

TÜRKIYE EARTHQUAKE

SITUATION REPORT #6

Updated 3 August 2023



Sara was 7 months pregnant when the earthquake hit on 6 February. While she was running to safety, she fell down a flight of stairs and her water broke. 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 Uçak

BACKGROUND

The massive earthquakes that struck eastern Türkiye on 6 February 2023 affected 11 provinces with an area of about 350,000 km² (140,000 sq mi). As a result of the earthquakes, official reports indicated that more than 50,000 people died, over 106,000 people sustained injuries, and it is estimated that the total number of people with disabilities will increase with the injured survivors. Approximately 280,000 buildings collapsed or were extensively damaged, including several hospitals and social service centers. Millions have been severely affected by the massive loss of livelihoods and assets.

SITUATION UPDATE

Six months after the devastating earthquakes of February 2023, health and protection infrastructure and services remain critically affected. Among the 9.1 million people directly affected by the earthquakes, 3 million had to leave their homes and reside in formal or informal settlements in the affected area or have moved to other provinces. Efforts in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and protection assistance are required to improve the current living conditions in tent settlements. The restoration of housing units and public infrastructure, including public service buildings, remains the priority. The authorities are consolidating informal and formal tent sites, transitioning residents to container cities to provide them with better services.

**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 (estimate)

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**130,000**

Pregnant women among the directly affected population (estimate)

**14,400**

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

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH): SRH services continue to experience interruptions in the affected areas. During focus group discussions conducted by UNFPA women and girls reported several issues. Lack of transportation was reported as a main challenge in Hatay, Malatya, Adiyaman: despite free buses to hospitals, due to overcrowding on the buses and lack of coverage for remote areas, transportation remains problematic. Shortages of family planning supplies for all methods and obstetrics and gynaecology specialists means pregnant women cannot always undertake routine antenatal check-ups and to get treatment for any complications during pregnancy and delivery. Other challenges mentioned in accessing SRH services were delays in securing appointments and lack of child care services (including schools closure). To support the Ministry of Health in the provision of SRH services, cumulatively as of July 2023, UNFPA provided 31 metric tons of reproductive health supplies (including condoms, oral and injectable contraceptives, essential drugs and medical equipment), to provincial health directorates in 10 affected areas.

Menstrual hygiene management is another pressing issue reported. Women and girls struggle to meet their menstrual hygiene needs and manage their menses with dignity. WASH services remain limited. Most women and girls in the temporary settlements lack access to water and private, safe, and well-lit toilets. Access to sufficient menstrual materials is also a challenge since many women cannot afford to buy enough sanitary pads due to increased prices. More awareness-raising sessions on hygiene are needed to complement existing information materials.

Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Protection: According to focus group discussions conducted by UNFPA, domestic violence increased after the earthquake, including physical, sexual, and psychological violence. High stress levels due to the loss of loved ones, deteriorated and cramped living conditions, unemployment, and economic disempowerment are all contributing factors to increased violence affecting primarily women and children. However, due to cultural norms and beliefs, women are afraid to report domestic violence, fearing that they may lose the custody of their children or be "found guilty" of causing the incident.

Additionally, women face challenges in accessing GBV response services, such as psychosocial support, case management, legal aid/access to justice. The main barriers identified are: (i) understaffed protection services, especially in certain provinces (including Adiyaman and Malatya), (ii) lack of safe/private places in tent settlements to conduct one-on-one interviews, (iii) lack of knowledge for provision of psychosocial support and accurate referrals among GBV case workers, (iv) lack of female leaders that could ensure engagement of

communities with GBV case management services offered, (v) lack of awareness about the needs of most vulnerable groups, (vi) lack of GBV services in rural areas.

UNFPA-supported service units reported the urgent need for a hotline to provide remote psychosocial and GBV case management support. They also highlighted the need for additional information materials on GBV support in Turkish and Arabic.

Key Populations: According to the Key Refugee Groups Thematic Coordination Group that held post-earthquake assessment meetings with partners on the ground, key populations continue to experience challenges in specialized services such as healthcare services or psychosocial support services. Due to discrimination and stigma, GBV incidents involving key populations appear to have increased in the earthquake zones and the provinces where key populations have moved.



UNFPA visits people currently sheltered in a temporary camp in Gaziantep following the devastating earthquakes. UNFPA is in affected areas assessing and responding to the needs. Pictured is a mother with her daughter who are in need of emergency accommodation. Photo: © UNFPA Türkiye/Eren Korkmaz

UNFPA RESPONSE IN TÜRKIYE

- **32,000 individuals reached with SRH services and counselling**
- **36,000 individuals reached with GBV services and counselling**
- **26,000 individuals reached with dignity kits and maternity kits**
- **8 UNFPA-supported static service units deliver SRH and GBV services**
- **2 tent service units provide SRH and GBV services**
- **11 mobile outreach teams provide SRH and GBV services**
- **10 tents provided to MoH to coordinate SRH activities in 10 affected provinces**
- **31 metric tons of reproductive health commodities, essential drugs and medical equipment distributed to the Provincial Health Directorates**
- **2 containers provided for use as Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers by MoFSS**
- UNFPA scaled up its cash interventions to support vulnerable population groups to cover rental payments and other protection needs. In total, 248 individuals from the earthquake-affected areas have benefited from cash assistance so far.
- Life-saving reproductive health commodities: UNFPA and its partners delivered 53,000 reproductive health commodities (including oral contraceptives, injectables, IUDs, and condoms) to affected communities.
- UNFPA distributed 2,750 maternity kits to its implementing partners to complement the SRH services offered. Each kit contains carefully selected items to address the needs of pregnant and lactating women and serves as an entry point to disseminate information on the various protection services that are accessible.

