

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

UN WOMEN TÜRKİYE

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The earthquakes on February 6, 2023, devastated Türkiye, causing significant loss of life and widespread destruction in 11 provinces. UN Women Türkiye worked with numerous partners - government institutions, local institutions, civil society organizations, other UN bodies, and private sector partners - to support the most vulnerable women and girls affected. UN Women Türkiye focused on strengthening coordination within the UN system to promote women's empowerment and gender equality in humanitarian efforts and recovery phases. UN Women Türkiye worked to ensure that women and girls in earthquake-affected areas received protection services aligned with their rights and needs, and efforts were made to equip them with skills, knowledge, and resources for livelihoods and leadership roles.

In 2023, UN Women continued implementing its ongoing projects and extending its reach in line with the objectives outlined in its [Strategic Note 2022-2025](#).

UN Women Türkiye;

- Contributed with technical advice and advocacy to adoption of new and revision of ongoing national and local level policies and plans, in line with global normative frameworks,
- Strengthened capacities of government institutions at central and local level on implementing gender-responsive budgeting and Law 6284 on Protection of the Family and Prevention of Violence against Women, provision of well-coordinated, survivor-centered and gender-sensitive services on violence against women and girls and adoption of new digital tools for gender responsive policy making and service delivery at municipal level,
- Strengthened capacities and opportunities for civil society organizations, networks and groups, especially women's rights and women-led organizations to serve as effective advocates for gender equality and provide needed services to women,
- Produced new data and analysis to fill data gaps and strengthen evidence-based policy making and advocacy,
- Mobilized the private sector to advance gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community.



Photo: UN Women

GENDER-RESPONSIVE PLANNING AND BUDGETING

The three-year European Union funded project 'Implementing Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting in Türkiye' (GRB) which is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services – General Directorate on the Status of Women and the Presidency of Türkiye – Presidency of Strategy and Budget, aims to integrate a gender equality perspective in all stages of policymaking and budgeting processes. In 2023, considerable progress was achieved in the both national and local level and in building public officials' technical knowledge of the implementation of GRB. [More about the project.](#)

UN Women Türkiye;

- Contributed to the improvements in budget guidelines, indicators and technical capacities with project partners leading to OECD's inclusion of Türkiye for the first time among the countries having successfully introduced gender budgeting.
- Supported 12th National Development Plan of the Government for the 2024-2028 period, to introduce for the first time a specific policy on mainstreaming of women's empowerment in development and implementation of all plans and policies with specific measures on data, analysis, budgeting and indicators.
- Collaborated with the Presidency of Strategy and Budget (PSB) to highlight the gender-responsive budgeting approach for the first time in the Investment Programme Guideline and the Citizen's Budget Guideline.
- Supported the increase in the number of sex-disaggregated performance indicators in Türkiye's Central Government Budget for 2024 from 39 to 59.
- Provided insights on gendered aspects of public services and knowledge on GRB tools to 856 experts and 15 managers from 20 central-level public institutions and 4 municipalities as well as 12 parliamentarians from the Committee on Equal Opportunity for Women and Men of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye through seminars and technical trainings.
- Facilitated sectoral gender-responsive budgeting analysis for 4 central-level institutions and 4 municipalities. As recommended in the analysis, institutions started to integrate gender-disaggregated data collection into their systems and make improvements in the services provided in line with needs and demands of women.
- Completed a [GRB Strategy Document and Action Plan](#) together with the relevant public institutions and included reflections of civil society organizations shared through workshops. The document will guide the legal framework as well as the institutional practices necessary for the implementation of a sustainable gender-responsive planning and budgeting approach in Türkiye.
- Launched a public and free online training platform that includes basic and advanced level training on GRB.

🌐 Online Training Platform: www.equalbudgeting.org/training

Four municipalities, Edirne Municipality, Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality and Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality now have gender-responsive budgeting analyses of their specific services which provide insights into how women and men benefit from those public services.



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This project is co-funded by the European Union and UN Women. Bu proje Avrupa Birliği ve UN Women tarafından finanse edilmektedir.



