

Earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye

100 DAYS LATER

On 6 February, two massive earthquakes hit southern Türkiye and north-west Syria. Destruction and loss followed - making this one of the deadliest natural disasters of the century.

With your timely and flexible support, UNICEF was able to respond timeously. Thank you.



The impacts of disaster

In the early hours of 6 February 2023, the first of a series of earthquakes struck southern Türkiye and the north-west of Syria leaving in its wake over 56,000 deaths and untold destruction and devastation. In Syria, where over 6,000 deaths and 12,000 injuries have been reported – over 8 million people are in need of humanitarian support after the earthquakes; of these, 3.7 million are children. In Türkiye, 15.2 million people, including 5.4 million children, were affected by the devastation.

Syria

There are **14.6 million** people in need in Syria, including **6.5 million** children.



Over **8.8 million** people have been affected by the earthquakes, including **3.7 million** children and pregnant women.



An estimated **6,000** people were killed and **12,000** injured.



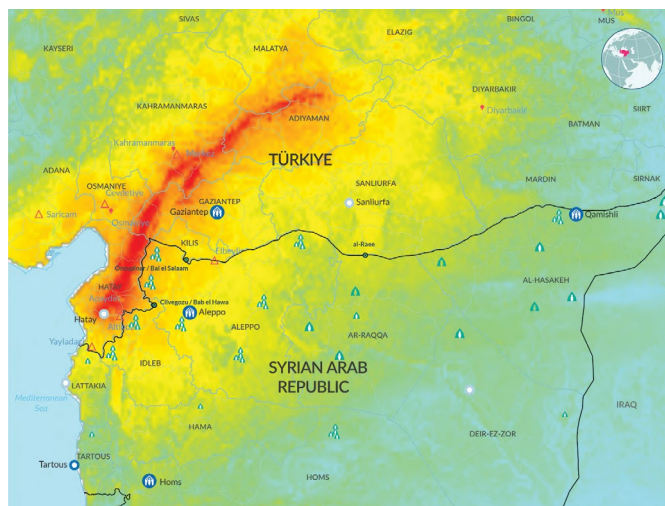
2,149 schools were damaged, and **241** health facilities damaged or destroyed.



Before the earthquakes, **3.75 million** children in Syria required nutritional assistance.

In **Syria**, which is one of the world's most complex humanitarian environments in the world, children have already endured 12 years of displacement, disrupted schooling and limited access to healthcare and other essential services. Ninety per cent of families in Syria were living in poverty when the earthquakes hit, with two-thirds of the population in need of assistance due to economic crisis, conflict and mass displacement. In the two months preceding the earthquake, the prices of basic commodities, such as heating fuel, had jumped by over 200 per cent. The earthquake compounded the protracted suffering. The girls and boys of Syria lost families, homes and the safety of their schools. Thousands of displaced people, most of them having fled with nothing but the clothes on their backs, were sheltering in winter rains and freezing temperatures. An estimated 2,149 schools were damaged and over 100 schools are being used as shelter; education has been disrupted for 1.9 million children. In March, torrential rains and flooding across north-west Syria compounded misery and increased suspected cholera and acute watery diarrhoea cases. Today, Syrian children's chances of returning to a normal life are severely jeopardized, resulting in unprecedented levels of traumatic stress.

A map depicting the earthquake's impact across Türkiye and Syria, based on observable data of earthquake damage.



The Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale:



In **Türkiye**, 1.5 million children have been affected by the earthquakes. Heavy rains in March followed the earthquakes' devastation, and flash floods worsened damage and suffering, especially in Adiyaman and Sanliurfa, cities in the southeast that host displacement camps. Overall, 2,000 homes as well as buildings, bridges and highways were demolished or submerged in water, resulting in further displacement. UNICEF is working under the leadership of the Government of Türkiye on the earthquake response, in coordination with Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and our humanitarian partners. Today, about 2.4 million people are still displaced by the earthquake, of these 1.6 million people are in informal settlements with limited access to basic services like water and sanitation, information on available services and social protection.

Türkiye



9.1 million people are in need of assistance, including **2.1 million** children.



Over **50,780** people were killed.



1.6 million people are living in informal settlements, and **800,000** in formal sites.



Access to education has been hampered for **4 million** children, including **350,000** refugee children.

