



📷 Syrian women attending the Mother and Baby Friendly Space run by Action Against Hunger participate in a feedback session in Hatay, Türkiye  
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**COVERED PERIOD: FEBRUARY 2023 – DECEMBER 2024**

# **ACTION AGAINST HUNGER'S EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY EFFORTS IN TÜRKIYE FOLLOWING 2023 EARTHQUAKES**

# OVERVIEW

On February 6, two (2) earthquakes of magnitudes 7.7 and 7.6 struck Türkiye, affecting eleven (11) provinces in the southern and southeastern parts of the country, killing 50,783 people, injuring around 107,000 persons, and destroying or severely damaging 265,000 buildings. Among the 3.3 million people forced to relocate from their homes, the affected provinces were home to 14 million people, including around 1.8 million refugees. In total 9.1 million people were directly affected, including 4 million children. According to the Turkish Government, the disaster caused an estimated loss of 104 billion USD.

Action Against Hunger (ACF) launched a proactive fundraising campaign, issuing a flash appeal in mid-February 2023. The response was swift as we secured funding from multiple sources, including Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD), the Government of Navarra, and our own private funds, seeking to raise USD 1 billion to support people affected by the earthquakes, 54.5% of the appeal was funded. Later, we achieved to get new fundings from the French Ministry of Europe Foreign Affairs, through their Food Assistance Programme.

After the earthquakes happened, Action Against Hunger deployed its pool of emergency experts to directly identify and respond to the specific needs of the most vulnerable population in its areas of expertise: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Food Security and livelihoods (FSL) and Nutrition (NUT), Health and Mental Health

and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). A new mission was set up in the province of Gaziantep to provide vital aid to the affected communities. We consolidated strong collaborations with national NGOs such as Support to Life (STL) and Solidarity Respect & Protect (SRP) emphasizing collaboration with international and local organizations and authorities, women's groups, and community initiatives, leading to a more effective response and empowering local actors to continue their work independently.

Thanks to the fruitful collaboration with STL and SRP, Action Against Hunger and its partners have implemented successful activities across the FSL, WASH, MHPSS, and Nutrition sectors during 2023 and 2024. In this context Action Against Hunger facilitated a continuous capacity building process in the different sectors we work delivering numerous training sessions, sharing procedures, and providing tools. These efforts focused on supporting and empowering Turkish local actors in our fields of expertise, particularly our key partners, STL and SRP.

By the end of 2024, significant humanitarian needs remain, as many of people living in the temporary settlements do not have the proper financial means to improve their living conditions. In October 2024<sup>1</sup>, 538,575 people were still living in temporary settlements, 78% in formal camps and 22% in informal camps. Catastrophic events, such as the earthquakes, not only destroy essential infrastructure but also displace skilled workers and prevent persons from working or accessing specialised education, severely limiting the ability of disaster-affected communities to recover. ■



<sup>1</sup>Data from DTM neighborhood/site assessments and AFAD. Quoted in 'JOINT INTER-SECTORAL WINTERISATION PLAN Türkiye Earthquake Response TÜRKİYE 2024-2025', Shelter Cluster - Türkiye Earthquake Response.

# OBJECTIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS



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Action Against Hunger’s strategy in Türkiye has focused on a) strengthening ACF and its partners operational capacity to reduce human suffering (as efficiently and effectively as possible), b) prioritizing a people-centered approach by increasing participation, transparency and accountability, and c) continuously seeking innovation in our knowledge management and meeting stakeholders’ expectations.

In this context, our localization strategy has been crucial, particularly through cooperation with our key partners, Support to Life and Solidarity Respect & Protect. This partnership approach allowed us to address various challenges, meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable populations, and ensure the sustainability of the response by strengthening technical capacities (WASH, nutrition, food security, livelihoods, socio-economic recovery approaches, and emergency response skills). This has facilitated a gradual transition from an emergency approach to a recovery intervention by conducting assessments, exploring new funding opportunities, and reaching agreements with our partners on the steps for ACF’s phased exit strategy.

Furthermore, we have also worked with partners to enhance their awareness in other key areas, such as gender-based violence, gender-sensitive approaches, safeguarding, compliance, MEAL mechanisms, environmental strategies, staff well-being, and commitments to core humanitarian standards. ■

# KEY RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Action Against Hunger and its partners have provided early, mid, and long-term assistance to the earthquake-affected population in Türkiye. They have met their needs efficiently and effectively, ensuring that funds were utilized in the most efficient way to address the greatest

number of needs and benefit the largest possible number of affected individuals.

