

10 February 2023

UNFPA Appeal for Türkiye Earthquake Response

Situation Overview

On 6 February, two big earthquakes with 7.8 and 7.6 magnitudes, respectively, hit areas of Türkiye and neighbouring countries. The earthquakes caused mass destruction of residential and public buildings, including hospitals, and significant loss of life. As of 10 February 2023, more than 19,000 people were reported dead and some 77,000 injured in Türkiye. The death toll is expected to increase significantly over the coming days as large numbers of people are trapped under collapsed buildings with little chance of survival and their bodies not having been recovered yet. Some 15 million people live in the 10 provinces



affected by the earthquakes, including an estimated 1.5 million refugees. The affected population includes about 4 million women of reproductive age, of which an **estimated 214,000 are currently pregnant**. Survivors are being relocated to other safer provinces. There is a possibility of a significant amount of internal displacement, which will affect further numbers of provinces.

Search and rescue efforts are underway and support is being provided to those left homeless and without services by the earthquake. In coordination with national authorities, and in light of the significant needs identified through rapid assessments, UNFPA has mobilised its staff and partners to support national efforts to help those affected. UNFPA's programmes and partners aim to address the **health and protection needs of women and girls in the aftermath of the earthquake**. UNFPA continues supporting the provision of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response; and stands ready to undertake activities including mobile SRH services and safe spaces, as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for the women and girls in affected areas.

UNFPA has been working in Türkiye since 1971 on SRH, including maternal health, and prevention and response to GBV for the needs of women and girls and supporting their rights, safety and dignity. Moreover, for more than 12 years, UNFPA has been supporting the health and wellbeing of more than 4 million refugees in Türkiye. UNFPA currently supports **22 service delivery points** in Türkiye to provide lifesaving SRH and GBV services for the most vulnerable refugee and local communities including **seven** in the areas affected by the earthquakes.

UNFPA ongoing and proposed activities

UNFPA's role in humanitarian emergencies is providing and coordinating assistance, together with partners, aimed at ensuring access to **SRH** supplies and services, including maternal and newborn health, and **protection** from **GBV**, including sexual violence, for **women and girls** and other vulnerable people such as refugees and migrants, youth, older people and people with disabilities.

In Türkiye, UNFPA is conducting/ready to scale up the following activities:

- **Strengthening SRH & GBV Service Provision and Coordination:** UNFPA continues to partner closely with the Turkish Ministry of Health in order to make sure that lifesaving SRH services remain available to all earthquake survivors.
- **UNFPA-Supported Service Delivery Units:** Prior to the earthquake, UNFPA, through its partners, was supporting 7 service units in the affected provinces, providing SRH and GBV response services for the most vulnerable refugee groups and local communities. These units are being strengthened and re-positioned to treat emergency needs of the most vulnerable groups, including earthquake survivors.
- **Reproductive Health Commodities:** UNFPA is ensuring that lifesaving SRH services will continue through providing reproductive health commodities to local health authorities.
- **Dignity and Maternity kits:** UNFPA is making sure that women and girls are better protected from gender based violence and receive necessary information and services, as well as dignity and maternity kits (including menstrual hygiene items), to remain safe and cover their basic needs.
- **Strengthening Service Provider Capacity:** UNFPA is supporting service providers in building their capacity in providing emergency SRH and GBV response as well as prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
- **Community-based Interventions:** UNFPA is supporting community-based interventions to improve the resilience of affected populations.
- **Mobile Teams and Safe Spaces, as well as cash-based interventions:** UNFPA plans to support establishment of additional mobile teams and safe spaces supporting SRH and GBV services, staffed with health and protection personnel (modelled after similar services operated during the Covid-19 response and for rural settings).

UNFPA Türkiye expects to reach more than **1,500,000** women, girls, young people and other vulnerable people affected by the earthquake.

UNFPA Call to Partners:

Many health and medical facilities and infrastructures have been damaged or destroyed by the earthquakes, as women continue to give birth under the most difficult circumstances and will be exposed to increased risks of gender-based violence. There is a need to respond to the acute emergency, and support longer term recovery. UNFPA requests **long-term flexible funding** to respond to the needs of women and girls. Most urgently UNFPA needs funding to continue providing essential dignity, maternity and RH commodities, coordination of RH and GBV services, and deploying trained personnel to deliver life-saving SRH and GBV services. Working together with the Government of Türkiye, and international and national civil society organizations, UNFPA requires funding to continue its emergency response to support those affected by the earthquake.

UNFPA Funding Requirements

\$19.7 million to support the immediate acute response and initiate recovery of SRH (\$ 11.7 million) and GBV services (\$ 8 million).

UNFPA Contacts for more information:

- Louise Dann, Regional Resource Mobilisation Advisor: dann@unfpa.org
- Nazife Ece Karaduman, Resource Mobilization Officer, UNFPA Türkiye: ecekaraduman@unfpa.org