



Students who survived the February earthquakes attending an English lesson in a UNICEF-supported tent classroom in Orhanli temporary settlement, Hatay Province.

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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 15.6 million people,¹ including 5.6 million children,² living in affected provinces.
- Approximately 2.6 million people,³ including around 700,000 children,⁴ are currently living in tents in both formal and informal sites and are likely to continue doing so for a while; raising concerns about shelter adequacy, access to water, sanitation and hygiene, health, and child protection services, especially for those facing protracted stays and precarious living conditions.
- Access to education has been hampered for nearly 4 million children, including 350,000 refugee and migrant children.⁵ Although education has resumed in all earthquake-affected provinces, attendance levels in Hatay and Malatya are below 50 per cent.⁶ Among the priority needs that remain across all affected areas are functional learning spaces, accommodation for teachers, and transportation for students and teachers.
- UNICEF-supported humanitarian response covers the needs of earthquake-affected provinces and those hosting and providing services to earthquake-affected people.
- UNICEF requires US\$196 million to reach over 5.4 million people, including nearly 4 million children.

IN NEED

9.1 million people⁷

4 million children⁸

TO BE REACHED
5.4 million people⁹

4 million children¹⁰

KEY PLANNED TARGETS

1 million

children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support



2 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

500,000

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



2.8 million

children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning, through UNICEF-supported system-strengthening and programmes

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 196 million

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

On 6 February 2023, two devastating earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude struck south-east Türkiye, impacting approximately 15.6 million people, including nearly 1.8 million registered refugees¹² and nearly 5.6 million children.¹³ The Government of Türkiye quickly mobilized national and international assistance and has been leading a robust humanitarian response.

Humanitarian needs remain significant, with sustained support required for affected children, adolescents, and their families/caregivers in both the earthquake-affected provinces and the provinces hosting and providing services to earthquake-affected people. Around 2.6 million people currently living in formal and informal sites¹⁴ are likely to continue doing so for a while;¹¹ raising concerns about shelter adequacy, access to water, sanitation and hygiene, health, and child protection services, especially for those facing prolonged stays and in precarious living conditions. For those who are interested in returning to their home areas, adequate shelter, essential services such as water and health care, income-generating activities, and social protection schemes may not yet be fully available.

Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services has been hindered for people living in earthquake-affected areas as the earthquakes damaged 365 km of potable water supply lines, 500 km of water networks, 200 km of sewer networks, four water treatment plants in affected areas as well as seven wastewater treatment facilities.¹⁵ With health facilities, cold chain storage and transportation, and service providers still impacted, children's access to immunization services is an issue of concern.

Access to education has been hampered for nearly 4 million children, including 350,000 refugee and migrant children.¹⁶ Although education has resumed in all earthquake-affected provinces, attendance levels in Hatay and Malatya remain below 50 per cent.¹⁷ Functional learning spaces, accommodation for teachers, and transportation for students and teachers remain of great need across all affected areas. The psychological impact on children, adolescents, and families/caregivers remains high and will have long-lasting negative consequences, including due to exposure to abuse, and violence (including gender-based violence), and their protection remains paramount as well as ensuring there are safe and accessible channels for them to report abuse and exploitation.¹⁸

As markets reopen in earthquake-affected areas, where possible, cash-based assistance can offset in-kind assistance, to support the diverse and evolving needs of earthquake-affected households to cope with increasing socio-economic pressures. The living conditions of people living in tents will be aggravated by extreme cold temperatures during the winter months. Having robust mechanisms to receive feedback from affected populations and engage them in the response will be important to ensure their needs are appropriately addressed.

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.

UNICEF is providing psychosocial support to children affected by the earthquake.