Photo: UN Women / Ayşe Gültekin

WOMEN LEAD AND PARTICIPATE

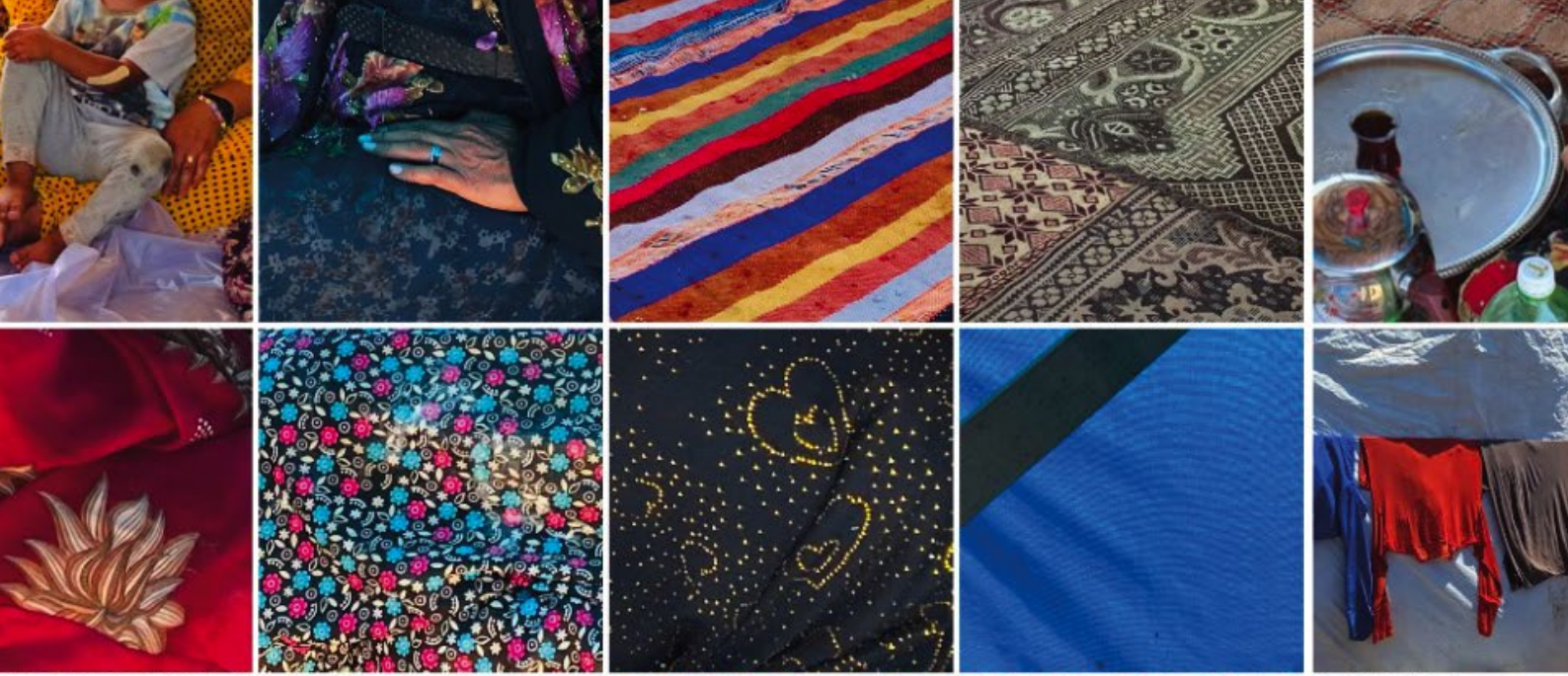
UN Women continued to work on strengthening women’s full, equal, and effective participation and leadership in political, business, and public spheres by collaborating with the Turkish Grand National Assembly, local authorities, civil society, and the private sector through the ‘Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Leadership in Political and Business Life’ project. [More about the project.](#)

UN Women Türkiye;

- [Created a platform](#) to discuss various critical issues with the Committee on Equal Opportunity for Women and Men of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, such as barriers to women’s political representation and gender-responsive reconstruction in the earthquake-affected region.
- Formulated the [“Gender Responsive Settlement Model”](#), which provides guidelines for the construction of gender-responsive and inclusive temporary and permanent residential areas, after the devastating earthquakes that hit Türkiye. The model prioritizes women’s empowerment and leadership, striving to build better, more equal, inclusive settlements and to integrate this model into emergency plans, including those of local governments.
- Continued to advocate for gender-responsive service delivery at the local level. [The Purple Map](#), a gender-responsive interactive tool that enables municipalities to plan their services in line with the needs and priorities of women and girls, [was introduced in Istanbul.](#)
- Supported the Adana Metropolitan Municipality to develop a Local Equality Action Plan which will serve as a foundational framework for gender-responsive strategic planning, budgeting, and service provision.
- Launched the first national comprehensive qualitative study on [“Violence against Women in Politics \(VAWP\) in Türkiye”](#) which captures the experiences and perceptions of women involved in politics at various levels. This study identifies specific barriers impeding women’s exercise of political rights and proposes suggestions for their resolution.
- Advocated for temporary special measures, such as quotas, financial support from political parties to women, creating a violence-free party environment, involving women’s structures within political parties while identifying candidates, as well as [gender-sensitive media](#) reporting, ahead of the General Elections.
- Conducted analysis of the 2023 General Elections in terms of women and men candidates and elected Parliamentarians, comparative analysis with the 2018 elections and recommendations to increase women’s participation in politics.
- Increased the capacity, skills, and knowledge of 275 women aspirants for 2024 Local Elections from various provinces of Türkiye through candidate trainings in partnership with the Association for Supporting Women Candidates (KADER). The trainings were developed based on the UN Women’s Political Leadership and Candidate Training Manual. An online training platform for candidates was established, providing wide range of resources to support their candidacy.
- Developed a training module on technology-facilitated violence against women in politics and safety tips for prevention to strengthen the capacities of women politicians and aspirants to ensure their digital safety and security.
- [Facilitated an evaluation](#) by Milliyet Newspaper, a UN Women Global Media Compact Partner, on their efforts to produce gender-responsive news and employ transformative approaches towards gender equality in media.