Thanks to the fruitful collaboration with STL and SRP, Action Against Hunger reached **189,596 people** across key areas:

119,330 in water, sanitation and hygiene, 16,479 in mental health support, 3,480 in food security and livelihood, 48,210 in nutrition, 593 through training programs, and 1,504 in shelter support.

Since the onset of emergency Action Against Hunger and its partners' activities have focused on:



**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):** Improving access to drinking water (installation and filling of water tanks, chlorination systems establishment and/or water purification initiatives). To address hygiene challenges, hygiene kits were distributed, hygiene promotion activities conducted, and mobile laundry units deployed. In the sanitation sector, facilities were installed, and dignity kits distributed to support affected populations. Additionally, awareness campaigns, distribution of informational materials, and the formation of WASH committees in displaced persons' camps have ensured community-led management and sustainability of these efforts.



**FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD (FSL) AND NUTRITION (NUT):** Improving access to food (food assistance, community kitchens and hot meals), protecting and promoting infant and young children feeding and supporting mothers to have access to lactation support (Mother-Baby friendly spaces/ MBFS), granting access for appropriate food for infants and young children on complementary feeding (food voucher). In addition, there have been implemented community awareness campaigns, distributing materials about IYCF and care practices, and community leaders' training to help in establishing community support groups.

Furthermore, it's noteworthy that MBFS has become private, safe, accessible places for children's interactions, mothers and caregivers, enabling the possibility to promote and support in the early initiation of breastfeeding.



**MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS):** Psychological support activities were implemented with STL to reduce stress, fear and anxiety, while strengthening positive coping mechanisms and raising awareness of the importance of mental health by deploying mobile psychosocial units targeted informal tent areas. This approach was also further mainstreamed in the Mother-Baby friendly spaces together with SRP, providing women and children with a safe space in which to interact, thereby contributing to their physical, social and cognitive development. In addition, social initiatives were deployed to promote coexistence, encourage community participation and strengthen inclusion, thereby supporting social cohesion between displaced groups.



**SHELTER:** Right after the onset of the emergency Action Against Hunger and its partners were focusing on improved shelter conditions delivering non-food items (NFI) to meet winterization needs, such as blankets, stoves, or heaters. In addition, infrastructure has been put in place to improve accommodation conditions for ACF partners staff in the field, including the provision of containers, given the lack of secure facilities.

Action Against Hunger's partnership strategy in Türkiye has been aligned with its localization policy<sup>2</sup>, values, and commitment to empowering local actors. This approach emphasizes sustainable development and enhances the effectiveness of humanitarian responses.

In this regard, ACF led a continuous capacity building process in the different sectors we worked on and where we are specialists, with more than 147 training/meetings and 85 tool sharing reaching 593 professionals. This support extended beyond technical areas such as nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene, food security, livelihoods, or mental health and psychosocial support. It also focused on enhancing procedures, processes, and approaches to address various needs in areas such as compliance, procurement, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, learning, digital archiving, staff wellbeing, and the Core Humanitarian Standard. For example, it involved adopting a more proactive, people-centred approach and improving participation, transparency, and accountability. ■



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<sup>2</sup>[Action-Against-Hunger-Local-Partnership-Policy-2023.pdf](#)

## PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR

119,330



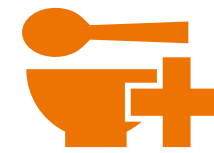
WATER,  
SANITATION,  
AND HYGIENE

3,480



FOOD  
SECURITY AND  
LIVELIHOODS

48,210



HEALTH  
AND  
NUTRITION

16,479



MENTAL HEALTH  
AND PSYCHO-  
SOCIAL SUPPORT

1,504



SHELTER

593



PARTNERS  
CAPACITY  
BUILDING

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT RECEIVED

TOTAL

3,446,161€

2,740,625€

INSTITUTIONAL

705,536€

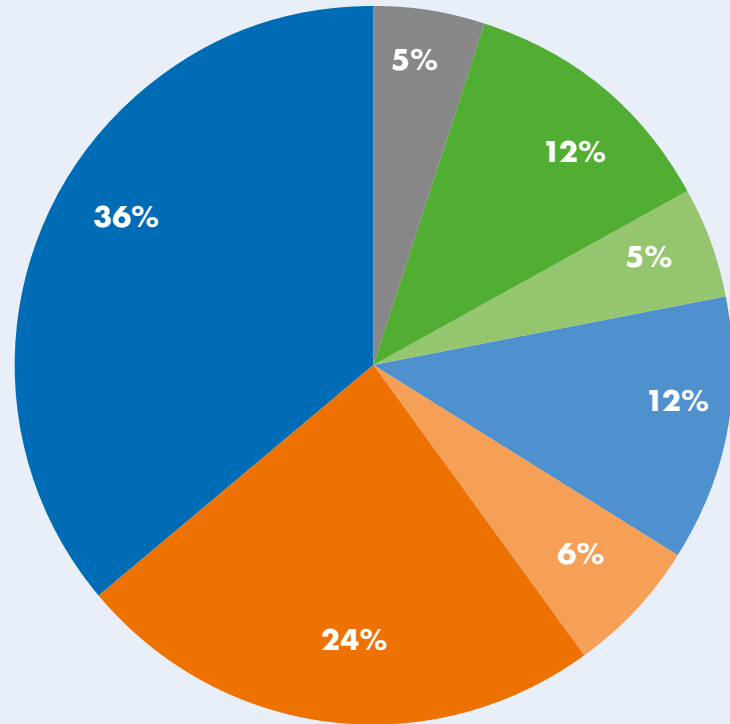
PRIVATE

TOTAL

1,800,081€

BY PARTNERS (52%)


## EXPENDITURE PER SECTOR



- CAPACITY BUILDING, **60,257**
- Food Assistance (cash / voucher / in-kind), **160,196**
- MHPSS, **68,852**
- No Food Items distribution for shelters in emergencies, **159,549**
- NUT Baby friendly spaces, **80,604**
- Protection Infant and Young Child Feeding in emergencies (IYCF-ER), **329,008**
- WASH, **491,703**

**TOTAL ACTIVITIES 1,350,171**



 This container camp in Hatay, Türkiye, hosts Syrian families - containers have no cooking or toilet facilities.  
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## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

**3,305** people participated in Hygiene promotion activities.

**1,920** people received Information Education and Communication (IEC) material.

**50,372** people received Hygiene and Dignity kits.

**3** laundry units delivered and installed benefiting 50,746 people

**12** WASH committees created comprising 117 persons

**12,870** people provided with safe water, including:

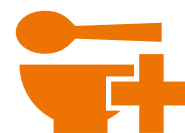
- **4,161** m<sup>3</sup> Water trucking reached 4.164 persons.
- **5,000** people benefited from safe water through the delivery and installation of 10 reverse osmosis water purifier units.
- **3,706** people benefited from safe water thanks the distribution and installation of 21 chlorination systems,
- **20** water tanks were delivered and installed allowing the population to store safe water.



## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

**3,480** Persons benefited from community kitchens.

**249,500** Hot meals distributed.



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

**5** Mother baby friendly spaces established.

**23,773** Persons reached through Mother, Baby friendly space (MBFS) as the following: (Women=15.337, Men= 386, Boys=3.435, Girls=4.615).

**6,786** persons attended Group Awareness Raising Sessions on Maternal and neonatal health care, Infant and young children feeding, as the following: (Women=5.401, Girls=1.385)

**4,345** Persons attended community awareness-raising activities on infant feeding in Emergency (IFE), as the following: (Women=3388, Men=261, Boys=297, Girls=399)

**60** Persons received baby baskets.

**370** Households received food assistance through food vouchers for 6 months, reaching 1.850 persons.

**390** women engaged in peer support groups.

**293** Community leaders trained on IYCF-E. (Women=202, Men=91)

**366** women had private counselling sessions.

**658** women engaged in group counselling sessions.

**1,766** child received health assessment and growth monitoring (Girls=1083, Boys=683)

**841** women received nutrition and lactation assessment.

**389** referrals.

**4,433** received learning materials (leaflets)

**2,260** household visits and assessments.





## MHPSS

- 1,150** People received kits deliveries.
- 1007** People of at-risk groups or vulnerable received focused MHPSS care
- 201** Community leaders training /Psychosocial support (PSS)
- 2,393** persons attended PSS activity
- 1,624** persons attended PSS group awareness raising session.
- 1147** persons attended PSS group counselling
- 275** PSS persons counselling
- 163** Referrals
- 320** Persons reached on Psychoeducation and awareness raising sessions to caregivers.
- 4834** Persons reached on Youth PSS activities.
- 1138** Persons reached on Psychological first aid.
- 1335** Persons reached on Protection assessments.
- 260** Persons reached on Protection referrals.
- 354** Persons reached on PSS assessments to specialized services.
- 25** Persons reached on PSS referrals to specialized services.
- 253** Individual Psychological Counselling.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

- 28** local staff attended in Kick off workshops
  - 31** local staff attended to Closure workshops
  - 80** local staff and community leaders trained on IYCF-E
  - 30** local staff trained on Food voucher system
  - 63** persons reached by capacity building done by ACF WASH expert
  - 65** local staff reached by MHPSS, Care Practices, and Protection capacity building activities
  - 23** local staff trained on MEAL
  - 21** local staff trained on Logistic and Procurement
  - 9** local staff trained on Finance
  - 23** local staff trained on Core Humanitarian Standards
  - 1** livelihood rapid need assessment
  - 1** socioeconomic recovery assessment
- Emergency Training (Pool) /November 2024

# EXIT STRATEGY: ENSURING CONTINUITY AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

After two years of work in Türkiye, our organisation has decided, following an in-depth analysis and consultations with partners, to end the mission in 2024. This decision marks the end of a fruitful collaboration. The evaluation of the results achieved has enabled us to prepare the transition to the closure phase.