Under the Government's overall leadership on the response, UNICEF will continue to deliver humanitarian assistance to people and children in need, while in parallel supporting the recovery efforts. Although the interagency Türkiye Earthquakes Flash Appeal 2023 ended on 17 May 2023,²⁰ humanitarian partners, including UNICEF, will carry on humanitarian response in line with the duration of agreed plans with line ministries, municipalities, CSO partners, and donors.²¹

UNICEF will continue to reinforce and leverage existing national systems and work with municipalities and civil society organizations to respond to the significant humanitarian needs. UNICEF efforts will focus on the earthquake-affected provinces, and those hosting and providing services for the population from earthquake-affected areas. UNICEF-supported humanitarian assistance will include service delivery support through mobile, facility and communal-based approaches, cash-based assistance to affected households, supplies, and technical support while ensuring appropriate age-, gender-, and disability-inclusive services for children and their families/caregivers. UNICEF will continue supporting humanitarian coordination as sector lead/co-lead for WASH, Education, and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.²²

UNICEF will work with municipalities and CSO partners to focus on the expansion of water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, including access to potable water and improved sanitation as well as the provision of hygiene supplies for earthquake-affected people in formal and informal sites. UNICEF-supported health and nutrition response will focus on immunization services for children and related cold chain support, as well as targeted infant and young child feeding counseling support. Child protection efforts will focus on scaling up the provision of mental health and psychosocial support to children, adolescents, and caregivers, the prevention, risk mitigation, and response to gender-based violence as well as access to safe spaces for children, adolescents, and their families/caregivers. Attention will also be given to scaling up efforts for the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation.

UNICEF will support the Government in the continuity and resumption of education, including early learning, through the provision of teaching and learning materials, remedial learning, catch-up classes, and capacity enhancement of education personnel on mental health and psychosocial support to aid children and adolescents. UNICEF will also work with partners to support non-formal education, with attention to adolescents for life skills, skills building, and vocational training.

Cross-sectoral interventions such as social and behavioural change and accountability to affected populations will continue to be scaled up to further engage communities in the response and ensure their needs are appropriately addressed. To support children, adolescents, and their families/caregivers in the winter months, protecting them from extreme cold, UNICEF will provide winter clothes for infants, children, and adolescents, as well as blankets and heaters. Moreover, with markets recovering in the earthquake-affected areas, UNICEF will work with the Government and the Turkish Red Crescent to implement a humanitarian cash transfer programme targeting households with children 0-5 years of age.

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.



Health and nutrition²³

- **1,200,000** children with access to vaccines through UNICEF supported mechanisms²⁴
- **100,000** infant and young child feeding counselling sessions received by children/caregivers through UNICEF-supported mechanisms²⁵



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA²⁶

- **2,800,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions²⁷
- **2,000,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers²⁸
- **1,000,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support²⁹
- **500,000** people with access to safe spaces, protection and support hubs



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **2,000,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs³⁰
- **200,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **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 assistance³¹



Education and ADAP

- **1,660,300** children receiving individual learning materials
- **2,785,500** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning, through UNICEF-supported system-strengthening and programmes³²



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)³³

- **500,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms³⁴
- **700,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change³⁵