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UNITED NATIONS JOINT PROGRAMME ON PREVENTION OF CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE (CEFM) IN TÜRKİYE -SECOND PHASE

Photo: UN Women / İkin Eskipehlivan

In 2023, UN partner agencies – UN Women, UNICEF and UNFPA under the United Nations Joint Programme on the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriages (CEFM) focused on changing social norms and attitudes towards gender equality, improving institutional capacity to prevent and respond to CEFM, and working closely with civil society and other allies to preserve and advance the legislative and policy framework in line with international commitments. [More about the project.](#)

UN Women Türkiye;

- Continued to provide technical support on the development and revision of Provincial Action Plans on CEFM and combating violence against women and girls (VAWG). 17 provinces revised their actions plans on combating VAWG to include specific activities to tackle with CEFM since 2022. Additionally, 3 provinces developed Provincial Action Plans on CEFM for the first time, while some were reviewing and revising their existing plans to include specific actions for uninterrupted services during disaster and emergency situations.
- Contributed to the disaster preparedness of 110 officials from the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MFSS), who represent social service centers, violence prevention and monitoring centers (VPMCs), provincial directorates from 27 provinces with high prevalence of early and forced marriages. This effort enhanced their capacity to address this harmful practice during times of crises.
- Provided service providers working in the field of VAWG under the MFSS with psycho-social support in order to ensure both their well-being and uninterrupted and quality delivery of services in 11 earthquake-affected provinces.
- Conducted trainings of trainers for officials working under public institutions including various municipalities and VPMCs on how to engage men and boys in gender equality.
- Brought together 80 representatives from specialized women shelters in 15 provinces working under the MFSS to share experience and knowledge with a focus on protection from high risk of VAWG.
- Co-organized the ninth International Day of the Girl Child Conference on 11 October 2023 with UNICEF and UNFPA Türkiye and in collaboration with the Aydın Doğan Foundation.
- Continued trainings to combat CEFM with public institutions and civil society organizations with participation of 100 representatives.

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STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The project 'Strengthening Women's Access to Justice and Improving the Response of the Judicial System for More Effective Implementation of Legislation in Combating Violence Against Women' was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Support and Victim Services Department in the period January 2022-May 2023. The project aims to strengthen the implementation of the Law No. 6284 to Protect Family and Prevent Violence against Women in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and to improve the response of the justice system to incidents and risks of violence against women (VAW) in Türkiye. [More about the project.](#)

UN Women Türkiye;

- Enabled 345 judges and prosecutors in 73 provinces to increase their capacities on implementation of the Law No. 6284, in line with CEDAW since 2022, through experience sharing workshops. The workshops were led by the Working Group, consisting of 10 prominent judges and public prosecutors experienced in implementing the Law No. 6284.
- Developed information dissemination materials targeting women on VAW-specific services provided by the Legal Support and Victim Services Directorates across the country, to enhance women's knowledge on quasi-legal services.
- Developed an implementation guideline on the Law No. 6284, targeting judges and prosecutors across the country, in cooperation with the Working Group and the Legal Support and Victim Services Department.

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Photo: UN Women / Ebru Demirel

ENHANCING WOMEN'S POST-EARTHQUAKE LEGAL LITERACY

A new pilot project, "Capacity Development and Technical Assistance for Enhancing Women's Post Earthquake Legal Literacy" in partnership with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations is implemented in the period 1 August 2023- 29 February 2024. The project aims to support women in 5 earthquake-affected provinces (Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya) to receive legal information and advice based on their needs. [More about the project.](#)

UN Women Türkiye;

- In partnership with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, provided legal refresher sessions to 102 lawyers from Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya Bar Associations on women's post-earthquake legal priorities, on ending violence against women and girls, criminal law matters, and housing, land, property and private law rights.
- Facilitated a training intervention targeting 100 staff from Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers across the country and women's shelters from the earthquake zone. The training focused on women's access to justice, with post-earthquake legal concerns mainstreamed, aiming to enhance disaster-awareness capacity in face of women's priority concerns.
- Supported the provision of legal information to nearly 2000 women residing in temporary accommodation centers in the 5 provinces, facilitated by the trained lawyers.

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Almanya Federal Cumhuriyeti
Büyükçılığı
Embassy of the Federal
Republic of Germany
Ankara



Photo: UN Women / Ender Baykus

STRONG CIVIC SPACE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Under the “Strong Civic Space for Gender Equality” project, UN Women continued supporting civil society organizations (CSOs), activists, networks and platforms to increase their capacity to influence national and local women’s rights and gender equality agendas. In 2023, a research study on women with disabilities was completed as a response to fill the data gap in gender equality, along with two comprehensive training programs; one on data visualization and production, the other one on disaster risk reduction and climate action to develop capacity and skills on evidence-based advocacy. [More about the project.](#)

UN Women Türkiye;

- Continued its partnerships with 9 CSOs and implemented projects in key areas: women’s economic empowerment, ending violence against women, enhancing women’s resilience to climate change and women’s access to justice. Partners to UN Women since 2021 are: Women’s Solidarity Foundation (KADAV), KAMER Foundation, Flying Broom Foundation, Turkish Women’s Union Association (TKB), Foundation for Women’s Solidarity (KDV), Human Development Foundation (INGEV), Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG), Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation (TAPV), Foundation for the Support of Women’s Work (KEDV).
- Continued supporting 18 CSOs to access long-term funding and capacity development support to expand their agency and implement transformative interventions by means of grant programs.
- Initiated a first of its kind research focusing on women with disabilities access to and enjoyment of public services and rights in partnership with the Association of Women with Disabilities (ENGKAD). Data was collected from 1000 women with disabilities and care givers, with supporting qualitative data through focus group discussions.
- Developed and implemented a data generation and visualization on gender equality training program which improved skills of 113 media professionals, students, and CSO representatives in three different cities.
- Continued to bolster dialogue on care work and economy in post-COVID-19 context through policy dialogue events that brought together 417 participants from public institutions, UN agencies, CSOs, academia, the private sector and local authorities since 2022. Another care economy dialogue meeting was held in 2023 with a focus on building resilient neighborhoods and communities with a disaster perspective.
- Developed and implemented a capacity development and training programme for CSOs working on environmental issues, youth and women’s rights on the gendered aspects of climate change and disasters and on the formulation of gender-responsive climate change and disaster risk reduction actions. 28 CSOs are now equipped with knowledge and skills for development of initiatives, projects and monitoring on the topic.
- Supported selected women’s rights advocates and representatives of networks/platforms to participate in the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. This increased opportunities for dialogue and solidarity with peers from other countries and for advocacy in a key inter-governmental forum.



