



MARCH 2023

UN WOMEN RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKES IN TÜRKİYE

UN WOMEN

UN Women's response to the [devastating earthquakes in Türkiye](#) on February 6th is based on the [identified needs and priorities of women and girls](#) and is implemented in close coordination with the Government of Türkiye at central and local level, civil society, private sector and other UN agencies. The response aims to address both immediate needs, risks and challenges faced by women as well as medium and longer-term needs for restoration of their livelihoods. It addresses women's rights to self-reliance, determination, protection, and agency, to mitigate the risk of widening gender gap. Underpinning all of UN Women's efforts is elevating women's role as leaders and agents of change rather than beneficiaries of assistance, and advocating for their full participation in the humanitarian and recovery response which needs to be based on their own identified priorities and solutions.

UN Women is working to achieve the following results:

- UN system-wide coordination and cooperation capacities for women's empowerment and gender equality in humanitarian action and in the recovery period are strengthened.
- Women and girls affected by the earthquake in selected provinces receive protection services in line with their rights, needs and priorities.
- Women and girls affected by the earthquake have the skills, knowledge and access to opportunities and resources for their livelihoods and leadership.

Since the early days of the crisis in Türkiye, UN Women has provided expertise and technical advice in the UN inter-agency coordination mechanism that has been set up under the [UN Flash Appeal](#) (Humanitarian County Team (HCT), Inter-Sector Coordination Group, and various sector and cross-cutting working groups) in order to ensure that:

- the inter-sectoral coordination for gender equality is strengthened,
- the humanitarian response is based on gender-focused needs assessments and gender analysis across the sectors,
- there is strong localization agenda to facilitate the inclusion of women and women's organizations in the planning and implementation of crisis response and,
- the capacities of sectors and humanitarian actors on the importance of gender in humanitarian action and the means to integrate it throughout their humanitarian programme cycles are strengthened.

UN Women has deployed a Gender Advisor to the HCT and supported the establishment and work of an inter-sectoral Women's Empowerment in Humanitarian Action Working Group (WEHA). WEHA WG is an intersectoral coordination mechanism that offers technical and advisory support to HCT and sectors

to ensure the humanitarian response is tailored to address the specific needs of women and girls.

This work will be leveraged beyond the humanitarian phase and into the early recovery and recovery phase, building on UN Women's leading role as a Chair of the Women's Empowerment Results Group under the [UN Sustainable Development Coordination Framework \(UNSDCF\) between the UN and the Government of Türkiye](#) 2021-2025. UN Women has actively contributed to the development of the [Türkiye Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Assessment \(TERRA\)](#) prepared by the Government of Türkiye, in particular to the recovery vision outlined in TERRA. The recovery vision provides initial recommendation for key sectoral priorities and short, medium, and long-term actions to be considered by the Government of Türkiye, local institutions, private sector and civil society, and supported by international actors, including with regards the priorities and inclusion of women and girls. This represents an important foundation for future programmatic interventions and advocacy.



UN Women works on the ground to meet the needs of the women and girls affected by the earthquake. Credit: UN Women/İlkin Eskişehirlivan.

Ongoing or planned **programmatic interventions** include:

- Development of a women-friendly settlement model (temporary and permanent) that will be applied to selected temporary settlements and promoted across the country. The model will exemplify how women and girls' needs and priorities need to be considered within new settlements in all stages of urban planning, design and implementation.
- Psycho-social support, legal counselling, referrals (including on GBV and PSEA), emergency cash and distribution of essential supplies to women and girls affected by the earthquake.
- Establishment of women's empowerment and solidarity centers/hubs in selected locations that provide holistic support to women.
- Support to staff from the Ministry of Family and Social Services and from local municipalities who provide services

to women subject to/at risk of violence to strengthen their capacities and to contribute to their well-being.

- Supporting the Union of Turkish Bar Associations in facilitating information dissemination on legal concerns important for women earthquake victims, particularly survivors or those at-risk of VAWG and single female-headed households, and in providing legal aid services.
- Financial and technical support to local women-led and women's rights organizations to remain operational and to continue and expand their work in the post-disaster context.
- Support to sustained income generation opportunities for women and women's cooperatives and necessary re-skilling with a focus on those who are most left behind, such women with disabilities and rural women. Advocacy for gender-responsive procurement and prioritization of "bying from women" in the post-disaster period.
- Integrate gender sensitive and socially inclusive lens into disaster management and disaster risk reduction policies through gender responsive planning and budgeting in accordance with the applicable regional and international framework. Build institutional capacity and tools for mainstreaming gender perspective into all disaster management and risk reduction initiatives.

The advisory, coordination, advocacy, and operational activities of UN Women are underpinned by the collection and dissemination of **sex disaggregated data and gender analysis**. These are key to inform on the evolving needs of women and girls and in this way to influence the development of strategies and plans and the implementation of targeted and needs-based support and services. From the outset of the emergency, UN Women has prioritized the collection and dissemination of data on the needs and priorities of women and girls, utilizing its extensive network of partners and its strong coordination role in the UN system. In addition to its own assessments, UN Women is contributing at the design and analyst stage in different UN assessments both in relation to the humanitarian and the recovery phase. In the coming period, UN Women will conduct: 1) further assessment on impacts of the earthquake on women, particularly in thematic and geographical areas that have been under-researched so far, as well as 2) targeted assessment on women's access to justice in post-earthquake context to make data-driven interventions in legal response to VAWG in mid-to-long term.

Visit our in-focus page for more information on UN Women's response.

To support UN Women's earthquake response [make a donation through our global donation campaign.](#)

For more information, please contact infoturkiye@unwomen.org.

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