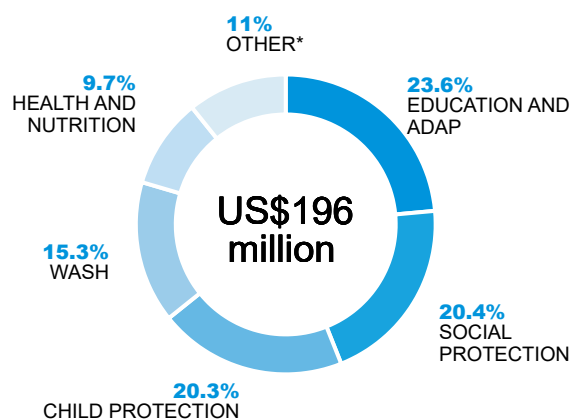
Non-food items³⁶

- **100,000** people reached with UNICEF-provided non-food items³⁷

Programme targets and indicators are subject to further revision as per the situation and response adjustments to ensure strengthened monitoring of results against targets.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF is appealing for US\$196 million to reach over 5.4 million people and nearly 4 million children. This revised Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal reflects a reprioritization of funding requirements per sectoral areas in line with the evolving and protracted humanitarian situation and the needs on the ground that have emerged. Humanitarian funding will be instrumental in ensuring and sustaining prioritized and targeted WASH, health and nutrition, child protection, education (formal and non-formal), and humanitarian cash support to vulnerable children, adolescents, and families affected by the earthquakes. Without resources, the most vulnerable and affected children, adolescents, and families will suffer greater exposure to the impacts of the earthquakes and limited access to critical services and protection, including against gender-based violence. Flexible contributions are critically needed to enable UNICEF to complement the ongoing Government-led response and respond to the significant humanitarian needs.



Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	19,000,000
Child protection	39,750,000
WASH	30,000,000
Social protection	40,000,000
Cross-sectoral	13,000,000
Education and ADAP	46,170,000
Non-food items	8,080,000
Total	196,000,000

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Cross-sectoral (6.6%), Non-food items (4.1%).

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$) ³⁸	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health and nutrition	19,250,000	19,000,000	13,411,595	5,588,405	29.4%
Child protection	39,750,000	39,750,000	25,928,616	13,821,384	34.8%
WASH	13,000,000	30,000,000	21,848,281	8,151,719	27.2%
Social protection	45,250,000	40,000,000	11,081,868	28,918,132	72.3%
Cross-sectoral	- ³⁹	13,000,000	1,735,547	11,264,453	86.6%
Education and ADAP	38,750,000	46,170,000	43,989,857	2,180,143	4.7%
Non-food items	40,000,000	8,080,000	6,702,783	1,377,217	17.0%
Total	196,000,000	196,000,000	124,698,547	71,301,453	36.4%