[Read the empowering story of Lifehouse: "Women in Sanliurfa get a second chance in life with Lifehouse Women’s Solidarity Association"](#)

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Avrupa Birliği tarafından finanse edilmektedir.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

UN Women engages with private sector companies under three global flagship programmes implemented at the national level: the [Women's Empowerment Principles \(WEPs\)](#) that advance gender equality and women's empowerment and leadership in the workplace, marketplace and community; the [HeForShe](#) movement for the mobilization of men and boys as equal partners for gender equality, women's empowerment, and challenging patriarchal beliefs, practices and structures; and the [Unstereotype Alliance](#) that works to affect positive cultural change by using the power of advertising to help shape perceptions and eradicate harmful gender stereotypes. In 2023, UN Women Türkiye continued implementing activities and projects under all of these global programmes.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PRINCIPLES

UN Women engages both individual companies to drive change within them, across their ecosystems and in the community, and umbrella organizations for more far-reaching data generation and evidence-based policy advocacy. UN Women Türkiye works to advance women's leadership in business through the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) as a component of [the Women Lead project](#).

UN Women Türkiye;

- Provided information and technical support that led to an increase in the number of [WEPs signatories](#) from 450 to 540 in 2023. Türkiye remains the country with the second highest number of WEPs signatories in the world.
- Brought together [women entrepreneurs, companies, public institutions, and organizations](#) to support women entrepreneurs and women's cooperatives in overcoming the effects of the earthquake and participating back in economic life, in collaboration with The Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGIDER) and Hepsiburada.
- Launched "Sözden Eyleme WEPs / WEPs in Action" programme in July 2023 to deepen the understanding and implementation of WEPs in 10 selected companies and to carry out feasibility study for a WEPs Center of Excellence in Türkiye. The ten companies that collectively have over 142,000 employees developed their own tailored WEPs implementation roadmaps

with the support of UN Women. The WEPs in Action programme also included four WEPs ally companies that shared their best practices. This endeavor has provided valuable insights to strengthen UN Women's WEPs framework globally and increased UN Women's capacity to steer private sector companies to implement WEPs more effectively.

We invite companies that have not yet signed the Women's Empowerment Principles to become WEPs signatories and to take concrete actions that support women's empowerment and gender equality using the seven principles of the WEPs framework. WEPs application is easy, fast and cost-free. Log on to weeps.org/join and simply follow the directions.

For those companies that are already WEPs signatories, we urge them to continue implementing the WEPs with determination and share their experience with others in the ecosystem.

**WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT
PRINCIPLES**



UNSTEREOTYPE ALLIANCE TÜRKİYE NATIONAL CHAPTER

Photo: UN Women

The Unstereotype Alliance is a thought and action platform designed to eradicate harmful gender-based stereotypes in media and advertising content. Convened by UN Women, the Unstereotype Alliance (UA) leverages the UN's global reach and is comprised of global members and allies as well as National Chapters, including Türkiye, that take a 'glocal' approach to culturally driven stereotypes – applying a global vision to local objectives. As of December 2023, the Türkiye Chapter has 15 members and 7 allies working together to ensure that progressive and inclusive representation becomes the norm across the marketing communications and advertising industry.

[More about the alliance.](#)

Unstereotype Alliance Türkiye;

- Hosted a midsummer event, “[Cannes Lions 2023 Special](#)”, in Istanbul to increase the knowledge of our members on the latest trends and the award-winning works at Cannes Lions 2023 from the perspective of diversity, equality and inclusion.
- Analyzed Effie Award-winning TV commercials within the scope of the Gender Equality Scorecard which revealed that the use of female voices in these commercials reached a historic high of 38%, surpassing the three-year average of 24%.
- Based on lessons learnt in previous years, determined 2024 UA Chapter Strategic Priorities aimed at creating a lasting transformation within the marketing and communication ecosystem with Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) being the main goal.



[unstereotypeallianceturkiye](#)



www.unstereotypealliance.org



Photo: Fenerbahçe Sports Club

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN AND THROUGH SPORTS

UN Women's [HeForShe Movement](#), in collaboration with Fenerbahçe Sports Club, has been working since 2018 to advance gender equality in and through sports with the support of Tüpraş, one of the largest industrial companies in Türkiye. The main objectives of the partnership are to contribute to the elimination of gender stereotypes and transform harmful social norms in the sports ecosystem; to create an inclusive and safe environment for women and girls in sports; and to encourage men and boys to become active allies in advancing gender equality. In 2023, the partnership entered into a new phase which also aims at advancing a gender-responsive workplace within Tüpraş. The partnership helped advance gender equality in line with the six principles of [UN Women's Sports for Generation Equality Initiative](#). [More about the project](#).