Coordination

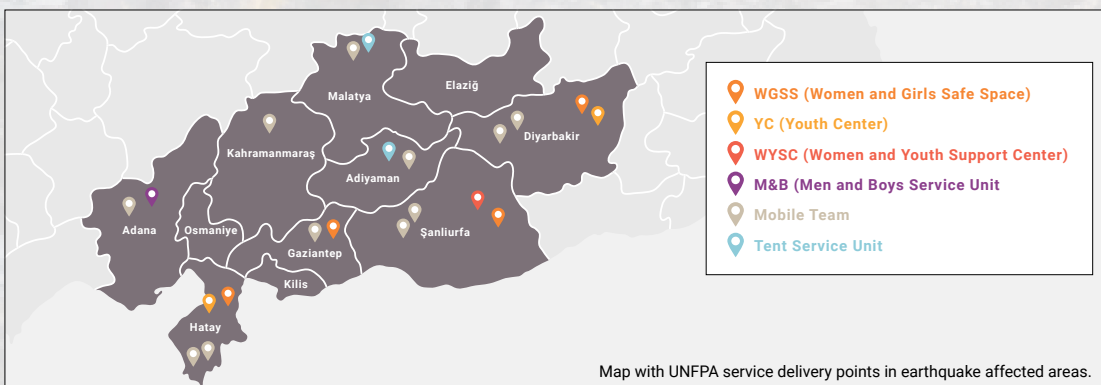
In cooperation with sector leadership, UNFPA continues to bolster a broad approach to inter-agency cooperation in support of SRH and GBV service provision across the affected provinces.

- The OCHA-led earthquake coordination structure will operate until 17 August. A transition and Recovery Framework have been developed to assist in coordination after this date. Under the Resident Coordinator's leadership, UNFPA and other UN agencies are drafting a new coordination framework to guide and enhance collaboration among the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) coordination mechanisms.
- The GBV Sub-Sector, co-chaired by UNFPA and the Kamer Foundation, continues to support the delivery of GBV awareness, response and mitigation services in earthquake-affected areas by member organisations.
- The GBV Sub-Sector, supported by UN Women, has created a Legal Monitoring Tool. It gathers data on GBV-related legal cases referred to law enforcement in regions impacted by the earthquakes failing to receive timely responses. The data collected will help advocate with the Ministry of Justice to prevent cases from being overlooked or neglected.

Funding update

UNFPA published its [recovery and resilience offer](#) (June 2023-December 2025) to address the needs of women, girls and groups with specialised needs. In total, \$42 million is needed to deliver this offer.

- UNFPA has raised \$8.6 million during the UN Flash Appeal (Feb - May 2023). UNFPA is requesting donors to provide additional funding support to sustain and expand the earthquake efforts to address humanitarian needs and promote recovery and resilience. The focus is on delivering and coordinating assistance for SRH services, and preventing and protecting against GBV. UNFPA stresses the importance of ensuring effectiveness and long-term viability of its earthquake response, with a particular emphasis on upholding the rights, safety, and dignity of women, girls, and other vulnerable populations, including refugees, migrants, youth, older individuals, and people with disabilities.
- UNFPA continues to run [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.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Ashley Judd visits earthquake region



Ashley Judd presents a dignity kit to Amira, a new mother from Antakya. Photo: © UNFPA Türkiye/Eren Korkmaz

UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Ashley Judd visited the earthquake-affected region on 11-13 July to draw attention to the needs of the affected population six months after the earthquakes happened. During her visit, Ms. Judd had the opportunity to engage with survivors currently residing in both formal and informal tent settlements. She took the time to listen to the accounts of women and girls in the area, the hardships they have faced and their pressing needs in the aftermath of the disaster.

Among the many people Ms. Judd spoke with was the Korkmaz family from Kahramanmaraş, who lost two sons (aged 30 and 22), one daughter-in-law (aged 30), and a grandchild (aged two). The surviving mother, father, and

daughter, Ayşe, were trapped under the debris for days before being rescued. The family, once well-off and generous to those in need, now struggles to access basic amenities like safe drinking water. Ayşe's priority is to ensure her father's independence and mobility, who spent five days buried up to his neck and lost his leg, by obtaining a proper prosthesis and a disability certificate, so he can regain some autonomy and return to work. [UNFPA](#) and its partner, the KAMER foundation, provide psychological support to the family, and efforts are made to ensure the disability of Ayşe's father is recognised. Ayşe also attended UNFPA-supported women empowerment sessions to help cope with trauma and grief.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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