

# TÜRKIYE / SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

## JOINT SITUATION REPORT #2

Updated 28 March, 2023



One month on from the earthquakes, the extent of the devastation and massive reconstruction efforts required is evident.

Photo: © UNFPA/Karam Al-Masri

## OVERALL SITUATION

In the early hours of 6 February 2023, multiple earthquakes, the strongest being of 7.7 magnitude, struck southern Türkiye and northern Syria, creating a disaster of colossal proportions. Nearly 17,000 aftershocks have occurred since then, highlighting the vulnerability of the region to future earthquakes and the severe risks facing communities.

In addition to leaving hundreds of thousands of people, mostly women and children, without access to shelter, food, water, heat, and health care, the emergency is further compounding the risks of gender-based violence. In Syria, close to nine million people have been affected by the devastating earthquakes. The damage is worst in the north-west, where more than 4.2 million people have been affected in Aleppo, and three million people in Idlib. More than 7,400 buildings have been completely or partially destroyed.

In Türkiye, over 50,000 people were killed and tens of thousands more were injured due to the earthquakes, while over 216,000 people from affected areas have been relocated to other provinces, according to Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).

The catastrophic consequences of the earthquake have been exacerbated by the severe weather conditions that have affected north-west Syria and Türkiye over the last week. The heavy rain and floods that struck the region are having a serious humanitarian impact on people's lives, health, and access to services, particularly those living in reception centres, camps, informal settlements, or on the street.

UNFPA has issued two appeals to fund its responses in Syria and Türkiye, with a combined total ask of \$44.5 million.



# IN TÜRKIYE



**9.1 million**

Population directly affected by the earthquakes in the 11 affected provinces (among a population of 15.8M, including 1.7M refugees and 2.6M youth (15-24 age).



**2.4 million**

Women of reproductive age in the impacted regions (estimate)

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**\$19.7 M required**



**44% funded**

\$8.6 million has been raised, which represents 44 per cent of the UNFPA appeal (\$19.7 million). Donors include: Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Sabancı Foundation, Organon and Ferring.

UNFPA has initiated global and national donation campaigns targeting individuals and private sector donors to support women and girls affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and the region.



**130,000**

Currently pregnant women among the directly affected population (estimate)



**14,400**

Expected births within a month (estimate, under normal circumstances)



- **The death toll** from the earthquakes has risen to 50,096 and the number of injured people to 107,204, as of 20 March. The floods that hit the southern provinces of Şanlıurfa and Adıyaman caused further casualties.
- **Female-headed households have emerged** as being particularly vulnerable, with women not only having lost family members but also financial stability. Anxiety and fear are intensified by security concerns, particularly in informal tent settlements. Since the tents cannot be locked, women and their children are facing significant safety risks, including gender-based violence (GBV). This in turn increases the risk of harmful coping mechanisms, such as forced and child marriage. GBV incidents are being reported in tent settlements and rural areas. Authorities are transferring GBV survivors to centres in other provinces, as the Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres (ŞÖNİM) are not operational in many affected areas. There is a need for training on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse (PSEA) as the risks remain on the rise.
- In the most affected areas, **pregnant women are transported to safer districts or provinces for childbirth**. Pregnant women who have recently delivered are confronted with health and hygiene challenges in tent settlements. There are reports of many lactating women having ceased breastfeeding due to privacy concerns. Access to health check-ups and medicine is limited, as health facilities are often located far away.

Sara was 7 months pregnant when the earthquake hit on the 6th of February. After being displaced by the earthquake she arrived at a temporary camp in Şanlıurfa, where she and her family were given a tent. Sara had been in the camp for a few days before giving birth at approximately 30 weeks. Sara and her newborn remain living in the tent along with her husband and three other children with very few items.