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ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Flash Appeal: Türkiye - 2023 Earthquakes (February-May 2023), OCHA, New York, February 2023.
2. This is the latest figure reported by the Government of Türkiye in terms of total number of affected children, and it includes 4.8 million Turkish citizens and 816,921 Syrian refugees. Ministry of Interior, May 2023.
3. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Türkiye: 2023 Earthquakes Situation Report No. 17, 6 May 2023, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-17-6-may-2023-entr>
4. UNICEF estimated the number of children living in formal and informal sites in tents based on the percentage of children aged 0-17 years as per national statistics (TurkSTAT and SiTAN).
5. Ministry of National Education and Education Sector Group, February 2023.
6. Eleven Provincial Departments of National Education (PDONE) in Hatay, Malatya, Adiyaman and Kahramanmaraş, as of 3 May 2023. The lower attendance in Hatay and Malatya is partially due to challenges with teacher accommodation and transportation in some areas, which is affecting some schools/learning spaces from being functional.
7. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Flash Appeal: Türkiye - 2023 Earthquakes (February-May 2023), OCHA, New York, February 2023. The interagency flash appeal estimated 15.6 million people affected by the earthquake, and 9.1 million people in need of immediate life-saving humanitarian assistance. However, for sectors like WASH and education, the populations identified to be in need of humanitarian assistance were underestimated at the time of the development of the interagency flash appeal and as the situation unfolded and more information became available, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is higher. Although the Türkiye Earthquakes Flash Appeal 2023 ended on 17 May 2023, humanitarian operations will continue until the end of the year to address ongoing and protracted humanitarian needs, which remain significant.
8. Ministry of National Education and Education Sector Group, February 2023. The estimated number of children in need is based on the education sector needs, which is the single highest sectoral estimated of children in need.
9. This total people to be reached is calculated based on nearly 2.8 million children aged 5-17 years to be reached through formal and non-formal education; 1.2 million children aged 0-4 years to be reached with immunization and 1.46 million adults aged over 18 years to be reached with access to water. This includes 2.7 million women/girls (50 per cent), 2.7 million men/boys (50 per cent), and 707,915 people with disabilities (13 per cent), as per the national statistics (TurkStat/National Disability Database). UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has sector coordination responsibilities.
10. This total children to be reached is calculated based on the nearly 2.8 million children aged 5-17 years to be reached through formal and non-formal education and 1.2 million children aged 0-4 years to be reached with immunization. This includes 1.99 million girls (50 per cent), 1.99 boy (50 per cent) and an estimated 195,290 children with disabilities (4.9 per cent).
11. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Türkiye Earthquake 2023 Humanitarian Response Overview, 17 May 2023, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-earthquake-2023-humanitarian-response-overview-17-may-2023>.
12. This is the number of registered Syrian refugees living in the earthquake-affected areas. While this portion of the Syrian refugee population overlaps with those covered in Syria plus Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal; the Syria plus HAC covers a larger proportion of Syrian refugees in Türkiye. In the Syria plus HAC, the overall Syrian refugee population of 3.8 million registered refugees are the basis of planning figures for Türkiye (as per the 3RP) and the geographic scope of the Syria Plus HAC covers areas in Türkiye not affected by the earthquakes but which are hosting a significant number of Syrian refugees. As such, there is very little overlap of needs between the Türkiye HAC for the earthquake response and the Syria Plus HAC.
13. This is the latest figure reported by the Government of Türkiye in terms of total number of affected children, and it includes 4.8 million Turkish citizens and 816,921 Syrian refugees. Ministry of Interior, May 2023.
14. Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Türkiye: Temporary Settlement Support Sector, Earthquake Response Sector Briefing as of 18 May 2023. This includes around 1.6 million people in tents in informal sites.
15. Türkiye Earthquakes Recovery and Reconstruction Assessments (TERRA), March 2023, available at <https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Turkiye-Recovery-and-Reconstruction-Assessment.pdf>. This assessment covers 11 earthquake-affected provinces.
16. Ministry of National Education and Education Sector Group, February 2023.
17. Eleven Provincial Departments of National Education (PDONE) in Hatay, Malatya, Adiyaman and Kahramanmaraş, as of 3 May 2023. The lower attendance in Hatay and Malatya is partially due to challenges with teacher accommodation and transportation in some areas, which is affecting some schools/learning spaces from being functional.
18. including by aid workers/personnel providing humanitarian assistance
19. Age, gender and disability inclusion are integrated within sectoral priorities.
20. According to the Financial Tracking System, the Interagency Appeal for US\$1 billion to assist 5.2 million people affected by the earthquakes has been only 36.5 per cent funded, with over US\$367 million received. An interim update on the progress made on the Interagency Appeal was done in April 2023 by the humanitarian community to which UNICEF contributed. Türkiye Humanitarian Needs and Response Overview - Interim Update, published on 11 April 2023, available at <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1150/summary>.
21. Most humanitarian interventions will continue until the end of 2023, as per the agreed workplans, programme documents and donor funding agreements.
22. UNICEF also participates as member of the Health and Nutrition sector group, the Cash Working Group, Early Recovery sector Group, the Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse task forces.