UN Women Türkiye;

- Continued building on results achieved on increasing gender equality within the Club at representation, institutional and policy levels, in line with Fenerbahçe Sports Club's Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2025.
- Continued the development of a Safeguarding Policy against Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Abuse in Sports.
- Boosted the knowledge and awareness of 58 male athletes, and administrative and technical staff participants from amateur branches of Fenerbahçe Sports Club through capacity development trainings.
- Fostered public awareness of gender equality and women's empowerment in sports through a dedicated TV program broadcasted on Fenerbahçe TV during International Women's Day.
- Boosted the impact of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign by supporting Fenerbahçe Sports Club in disseminating compelling social media messages and showcasing awareness-raising content on LED screens during men's football matches at Fenerbahçe Stadium.

HeForShe Movement is a global solidarity movement that invites men and people of all genders to stand in solidarity with women and to become advocates for gender equality. HeForShe Türkiye carries out various awareness-raising, communications, advocacy and capacity-building activities with the private sector, universities, CSOs and sports institutions.



[In the words of Eda Tuğsuz: "The door to success and happiness opens with the wings of freedom that our fathers give us."](#)

f @ X HeForSheTurkiye

🌐 www.heforshe.org

HeForShe Türkiye - Fenerbahçe Sports Club partnership is supported by Tüpraş





Photo: UN Women / Ilkin Eskipehlivan

EMPOWERING AND SUPPORTING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED REGIONS

On February 6th, 2023, Türkiye was struck by two devastating earthquakes – the largest to hit the country in the last century. The most affected were 11 provinces in the South-East - home to 14 million people, half of whom are women and girls. More than 50,000 lives were lost, and many others were injured. In the aftermath of the earthquakes, UN Women swiftly responded to meet the lifesaving needs of women and girls. [More about UN Women's initiatives in the earthquake-affected region.](#)

UN Women's response aims to ensure that women and girls impacted by the disaster are provided with multisectoral services and support for their urgent needs and recovery, and opportunities for their agency in the humanitarian response. To achieve this goal, UN Women worked with numerous partners – Ministries, local authorities, communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), other UN agencies and the private sector – through a two-pronged approach:

- i. supporting the mainstreaming of gender and women's leadership in the coordination, planning, prioritization and financing of humanitarian response and recovery efforts.
- ii. direct support to affected women, and government and civil society partners based on their identified needs.

The earthquake response has been supported by re-programming of ongoing UN Women projects and additional funding from UN Women regular resources, online donations, as well as funds mobilized from the Federal Republic of Germany, private sector partner Koç Holding and the UN Women National Committees of Germany, Australia, Japan, France, Iceland, Finland, USA, Austria, Sweden and New Zealand.

To increase the availability of gender data and analyses, UN Women provided technical assistance to and collaborated with UN partners on different inter-agency surveys and carried out and disseminated several assessments:

- [UN Women Brief on Earthquake in Türkiye: Impacts and Priorities for Women and Girls](#)
- [Women Entrepreneurs in the Earthquake Rapid Needs Assessment](#)
- [Her Aftermath - The impact of the earthquakes in Türkiye: Perspectives of civil society organizations working for the rights of women and girls.](#)

- [Her Aftermath - The Impact of the Earthquakes in Türkiye: Focus on Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women](#)
- [Her Aftermath: The Impact of Earthquakes in Türkiye: Barriers to Access to Justice After the Earthquakes – Field Research Findings on Women's Legal Priorities](#)

An important focus has been localization and support to women's civil society organizations which play critical role as first responders and advocates for the rights of women:

- UN Women facilitated collaboration between humanitarian sector groups and over 60 local women's CSOs to enable localized gender-equitable outcomes, prioritizing at risk and vulnerable women.
- UN Women channeled in-kind contributions, provided financial and programmatic support to 10 CSOs as they worked with women and girls in the field.
- Professionals and volunteers from 43 CSOs gained knowledge on psychological first aid with a gender perspective.
- Through its CSO partners, UN Women reached over 5500 women and girls with legal and psycho-social counselling, awareness raising on safety and protection, skills development, and essential hygiene items.
- 2000 affected women received support kits with essential items and information on available services including hotlines, service centers and mobile applications in case of violence.

As the risk of violence against women increases after crises, UN Women supported national partners to provide uninterrupted and continuous protective and preventive services. This resulted in:

- Enhanced response and coordination capacities and gender knowledge of law enforcement officials (gendarmerie and police), social workers and local lawyers.
- Refurbished Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş and initiated collaboration with Ministry of Family and Social Services for the reconstruction of damaged women’s shelters.
- Designed local action plans for service provision in crisis.
- First of its kind Emergency Coordination Plan for Women Services in Kocaeli as disaster preparedness measure.
- Women’s access to justice was increased by enhancing their post-earthquake legal literacy in partnership with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (see on page 6 for more information).

UN Women’s private sector partners took an active role in the response and recovery efforts:

- The gender-responsive settlement model developed by UN Women and implemented in collaboration with Koç Holding emphasizes the integration of a gender lens in settlement design, and reconstruction efforts while prioritizing women’s empowerment and leadership.
- 2 Women’s Empowerment Hubs were established in temporary settlements in partnership with the women’s CSO Foundation for the Support of Women’s Work (Kadın Emegini Değerlendirme Vakfı), targeting over 5000 women and girls with services, skills development and support to empower them to be resilient and self-reliant.
- UN Women mobilized numerous private sector partners who helped more than 30,000 women and girls to receive clothing and personal hygiene items.
- In partnership with KAGIDER and Hepsiburada, UN Women enabled women entrepreneurs and cooperatives from the affected region to gain access to Türkiye’s biggest e-commerce platform and sell their products as corporate gifts.