UNICEF in action for children

UNICEF has been working in Türkiye since 1951 and in Syria since 1970, with leadership today in the humanitarian agency clusters of water and sanitation (WASH), education, nutrition, child protection and risk communication and community engagement. Our established partnerships and staff

competency strengthened in response to previous emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Syria and regional disease outbreaks. We were ready and prepared to respond when the earthquakes hit.










Immediate and early recovery results for children - The first 100 days

Supplies

Our coordinated response was swift to deliver life-saving supplies and technical assistance. When the earthquakes struck, UNICEF already had over \$6 million in supplies pre-positioned in north-west **Syria**, enabling a swift and immediate response. Within the first weeks, UNICEF delivered over **70 tonnes of life-saving supplies** from the global hubs while distributing prepositioned supplies in-country. In **Türkiye**, UNICEF worked immediately with our established partners, **signing agreements**

with 86 local suppliers and service providers, to procure supplies including blankets and winter clothes, among others. In addition, working in collaboration with the Government of Türkiye and partners, we provided logistical and technical support - supporting the procurement of vaccines, cold chain facilities, medical equipment and supplies not available in-country based on our extensive experience procuring and delivering vaccinations in emergencies around the world.

Our swift coordinated support and response meant that:

Syria	Programme	Türkiye
 188,846 people accessed primary healthcare.	Health and Nutrition	 360,000 children received immunization services.
 765,794 people accessed life-saving WASH services.	WASH	 303,146 people accessed safe water.
 140,286 children accessed formal and non-formal education.	Education	 Over 332,500 children accessed formal and non-formal education.
 12,639 children were reached with mental health and psychosocial support services.	Child Protection	 250,600 children were reached with psychosocial support services; 1,915 unaccompanied children identified, 1,774 reunited.
 80,226 people benefitted from humanitarian cash assistance.	Social Protection	

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



A volunteer with a UNICEF-supported mobile health and nutrition team in Lattakia, Syria, on 8 March. “Me and my sisters approached the team to get medical support. Doctors in private facilities are so far from our village, and we can’t reach them easily,” said Batoul, 13 years old.

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Prior to the earthquakes, 6.81 million children in **Syria** were in need of basic health services and half of the primary healthcare system was not functioning. A cholera outbreak and the earthquakes added pressure on the already over-burdened public health services and healthcare delivery. **Within 48 hours of the earthquakes, UNICEF reached children and their families** dispatching emergency supplies including hygiene kits, drinking water and high-energy biscuits to immediately save lives. UNICEF and partners have provided more than 188,846 children and women to date with access to primary healthcare including free-of-charge medical consultations and medicines in health facilities and mobile clinics.

In March, in north-west **Syria**, UNICEF and partners conducted a cholera vaccination campaign in earthquake-hit areas in which 1.7 million doses of cholera vaccine were slated to be used. An estimated 1,400 health workers and community volunteers implemented the 10-day campaign going house-to-house and reaching displaced people living in camps, markets and school sites.

In **Türkiye**, many health facilities and staff were disrupted by the earthquake, leaving the health system overstretched and routine health services interrupted. UNICEF was able to support the government to reach 360,000 people with health care services in the 100 days since the earthquake by procuring vaccines, medicine and equipment. In Adana, for example, UNICEF provided eight Inter-agency Emergency Health Kits to the Ministry

of Health, including essential drugs, medical consumables and equipment to cover primary health care and basic hospital care for 80,000 people for three months. UNICEF is supporting immunization campaigns to eradicate rabies, measles, cholera, tetanus and diphtheria.

Nutrition Across **Syria**, UNICEF works with partners to deliver treatment for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. We also deliver micronutrient supplements, growth monitoring, counselling and support on breastfeeding and age-appropriate complementary feeding. **To address emergency nutrition needs in Syria, UNICEF screened over 159,649 children for acute malnutrition and supported treatment when necessary.** Working with United Nations agencies and local partners, UNICEF has helped reached over 97,700 children under five years old with micro-nutrient tablets and powder; and reached over 120,166 caregivers in crucial districts with information on infant- and young-child feeding practices during an emergency. As the nutrition cluster lead, UNICEF coordinates the delivery of comprehensive nutrition services in reception centres. We have supplied nutrition resources to 36 partners. Our Cash Plus Nutrition Programme, ongoing in north-west Syria, helps pregnant and nursing women and caregivers of young children to access better, more balanced diets.