Photo: © UNFPA Türkiye/Gözde Kumru 2023



## UNFPA RESPONSE IN TÜRKIYE

- **6,200** individuals reached with SRH services and counselling
  - **7,400** individuals reached with GBV services and counselling
  - **13,900** individuals reached with dignity and maternity kits distributed
  - **Six** UNFPA-supported static service units deliver SRH and GBV services
  - **One** tent service unit provides SRH and GBV services
  - **10** mobile outreach teams provide SRH and GBV services
  - **2,100** reproductive health commodities distributed
- **UNFPA-supported service delivery units:** UNFPA and its implementing partners support the delivery of SRH and protection services through **six static service units** in Adana (1), Diyarbakır (2), and Şanlıurfa (2) and a new service unit in Gaziantep (1). A tent service unit was established in Adiyaman. Moreover, UNFPA supports **12 static service units around the country** where large numbers of people displaced from the earthquake area live.
  - **Mobile outreach teams:** UNFPA supports **10 mobile teams** in Adana (1), Diyarbakır (2), Hatay (1), Şanlıurfa (2), Adiyaman (1), Kahramanmaraş (1), Malatya (1), and Gaziantep (1) to provide SRH and GBV information and services in remote areas, including informal shelters.
  - **UNFPA scaled-up its cash interventions** for protection to support most vulnerable population groups to cover evacuation costs, rental payments and other needs. Plans are underway to expand cash provisions for the most vulnerable women and girls to access reproductive health supplies, safe deliveries, and other services.
  - **Life-saving reproductive health commodities:** UNFPA works to ensure that SRH services and supplies are accessible in service delivery units. 26 metric tons of **reproductive health supplies** were distributed to the provincial health directorates to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, manage obstetric complications, prevent unwanted pregnancies and prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections. The kits cover sexual and reproductive health needs in a population of one million people. UNFPA also distributed **dignity and maternity kits** to over 13,900 individuals, including women, girls, young people and other vulnerable groups, through its service units and the local authorities.

“I’ve seen war, but this is far worse.”

says Fatma, a refugee from Idlib in Syria who lived in Adiyaman when the earthquake happened.

She was 9 months pregnant and had a C-section scheduled in the morning of 6 February (8:00 am). The earthquake hit early in the morning the same day. Fatma survived. She fled her home with nothing. But the hospital was severely damaged. Eventually, she was brought to Şanlıurfa by an ambulance where she gave birth. Now both the mother and baby are healthy. They’re now in a tent settlement where they have received dignity and maternity kits and post natal follow-up from UNFPA.



UNFPA providing maternity kits to lactating women in Sanliurfa, Turkiye.  
Photo: © UNFPA Türkiye/Zeynep Atılğan 2023



# IN WHOLE OF SYRIA



**8.8 million**

Population directly affected in 170 sub-districts in 43 districts in 10 governorates.



**2.376 million**

Women of reproductive age in the impacted regions (estimate)

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**140,580**

Currently pregnant women among the directly affected population (estimate)



**15,620**

Expected births within a month (estimate, under normal circumstances)



**\$24.8M required**



**63.1% funded**

UNFPA Flash Appeal requires \$24.8 million in funding. Donors have committed 63.1%, however only 15% has been received to date.

## North-west Syria

- **After 12 years of conflict**, the earthquake destroyed more than 10,600 buildings completely or partially, leading to the displacement of 86,000 people, and 8,700 injured individuals. With 55 health facilities damaged and 15 suspended, the procurement of medical supplies to the people in need, already challenging, was compounded by the flood.
- UNFPA and its implementing partners continue to provide critical essential services to women and girls in need. To date, through **25 UNFPA-supported static service units and 18 mobile outreach teams**, UNFPA provided 29,431 individuals with SRH services and 59,386 individuals with GBV services.
- **50,381 individuals** received dignity kits containing hygiene and safety items for women and girls. **1,851,259 reproductive health items** have been distributed to women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities. Dignity kits were strategically used as an entry point to identify women and girls at risk of GBV; refer high-risk cases to specialised services; raise awareness about GBV-related issues and available services; and advance GBV prevention and response interventions.
- On 20 March, UNFPA conducted a UNFPA-only mission into north-west Syria to meet with partners delivering life-saving RH and GBV response services on the ground. The delegation visited two hospitals and two Women and Girls Safe Spaces located in Jandairis, Akhtarín and A'zaz and met with women and girls affected by the earthquake to identify critical needs and priorities.