 [Watch our video: UN Women’s response empowers and supports women and girls in earthquake-affected regions](#)



[From hurt to healing: Strengthening civil society’s gender-inclusive approach to earthquake trauma recovery in Türkiye](#)



[Civil society supports rural women to get back on their feet following earthquakes](#)



[Women volunteers play a life-saving role in the earthquake response](#)



Photo: UN Women / İlkin Eskişenlihan

UN SYSTEM COORDINATION

In line with its coordination mandate, UN Women leads, coordinates, and promotes accountability for the implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment commitments across the UN system in the country. This takes place in the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in Türkiye for 2021-2025 which has a dedicated priority to improve women's and girls' equal access to resources, opportunities, and rights, and promote a life without violence and discrimination, as well as relevant targets under other priorities.

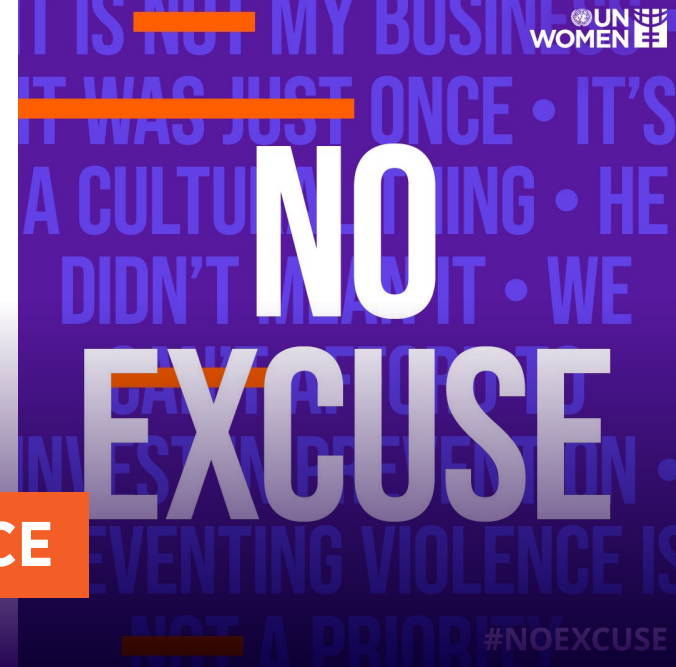
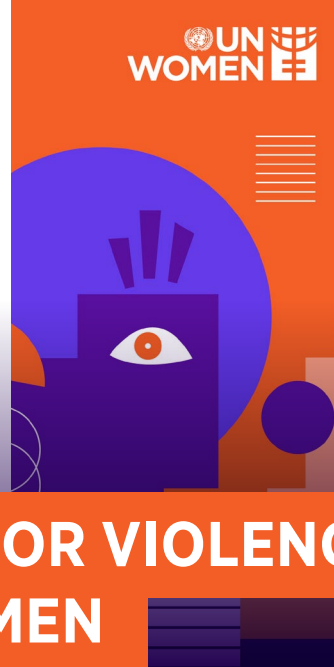
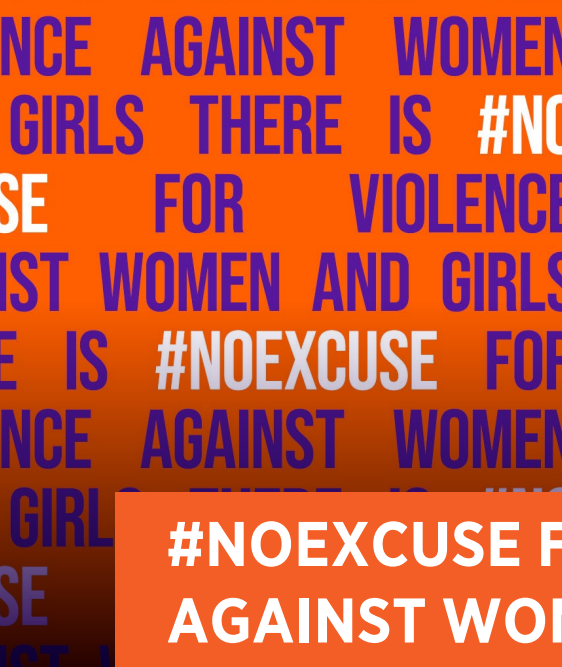
UN Women Türkiye:

- Continued chairing the UNSDCF Result Group on Empowerment of Women and Girls (RG 2), which brings together 10 UN agencies dedicated to advancing the UNSDCF implementation in the area of women's rights in a coordinated and impactful manner.
- Supported and drove forward efforts to implement the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard 2023 Action Plan, including development of tools and knowledge resources to strengthen UN staff capacities on gender mainstreaming practices and performance.
- Co-organized /contributed to joint events, including on the occasion of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. These events focused on: [the needs of women with disabilities in the earthquake affected region](#), inclusion of youth in advancing gender equality and preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG) in partnership with Dokuz Eylül University, and on advancing the implementation of the legal and policy framework on VAWG in UN agencies' work.

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes, UN Women deployed a Gender Advisor to the Humanitarian Country Team and established and led an inter-sectoral [Women's Empowerment in Humanitarian Action Working Group \(WEHA\)](#) which brought together all 17 sectors/working groups under the response. WEHA has been instrumental to address the specific needs of women and girls and strengthen the dimensions of women's empowerment across the sectorial earthquake response.