In **Türkiye**, 60 staff members of implementing partners were trained in breastfeeding promotion and infant and young child feeding, to implement nutrition promotion at the support hubs. More than 360,000 children are receiving immunisation services across the country, supported by UNICEF vaccine supplies.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Nearly half the population in **Syria** rely on alternative, and often unsafe, water sources to meet or complement their water needs. Poor water quality tends to lead to more waterborne diseases, including diarrhoea, particularly among children. UNICEF’s WASH programme has reached almost 765,800 people in Syria, helping restore access to safe drinking water, meeting basic needs with dignity, and supporting better economic activity. Water tanks have been installed in 27 schools, providing almost 18,600 school children with access to clean drinking water. We are also rehabilitating damaged water systems and sewage networks for host communities of the camps and informal settlements.

Family hygiene kits – including soaps, aqua tabs, jerry cans, sanitary napkins and baby diapers – were delivered to 284,162 internally-displaced people. Cognisant of the upcoming summer season and risk of outbreaks, UNICEF has a campaign to raise awareness and combat the spread of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera, particularly among displaced families in Aleppo.

In Syria, UNICEF will continue to rehabilitate WASH facilities, support WASH-in-school interventions, continue water trucking where necessary, and raise awareness on safe hygiene in schools and communities. Moving forward, we have devised a two-phase plan to address water and sanitation issues: phase one is to focus on repair of critical infrastructure; the second phase will restore WASH services. Repair work has commenced in Aleppo to provide safe drinking water and sanitation services, minimizing the need for arduous water collection and the gender-related risks.



On May 1, children play at a temporary shelter in Hatay, Turkey where UNICEF has delivered portable toilets for the community.

In **Turkey**, with UNICEF support, cumulatively over 303,140 people have accessed safe water through water trucking, provision of chlorine, water storage, water-quality testing and repair of water supply systems. For example, in Gaziantep and Hatay, we procured equipment to support the municipality with repairs, so that 293,000 people now have better running water.

Since 6 February, UNICEF has delivered critical hygiene supplies to over 421,000 people, including buckets, soap and water purification tablets, and menstrual hygiene management items such as reusables pads. Working with the government on cholera preparation and response planning, we

have helped boost access to sanitation facilities for 5,800 people by, among other projects, procuring and distributing prefabricated toilets. In April, four water tanks were installed in settlements in Hatay to increase water storage and distribution for displaced families. In the coming months, UNICEF will provide one-off financial support to water enterprises in Gaziantep and Hatay to restore and provide continuous services for water and sanitation to earthquake affected areas.

EDUCATION

In **Syria**, where schools have reopened, parents and caregivers still fear for children's safety. **In the northwest, an estimated 1 million children are out of school.** Since February, our support to formal and non-formal education - including early learning, self-learning and remedial classes – has reached almost 140,286 children. We have procured school kits, stationery, tents, prefabricated classrooms, school furniture and cleaning kits and materials to help 255,000 students access a better education. And our programmes are working with debris removal, minor repairs and light rehabilitation in 42 schools with the aim to reach 388 across Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama and Homs. UNICEF has supported the set-up of 18 prefabricated classrooms in the most affected districts; and 73 learning spaces with recreational activities provided to children in collective shelters. Across Aleppo, we installed 35 temporary learning spaces in collective shelters to host 1,680 children, and established eight digital learning centres with laptops, tablets, learning materials and interactive educational games to benefit 2,040 children.

Our psychosocial support programmes in schools have reached almost 7,990 children to help with well-being and resilience during post-earthquake trauma. UNICEF supported life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal and non-formal settings have reached 10,474 children.

In **Türkiye**, the Ministry of National Education has reopened schools and learning has resumed for nearly 1.5 million children in six of the ten affected provinces. In support of the government, UNICEF has reached 332,500 children with formal and informal education. Additionally, 130,000 teachers have received online training on psycho-social support to help traumatized children at school.



