



SYRIA - TÜRKİYE EMERGENCY FUNDING APPEAL

February 2023



**Women's Peace &
Humanitarian Fund**

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

Photo: © 2021 / Syria

Background

On 6 February, a major earthquake of magnitude 7.8 – the region's strongest in nearly a century – struck south-east Türkiye and north-west Syria, leaving both areas on the brink of a humanitarian crisis. The initial earthquake struck close to Gaziantep and was followed by another 7.5 magnitude earthquake several hours later, with at least 1,206 aftershocks recorded across the region.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that as of 9 February 2023, more than 2,000 deaths and 5,000 injuries have been reported in north-west Syria.¹ More than 7,000 buildings have been completely or partially destroyed, leaving over 11,000 families without homes in the governorates of Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Idlib and Tartous. In Türkiye, at least 16,170 deaths and 64,194 injuries have been confirmed by the government, in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Adana, Adıyaman, Osmaniye, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya and Elazığ. At least 6,444 buildings have reportedly collapsed in the country. On 7 February, a three-month state of emergency was declared in 10 of the country's provinces. The situation remains grave where thousands of women, men, girls and boys are reportedly trapped under the rubble in cold winter conditions. The death toll is expected to continue to rise, as is the number of damaged buildings.

Over 11 years of conflict, economic devastation, multiple droughts, a pandemic and a Cholera outbreak have left Syria with not only the largest number of internally displaced people in the world – 6.8 million – but also an estimated 15.3 million in need of humanitarian assistance, including 2.1 million IDPs with increasing needs across the board.² Today, in north-west Syria, out of the 4.6 million population, close to 90 percent rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs, the majority of whom are women and children. The compounding deep-rooted and multidimensional crises and earthquake aftermath are expected to significantly amplify stressors and have a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable, particularly the northwestern region's 3.3 million people suffering from food insecurity, and 2.9 million internally displaced people,

as well as female-headed households, widows, and women and girls in general. According to CARE's rapid gender analysis,⁴ women and girls north-west of Syria have for long been disproportionately impacted due to increased vulnerabilities, having the double burden of paid and unpaid household work and childcare, in addition to increased exposure to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), food insecurity, limited decision-making opportunities, among other challenges. In spite of this, women have played active roles in rescue efforts and entities such as the White Helmets, officially known as the Syria Civil Defense, and are currently tirelessly rescuing civilians affected by the devastating earthquake.

Moreover, of the nearly 3.8 million registered refugees in Türkiye — the largest number of refugees hosted by any country in the world — an overwhelming majority are Syrian, of which close to half are women and girls.⁵ With over 1.7 million Syrians living in the 10 Turkish provinces affected by the earthquake, it is clear that the earthquake has added further burdens to an already stressed environment.

Given that the combined effects of crises in Syria and Türkiye are disproportionately affecting women's and girls' safety and security, access to services, and economic activity, it is critical that local women's rights organizations continue to be supported and form part in decision-making related to the humanitarian response and crisis management. Women, including women's CSOs, remain excluded from decision-making process. It is essential that local women and their organizations form part of the humanitarian action to ensure gender-inclusive and sustainable responses to the current needs.

WPHF's Funding appeal: USD 10 million

Women's CSOs have long been at the forefront of peace and security and humanitarian response in Syria and Türkiye, working across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus. It is essential that they are supported as key actors on the ground, which have strategic partnerships, legitimacy, and the capacity to reach out to the most marginalized communities. In the current context, they

must be funded and given a leadership role in participating in the humanitarian response, protection against SGBV and recovery.

In this context, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund is launching an urgent funding appeal for up to USD 10 million to support local women's organizations in Syria and Türkiye. The following WPHF impact areas have been identified as priority needs:

- ▶ WPHF Impact Area 3: Strengthening women's participation and leadership in planning and responding to humanitarian crises
- ▶ WPHF Impact Area 5: Enhancing the safety, security and mental health of women and girls
- ▶ WPHF Impact Area 6: Improving socioeconomic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts

WPHF's emergency response in Syria and Türkiye consists in channeling rapidly funding to pre-identified local women CSOs on the ground (phase 1), followed by a public Call for Proposals (phase 2) to mobilize women's organizations that can respond to the crisis and the needs of women and girls:

Emergency Call for Proposals (Phase 1):

WPHF will allocate funding through a targeted (closed) Call for Proposals focused on WPHF Outcomes 3 and/or 5 and will channel urgently needed funding to pre-identified local women's organizations. The selection of CSOs will be undertaken together with the UN Women Country office and the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator will be responsible for review and approval of projects, as per the WPHF Emergency track.

Regular Call for Proposals (phase 2):

With additional funding (of a minimum of 1,000,000 USD), an open Call for Proposals under the WPHF's Regular Funding Cycle standard rules and procedures will be launched. This will allow organizations that were not pre-identified to apply.

National and local women-led, women's rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working

with women and girls, will be eligible to apply. Grassroots and local community-based organizations will particularly be encouraged to apply. Consortia of organizations are allowed and encouraged.

The Call for Proposals will make available financing for civil society organizations that build the resilience of Syrian and Turkish women and girls through programmatic funding from 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD, and institutional funding to help sustain and strengthen women's organizations throughout the crisis with grants from 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD.

Management Arrangements

As per WPHF procedures, the Call for Proposals will be prepared and launched by the WPHF Secretariat, detailing the nature and scope of the funding as well as types of interventions that are encouraged, in close coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator/HC. The WPHF Secretariat will conduct the technical review of all proposals received and the UN Resident Coordinator/HC (for phase 1) and the WPHF National Steering Committees will be responsible for the final selection of proposals (phase 2).

The WPHF Secretariat, together with the Management Entities for civil society organizations will ensure quality monitoring and reporting on projects as well as linkages with partners from the UN, civil society, networks of women, and member states. The grantees selected through the Call for Proposals will also be included in WPHF's Community of Practice to learn from and exchange best practices with other WPHF partners.



References

- ¹ OCHA, 2023. [Earthquake Flash Update No. 4](#). As of 9 February 2023.
- ² OCHA, 2023. [Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic](#). 22 Dec 2022.
- ³ OCHA, 2023. [Earthquake Flash Update No. 2](#). As of 7 February.
- ⁴ CARE International, 2022. [Rapid Gender Analysis: Sacrificing the future to survive the present – Findings from north-west Syria](#).
- ⁵ UN Women, 2023. [Turkey Refugee Response](#).

About WPHF

The Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) mobilizes critical support for local and grassroots civil society organizations working on women, peace and security and humanitarian action. WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism supporting quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has funded over 900 civil society organizations in 28 countries working to support women to be a force for crisis response and lasting peace.

Follow [@wphfund](#) on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

WPHFund.org