hit Türkiye and northern Syria, recovery efforts are ongoing to aid the nearly 4 million children still in need of humanitarian aid. While massive strides have been made to support these communities, international support is still needed to help restore a sense of safety and normalcy.

An estimated 1.6 million people are living in informal sites with limited or no access to basic services, including water, sanitation or social protection. A further 800,000 people are living in tents or containers at more formal sites. Where services are available, they are often not accessible to children with disabilities.

Efforts to provide informal education, as well as routine health services and immunization are in place, yet constrained. More than 300,000 buildings were estimated to have been damaged or destroyed by the earthquake, with repairs to water and sanitation networks being critical to ensuring access to safe water and sanitation facilities for children and families in the months ahead.

There remains a need for psychosocial support services for children and their caregivers to help them process what they’ve experienced and mitigate their risk of developing anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Resources needed to support children affected by the earthquake in Türkiye

UNICEF is appealing for an additional $64.7 million to reach 5.4 million people, including 4 million children.

Steady provision of funding will facilitate the rebuilding process by ensuring water and sanitation, health and nutrition, child protection, education, and humanitarian services are made accessible to vulnerable children, adolescents, and families affected by the earthquake.

Flexible contributions that are released in a timely way will be critical to enable UNICEF to respond to changing needs.

UNICEF is also calling on the international community to ensure children’s needs are prioritised in the funding allocations to support a child-centred response and recovery, recognising that children are among the most vulnerable.

“We have to move forward, for ourselves and our children. Life goes on, and we are determined to rebuild and create a better future.”

İmge (35), at in informal tent settlement in Hatay, Türkiye.
UNICEF’s response

UNICEF remains focused on providing life-saving supplies including safe water, hygiene kits and support for immunization; as well as psychosocial support, temporary learning centres and service hubs for children, adolescents and parents. During the recovery, UNICEF’s work will include providing cash assistance to help ease the economic pressures on families; helping students get their learning back on track and continuing to provide psychosocial support to children and youth.

Our work is carried out in partnership with Türkiye’s Government, partners and accredited non-governmental organizations.

9.1 million
people are in need of humanitarian assistance

More than 70,000 families with children reached with cash assistance.

Nearly 968,000 children accessing immunization services and vaccines.

Provided hygiene kits, water and sanitation supplies for more than 586,000 people.

Nearly 1.4 million people accessing safe water.

More than 518,200 children and caregivers reached with psychosocial support.

Over 1,128,200 children provided with learning materials.

More than 396,000 children accessing formal or informal education, including early learning, with UNICEF’s support.

Providing financial support to repair around 1,200 schools which will benefit nearly 350,000 children.

58 child, adolescent and family support hubs set up in 10 provinces. More than 454,700 children and caregivers reached to-date.