In Syria, our 'learning cinema initiative' has been part of UNICEF's earthquake response. Mobile teams of trained teachers, equipped with a laptop, a projector and a portable power source create 'learning cinemas' - video classes and interactive activities for remedial learning and psychosocial support to earthquake-displaced children in shelters. "My life is different than it was a couple of months ago," says 9-year-old Rana, who attends a learning cinema in Aleppo. "Now, I live in a classroom which is weird. I don't go to school because my school is turned to a shelter just like this one! But I attend classes here in tents, where I learn and play. I never had a screen in my classroom before."

So far, we have provided 400 temporary learning spaces that house catch-up classes and exam preparation for 23,000 children every day. More than one million internally displaced students received supplementary learning materials from UNICEF in preparation for the university entry examinations. UNICEF procured 84 container classrooms, each with insulation and heating/cooling capability, that provide practical and safe space in all climates, each benefiting an estimated 2,160 children.

Moving forward, while the Government of Türkiye and its partners continue to respond to the most urgent learning needs of students affected by the February earthquakes, projects to invest in the longer-term quality of education are also moving forward. In collaboration with the Ministry of National Education, 18 million students in Türkiye will ultimately benefit from a UNICEF initiative to build teachers' digital skills: the Digital Ecosystem for Teacher Training. Over 200,000 teachers, school administrators and personnel will receive online digital-skills training. The initiative will run until 2026.

CHILD PROTECTION

In **Syria**, parents and caregivers report that their children are less frightened at night and sleep better in shelters where UNICEF is reaching children and their families with psychological first aid and support, recreational activities and parenting programmes.

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Our community-based approaches offer mental health support, case management, family tracing and reunification and campaigns raising awareness about violence and exploitation of children. To date, 2,256 children in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama have entered specialised case management, with 171 recorded as unaccompanied or separated. UNICEF and partners have also organized parenting sessions, reaching almost 47,000 caregivers in and outside of shelters, providing a safe space to share experiences and build ways to communicate with and support children in distress.

In **Türkiye**, with UNICEF support, 4,000 frontline workers were trained, enabling more than 250,600 children and their caregivers to receive psychosocial support and first aid since the earthquakes hit. In four cities, 47 child and family support hubs, including seven mobile spaces, offered respite and services to more than 51,800 children - providing services to Turkish and refugee communities while strengthening social cohesion. Our work on mitigating, preventing and responding to gender-based violence has benefited 46,360 women, girls and boys. The services include comprehensive response services like clinical care, individual case management and psychosocial support. Since February, UNICEF and the Turkish Bar Association have been providing legal counselling, safe referral and reporting of cases and litigation services for children and women.



"I was scared when my mom left me to look for my brother," 4-year-old Naya recalls. "She wanted to find him so that we could escape together from the earthquake." UNICEF supports activities in the shelter where Naya lives in Lattakia **Syria** so she and other children can express their feelings through art and sports, offering a sense of normalcy and stability."



VIDEO: In Gaziantep, UNICEF Türkiye National Ambassador Tüba Büyüküstün met with children in UNICEF-supported child-friendly areas, where children can regain a sense of normalcy and be children again after the earthquake trauma. “February 6, 2023. It is engraved in our hearts and minds as one of the most painful days our country has ever lived... lives of millions of our people changed in seconds... In an instant, children were left without a mother, father, home, room, school, friend. **UNICEF, together with its partners, has been working to heal the physical and mental wounds of our children.** But our path is long, everything has just begun. And staying persistent in this path is the most important. That’s why we need you. We need your support.”

| SOCIAL PROTECTION

Within 96 hours of the earthquakes in Syria, UNICEF started providing emergency cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of the most affected children and their families in Aleppo and Hama governorates.

In **Syria**, many parents and caregivers had already lost their means of support due to years of conflict. In the regions affected by the earthquake, particularly Aleppo and Hama governorates, impoverished families were left with no health access. Women and children – especially families headed by mothers or with children with disabilities or undernourished children, and families caring for orphans - were already struggling to survive the winter. UNICEF’s immediate response included on-the-ground assessments and meeting with those families, which confirmed that cash was the immediate need: **80,226 earthquake-affected families received emergency cash assistance.** Nearly half of the distributed cash was used for home repairs and rent, indicating the funds addressed earthquake-induced needs; one-quarter of the cash was spent on health-related expenses, highlighting the existing vulnerabilities and increased hardships faced by families with children with disabilities. Non-food items were provided to 20,000 people since the earthquake response began.