Through WEHA:

- Service providers increased their gender capacities through [Sector Checklists](#) developed for nine priority sectors/working groups and through UN Women's capacity building sessions on gender-responsive assessments that included over 60 women's CSO and 10 UN agencies.
- UN agencies increased the utilization of sex- and age-disaggregated data in key planning and programming documents and included actions targeting women and girls with a gender-responsive approach in several sectors, including protection, economic empowerment, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), as well as in the prioritization of cash assistance.
- Local women's organizations increased their accessed to the humanitarian/early recovery structures that elevated their voices and priorities with facilitation of UN Women.
- Humanitarian actors gained access to available data and information, together with concrete recommended actions to improve women and girls' lives and safety, and their equal access to services and opportunities.



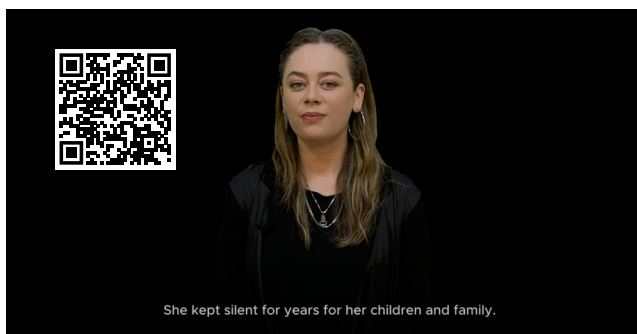
#NOEXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

UN Women Türkiye launched the #NoExcuse campaign to underline the importance of protective legal frameworks and called for the effective implementation of laws to prevent violence against women. The campaign was kicked off during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, launching on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and concluding on 10 December, Human Rights Day. The campaign emphasized that all forms of violence against women are against the law and reiterated that violence against women is a human rights violation to which there is no excuse. [More about the campaign results.](#)

Campaign summary in numbers

- Over 8,2 million reach on **social media**
- Over 5,5 million reach on **printed media, online media and TV**
- Over 63 companies joined **the campaign**
- \$19,010 media value of **outdoor and digital media**

- The campaign launch event organized in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye brought together civil society organizations, government officials, diplomatic representatives, and the media to express solidarity and commitment to end all forms of violence against women and girls. Atakule, an iconic tower in Ankara, was lit in orange, the color of the global campaign.
- Almost 2000 people increased their knowledge on the legal framework to prevent and combat violence against women in Türkiye, including the Law No. 6284. They took an engaging quiz published on [UN Women's website](#) and Instagram account.
- The #NoExcuse campaign amplified the voices of women who had escaped violence and sought justice and protection via powerful video testimony narrated by UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Demet Evgar.



We are grateful to all partners who supported the campaign:

- Eskişehir, İstanbul, Ankara, and Adana municipalities placed outdoors billboards and online banners.
- EssenceMediacom contributed pro-bono outdoor media, audio-visual media, and digital media.
- 63 private sector companies from diverse industries, from the banking and finance sector to food and beverage firms, insurance, real estate and fashion retail giants, joined the #NoExcuse to violence against women and girls movement, through their social media channels, websites, events and messages.

Lawyer and artist Kutlay Evrensel crafted the artwork "Themis" which centers around the idea that words are the ultimate tools in recognizing the realities of legal life. The art work was exhibited at Çankaya Çağdaş Sanatlar Merkezi.

Using bleach instead of traditional paint on canvas, Evrensel's dual expertise in both art and law lends a unique perspective of creativity.

See the artwork [here](#).