In addition to the capacity-building strategy for key partners, Action Against Hunger's exit strategy aims to achieve several key objectives:

- **To support the new phase of economic recovery**, shifting to a mid-term recovery approach, we have carried out a “**socio-economic inclusion assessment**” jointly with STL. This study assessed the impact of the February 2023 earthquakes on both the host and refugee populations in Türkiye, identified key areas requiring intervention, and provided recommendations for fostering an inclusive recovery that will benefit both communities.
- **Promote a more effective and efficient response to potential future crises, through the “Training Program: to strengthen the capacity of local actors in response to emergencies”** in Turkish. The training was first launched online and for those who completed it later a face-to-face workshop was organised targeting humanitarian stakeholders and public institutions.



 Hannah Richards from the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) visits the Mother and Baby Friendly Space run by Action Against Hunger in Hatay, Türkiye, where Syrian women participate in a feedback session.  
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📷 Syrian women attending the Mother and Baby Friendly Space run by Action Against Hunger participate in a feedback session in Hatay, Türkiye. Action Against Hunger partner SRP also gave vouchers for nutritious food to pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.  
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- **Strengthen the capacity of our partners to adhere to the Core Humanitarian Standard**, by conducting one **CHS Independent Verification Process**. This process was designed to learn and improve on the quality and accountability of Action Against Hunger and its partners programmes in Türkiye, while also contributing to draw lessons learnt regarding the way Action Against Hunger has worked with national and local implementing partners.
- **Improve ACF's partners autonomy and sustainability**, through support them in the **search for funding opportunities and in the development of future proposals**. Where necessary, ACF will offer remote technical assistance to ensure the success and continuity of these efforts. ■

“Being pregnant during such a devastating time was terrifying. After losing everything, I couldn't stop worrying about my baby, constantly thinking about how I would give birth and adapt to living in the camp. The Mother-Baby Friendly Space became my refuge, the support i received there helped me cope with my fears, manage my emotions during pregnancy, and prepare myself for the challenges of motherhood after giving birth and better understand how to adapt and caring of my baby”

Women in Vartana Camp  
(Adiyaman, Turkish camp).

# SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: ADDITIONAL DETAILED REPORTS, DATA, OR DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE



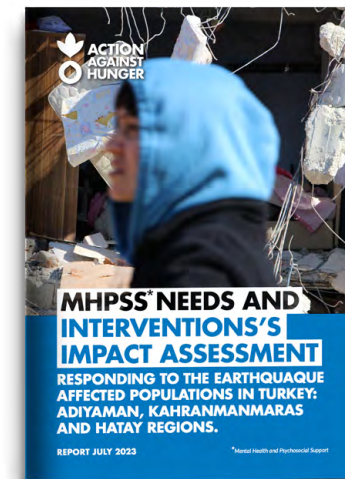
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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## RECOGNITION OF KEY SUPPORTERS AND COLLABORATORS

We widen our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff and volunteers whose unwavering efforts and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in the response to the earthquake in Turkey.

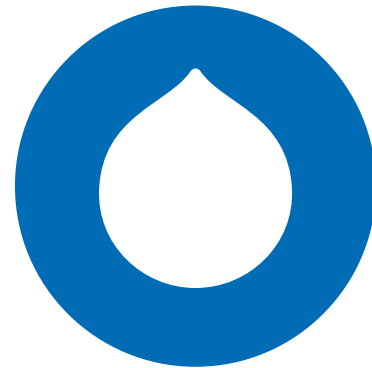
We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Support to Life (STL) and Solidarity Respect & Protect (SRP) the staff and volunteers, who have been committed from the beginning of the crisis to working alongside ACF to meet the needs of the people most affected by the earthquake.



## DONORS AND PARTNERS: RECOGNITION OF KEY SUPPORTERS AND COLLABORATORS.



**AND ALL THOSE PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND ENTERPRISES  
THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR RESPONSE**



**THANK YOU**

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Saving lives, maximizing human protection, and alleviating suffering is in the DNA of our humanitarian organization.  
Teams, partners, companies, and organizations like yours help us achieve this every day.  
Action Against Hunger couldn't do it without your support.

**Thank you for being there**