Moving forward, our plans in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia aim to deliver cash assistance through the vertical and horizontal expansion of our two

humanitarian cash transfer programmes: The Cash for Basic Needs Support Programme offers cash assistance to vulnerable families in urban and peri-urban slums during winter, prioritizing female-headed households and those with disabilities or chronic illnesses. While the Integrated Social Protection Programme for Children with Disabilities provides unconditional and unrestricted cash assistance to families caring for children with severe mental or physical disabilities.

In **Türkiye**, rising inflation and unemployment rates were already compounding families’ hardships when the earthquakes hit. Children’s material deprivation (for example, the inability to replace worn-out clothes) was increasing. Half of the refugee population lived below the poverty line. After the earthquake devastation, these families are struggling to meet basic needs. Working with the Government of Türkiye’s Directorate General of Social Assistance, UNICEF’s Cash Plus programme combines cash transfers with complementary support; **pending funding availability**, 500,000 households affected by the earthquake will be supported to help with basic needs and lessen the economic shock as well as support local markets to recover.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In north-west **Syria**, UNICEF working with partners has reached over 15,300 children, parents and caregivers with social and behavioural interventions (such as awareness sessions, edutainment activities and door-to-door visits on issues concerning family separation, violence and negative-coping mechanisms. With UNICEF's technical leadership, a working group comprised of 43 partner organisations operates in 27 sub-districts so that community health workers and social mobilizers were able to reach 155,000 people, referring suspected cholera cases and other health concerns to proper facilities or services. Using vehicle megaphones, our community engagement and social mobilization efforts have reached an estimated 937,000 people across north-west Syria with cholera and earthquake safety messages. In **Türkiye**, over 23 million people received information on WASH, nutrition, health and child protection. We've been able to harness the

concerns of those living in informal settlements on issues such as children missing school, limited WASH services and structural safety. In the immediate response, 5,000 youth were trained to provide front-line response, imparting information on the available services to over 160,000 people in the temporary accommodation centres. Working with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNICEF has set up three additional youth spaces to provide services such as training for entrepreneurship and simple business model development.

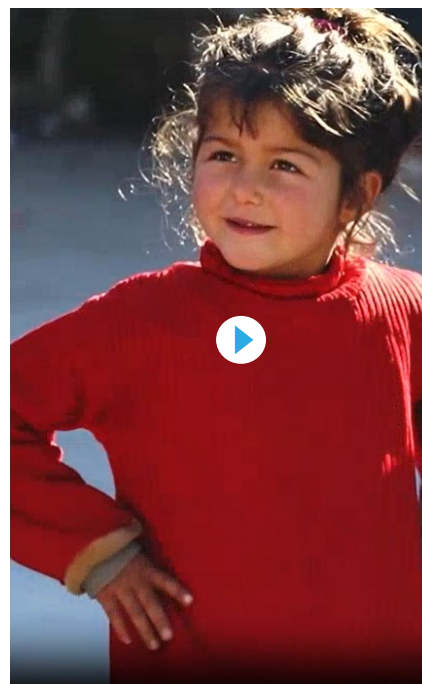
The United Nations Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment has estimated \$8.9 billion in damages and losses, and \$14.8 billion in recovery needs over the next three years. In Türkiye, a recovery and reconstruction assessment in March estimated the earthquakes' impact at \$103.6 billion. The interagency appeal for \$1 billion required for lifesaving is 30 per cent funded.

UNICEF requires \$368.7 million for continued support in the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria.

The extent of loss, suffering and devastation as a result of the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye shocked the world. Many rallied to support the children of these countries, and many more were reminded of the forgotten humanitarian crisis for children in north-west Syria.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the children and families affected by the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye have received critical support in devastating times. But as global attention turns away, the devastation caused by the earthquake remains. Your continued partnership is needed to support our early recovery and rehabilitation initiatives.

UNICEF, in partnership with the governments and civil society, aims to reach at least 5.4 million people, including 2.6 million children, with our holistic, rights-based, humanitarian response. Our work – including health care, child protection, education, clean water and nutrition – will help ensure a better future for every child.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Please stay with us - there is more to do.