COMMUNICATIONS FOR CHANGE: 2023: A YEAR IN SUMMARY

UN Women Türkiye
Twitter & Facebook

Total Impressions
in 2023:
103,487

Total accounts reached on
UN Women Türkiye Instagram in 2023:
12,5 million

UN Women Türkiye

Instagram

89,000
followers

3%
growth

Facebook

7,700
followers

7%
growth

Twitter

9,700
followers

8,8%
growth

HeForShe Türkiye

Instagram

41,300
followers

7%
decrease

Facebook

21,016
followers

1%
decrease

Twitter

16,300
followers

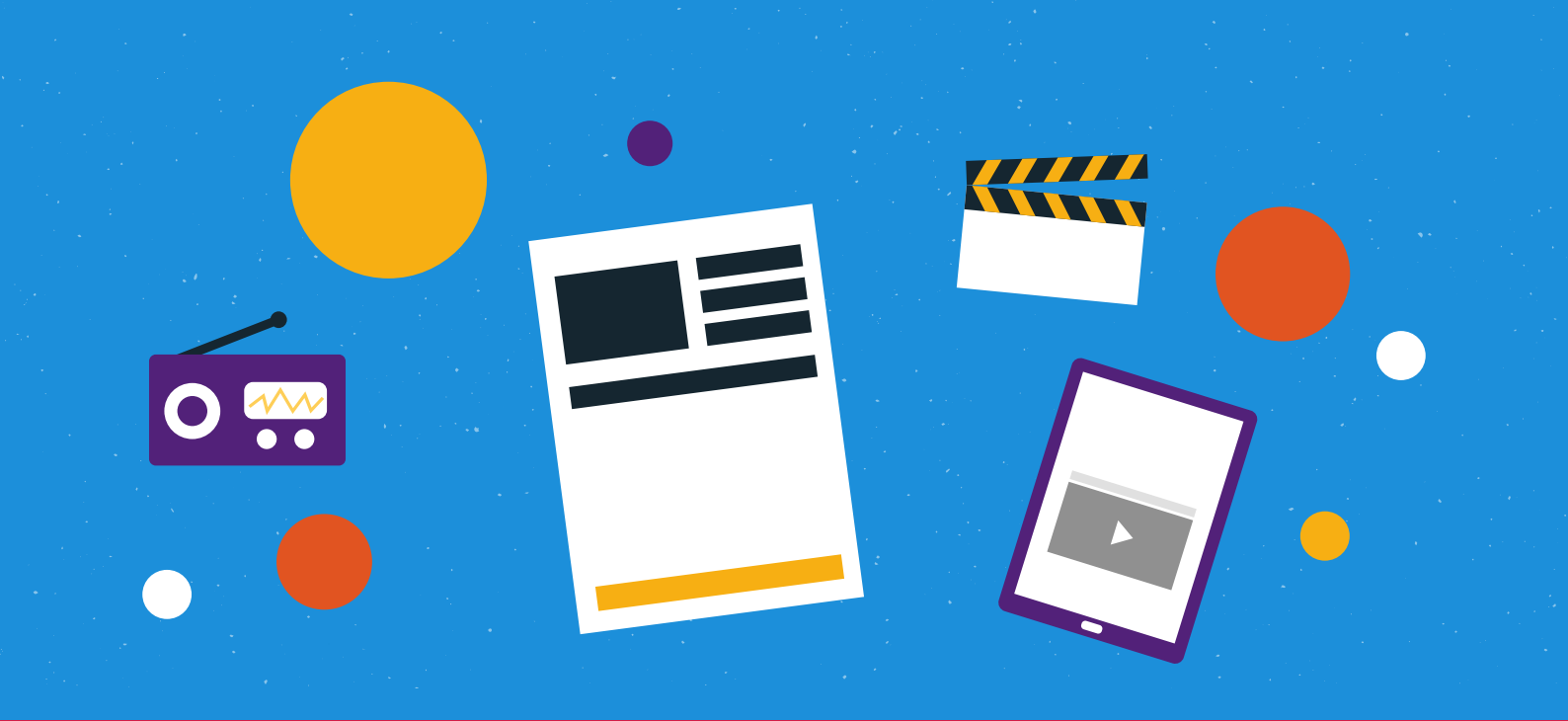
3,31%
decrease

Unstereotype Alliance Türkiye

Instagram

853
followers

18%
growth



CONVENTIONAL MEDIA

109 million
reach through
conventional media



Print media:

977
news pieces

66 million
people reached*



Television – Radio:

79
news pieces

9,3 million
people reached**



Online Media:

10,000
news pieces

33 million
people reached***

*Reach is calculated by multiplying the newspaper's circulation by 3, assuming that 3 person is reading the newspaper.

**The number of unique viewers

***The number of unique readers

2024 AND BEYOND

In 2024, UN Women will continue implementing commitments under ongoing projects and programmes in line with the priorities set in its Strategic Note 2022-2025, while actively seeking new avenues to enhance its impact and scale towards advancing women's rights in Türkiye. The entity will continue prioritizing the needs and voices of women and girls in the earthquake-affected region.

New projects to be implemented in 2024 include:

- **Reimagining Gender Equality Across Generations and Communities in Türkiye Project** will be implemented with the financial support of the Government of Norway. By collaborating with civic groups, particularly those led by youth, this project aims to enhance community development and advocacy, youth mobilization, and awareness on women's rights and gender equality.
- **Equality Matters:** UN Women Türkiye developed a service provision model for WEPs signatories. The most recent example of this is the partnership with OPET on the two-year project "**Eşitsek Fark Eder**". The project will develop a data-driven action plan on gender equality, based on the results of a gender gap analysis, establish a cadre of volunteer trainers, and empower around 16.000 employees. OPET is also becoming a member of the Unstereotype Alliance Türkiye.
- **Supporting Provincial Administrations in Guidance for more Effective Multisectoral Cooperation and Reporting on Ending Violence Against Women Project**, which will be implemented with the financial support from the Federal Republic of Germany, will run through July 2025. The project aims to ensure efficient coordination between public institutions in effective implementation of Law No. 6284 to Protect Family and Prevent Violence against Women and relevant regulations in Türkiye in line with the international legal framework on combating violence against women. The project aims to enhance the capacity of national and local-level institutions working in the field of violence against women and to increase local-level dialogue and communication among government institutions, non-governmental organizations and academia.

- **Addressing the Urgent Needs of Women and Girls Impacted by the Earthquake for Multi-sectoral Services Project**, which will be implemented with the financial support from the Federal Republic of Germany, is a 12-month project aimed at providing better-coordinated and more effective services to women and girls affected by the earthquake. This project will be conducted in partnership with public and civil society organizations, including technical equipment and refurbishment support, psychosocial support, VAW case management, legal counseling, emergency cash assistance, self-care kits, communication support, community-level protection, and male engagement.

Additionally, the entity is currently engaged in plans to expand efforts in the prevention and protection of women and girls from violence in collaboration with the Ministries of Family and Social Services, Interior, and Justice, as well as civil society organizations and local governments.

UN Women is also extending its reach in private sector partnerships, aiming to provide more comprehensive support to companies in implementing the Women's Empowerment Principles with a focus on transformative and sustainable practices.



UN WOMEN TÜRKİYE

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