23. The health and nutrition interventions have been refocused to prioritize the immunization of children, which is a significant ongoing and residual humanitarian need resulting from the impact of the earthquake on immunization services and related cold chain storage and transportation in earthquake-affected areas. This is an area where UNICEF has a niche to support the Ministry of Health to reach the most vulnerable. In addition, the infant and young child feeding-related intervention has been refocused for a targeted approach given the need to zoom in on the most vulnerable young children and target their caregivers therein for infant and young child feeding counselling and health sessions, as opposed to a blanket approach which was initially planned.
24. This target includes children of specific age groupings as per Ministry of Health national protocols and immunization calendar. This includes measles vaccine to support 340,000 earthquake-affected children aged 9, 12 and 48 months, polio vaccine to support 360,000 children aged 6 and 18 months, tetanus and diphtheria vaccines to support 285,833 children aged 48 months, and Hepatitis A immunization to support over 230,000 children aged 18 and 24 months.
25. Although there is some need to support infant and young child feeding counselling provided to mothers on breastfeeding and young child feeding, this target was revised downwards as the need is not as high as was expected to support a blanket approach to infant and young child feeding. Thus, the nutrition interventions are meant to zoom in on the most vulnerable with targeted infant and young child feeding support. The capacity of health and community workers will be prioritized to support interventions and staff of CSO partners (community health agents) as well as support towards availability of breastfeeding rooms/corners in child, adolescent and family support spaces/hubs.
26. Although the child protection-related funding requirement has not increased, the programme has prioritized the gender-based violence and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse components, and will also leverage the financial allocations of other sectors (such as WASH, humanitarian cash transfers and social behavioural change) for these areas of intervention. In addition, the budget related to mental health and psychosocial support in education is included within the education funding requirement, although the results will be consolidated as part of the mental health and psychosocial support indicator in the situation reports.
27. The current programme performance of gender-based violence is over 2.7 million, counting those reached with gender-based violence messages on social media as part of risk mitigation efforts. However, those interventions happened within limited duration with specific interval of time. This target includes an additional caseload of the WASH intervention, which does not overlap with the current reach. The gender-based violence interventions include targeted prevention and response actions.
28. This target does not duplicate with government mechanisms within the education sector/programme to deal with cases of sexual abuse and/or exploitation. This target reflects an increase in the WASH-related caseload.
29. This intervention focuses on access to mental health and psychosocial support for children and their caregivers, including mental health and psychosocial support through online platforms and targeted approaches (face-to-face consultations, group sessions, specialized services). Mental health and psychosocial support in schools will also be reported against this indicator.
30. This target is a reflection of actual and planned beneficiaries to be reached through access to water, primarily through water utility companies for the restoration of water supply, water treatment, small repair and light rehabilitation and water trucking, as needed. This target also includes planned reach with CSO partners as per the revised needs for WASH. The indicator on access to water aligns with the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) standard indicators. However, the actual measure of the indicator in this appeal is quantity of sufficient water with quality implicit in the provision of water as per the service provision standards and water quality assurance national protocols.
31. This target covers 1 million children as per the national statistics of TurkStat, which estimates an average of two children per family/household. UNICEF is also providing financial support and fundraising for the programme.
32. The age range of the children to be reached with access to formal or non-formal education is 5-17 years of age. This represents 70 per cent of the education sector needs of 4 million children aged 5-17 years.
33. As the response is moving out of the acute life-saving phase, there is less value in blanket approaches for social behavioural change response, such as messages. For social behavioural change, interventions are prioritized and targeted to focus on scaling up structured social behavioural change interventions on community engagement and accountability to affected populations for their engagement in the response.
34. This intervention includes two-way engagement activities with Rapid Pro, Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), QR code in hygiene kits, feedback complaint mechanisms and community engagement of the partners, cash community engagement and accountability to affected populations.
35. This intervention covers community engagement using both online and offline modalities, including a two-way communication.
36. The focus of non-food items is winterization, including winterization supplies; namely, winter clothes for infants, children and adolescents, as well as blankets and heaters.
37. The target for non-food items has been revised downward as non-food items such as hygiene kits, tents for communal use (learning spaces/child-friendly spaces), and recreation kits have been included under the interventions of their related sectors (WASH, education and child protection) respectively and removed from non-food items consolidated target, removing duplication.
38. Fund available includes total received in 2023, plus carryover and reprogrammed funds from 2022. In addition, funding allocations to sectors are provisional and subject to further revision based on the evolving humanitarian situation.
39. The cross-sectoral funding requirements of the initial humanitarian appeal in 2023 were embedded into the individual sector budget lines.
40. The cross-sectoral funding requirements are embedded into the individual sector budget lines.