## Government-controlled areas:

In the three most affected governorates, 119 shelters are home for over 1000 pregnant women. The shelters are unclean and with limited access to health care and psychosocial support services. As the number of shelters reduces it will become more difficult to reach vulnerable pregnant women. Gaps remain in 24/7 transportation and emergency obstetric and newborn care, particularly in rural areas.

“Our bodies survived but our minds did not”,  
a female EQ-survivor, who wishes to remain anonymous.



Um Mohammad, 43, with her baby among damaged buildings and makeshift tents in Suran.  
Photo: © UNFPA/Karam Al-Masri 2023





In the photo, Salwa while receiving family planning counselling and contraceptives from a UNFPA-supported mobile medical team, Idlib, Syria.

Photo: © Massoud Hasan/UNFPA-Syria

## UNFPA RESPONSE IN THE WHOLE OF SYRIA

- **123,440** individuals reached with SRH services and counselling
- **106,321** individuals reached with GBV services and counselling
- **50,381** individuals reached with dignity and maternity kits distributed
- **43** UNFPA-supported static service units deliver SRH and GBV services
- **49** mobile teams provide SRH and GBV services
- **209** reproductive health kits procured
- **Sub-national SRH sub-sector working groups** have been established in Lattakia and Hama, chaired by UNFPA and the DoH. SRH working groups aim to strengthen coordination and improve availability and quality of services. The need for lifesaving RH commodities, including contraceptives, is a major concern.
- **UNFPA supports 31 IMTs, and 18 static clinics** across the response. Partners have provided **94,009 comprehensive SRH services** including ANC, STI, GBV, and family planning counselling in all shelters and selected rural communities.
- **Midwives** in affected rural areas of Aleppo are supported by UNFPA to **provide 24/7 normal births**. Currently they are supporting **over 150 births per month**. UNFPA equips them with life-saving supplies and equipment and capacity building training.
- Reproductive health referral pathways are developed in all areas to enhance coordination between health workers in communities and those at referral facilities.
- UNFPA has procured **209 RH kits** containing life-saving medications and supplies to support safe delivery, STI treatment and family planning. More kits, 45, will be delivered next week.
- Trainings on Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) are ongoing for 37 government and implementing partner gynecologists in Aleppo to address identified gaps in services.



**GBV Coordination:**

- Since 6 February, **46,935 GBV services**, including psychosocial support and counselling have been provided.
- GBV actors continue to provide GBV survivors with private and confidential **psychological first aid and case management services** in line with the survivor-centred approach in Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Latakia. GBV referral pathways have been revised in all EQ affected areas.
- The GBV Sub Sector continues to provide technical support to inter-cluster teams to ensure risk mitigation measures are established.
- The UNFPA and Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population (SCFAP)-supported **GBV helpline remains operational 24/7** on 9416 (free call).
- GBV Sub Sector partners, in coordination with protection partners, have scaled up dissemination of PSEA awareness-raising messages, and tightened coordination with community structures to establish affected population feedback and complaint mechanisms and referrals to GBV services. UNFPA in Latakia is developing a **capacity-building plan for all GBV actors on PSEA, GBV, and case management** to enhance the skills of the field staff, especially with the high turnover in some NGOs.

“Despite the cold weather, we have set up a tent in front of our home to sleep in it at night because our homes were damaged a lot in the earthquake,”

says Salwa, who lives with her husband and four children in Ma’arat Al Nouman, Idlib Governorate, northwestern Syria.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION****Hassan Mohtashami**

Representative, UNFPA Türkiye Country Office  
mohtashami@unfpa.org  
(90) 312 939 35 01

**Jennifer Miquel**

Regional Humanitarian Hub for Syria & the Arab States  
miquel@unfpa.org  
(962) 79 575 675

