WORLD VISION SYRIA RESPONSE (WVSR) TÜRKIYE



1. Crisis overview

- As we enter the 13th year of the Syrian crisis, the situation not only remains unresolved but increasingly dire. The prolonged conflict, economic downturns, health crises such as COVID-19 and cholera, combined with the <u>recent seismic disaster</u>, have pushed Syrian families and children to the brink as they fight to survive with <u>90% of the Syrian</u> <u>population currently living below the poverty line</u>.
- The need for humanitarian assistance in Syria has reached an all-time high, with 16.7 million people requiring support in 2024, marking the largest figure since the crisis began in 2011.
- Funding shortages have impacted all sectors, with the Humanitarian Response Plan for Syria remaining significantly underfunded at only 21%.
- Syria ranks among the top ten nations globally for the highest number of people facing hunger. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that over half of the population, 12.9 million Syrians, are currently experiencing hunger in 2024, while another 2.6 million are on the brink of food insecurity.
- The country continues to endure a protection crisis as loss of essential <u>documentation</u> and <u>family</u>

- separations following the earthquake have led to an increase in child-headed households, child labor, and early marriages. In addition, Syria hosts the world's second-largest number of internally displaced persons, totalling 7.2 million, many of whom reside in overcrowded camps.
- The <u>earthquakes</u> have worsened Syria's dire situation, causing nearly <u>6.000 deaths and over</u> <u>12.800 injuries</u>, with many families losing their primary earners. This disaster has pushed millions more into inability to meet their very basic needs, highlighting the urgent need for long-term recovery funding and enhanced emergency preparedness.
- Host countries like Jordan and Türkiye are facing unprecedented levels of need since the crisis began, as they are dealing with increased vulnerabilities, rising poverty, and unemployment. Despite their own economic struggles and limited resources, these governments continue to provide essential public services such as housing, healthcare, legal systems, education, waste management, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). They have been under significant strain, bearing the costs of hosting millions of displaced Syrians for years while also contending with new conflicts and economic challenges in the region.

2. Country overview

Türkiye hosts the world's largest population of persons under temporary and international protection, with over 3.65 million Syrians under temporary protection. As of May 2023, Türkiye was hosting 3.4 million Syrian

refugees of which nearly half are children and 46% are women and girls. The country has seen significant increases in commodity prices, particularly food and energy, alongside inflation and the depreciation of the Turkish lira, leading to poverty rates surpassing pre-2019 levels. These socio-economic challenges have put



a strain on community relations, consequently inciting growing anti-refugee sentiments. The approach to the 2023 elections has seen refugee issues becoming a focal point of political discourse, prompting the government to consider adopting more stringent policies.

Türkiye's 2013 Law on Foreigners and International Protection and the 2014 Temporary Protection Regulation provide a comprehensive legal framework for refugees, granting access to rights and services. The government has ensured that Syrians under temporary protection and international protection have access

to national systems like health, education, and social services. However, despite the progressive nature of Türkiye's asylum policies and international funding, refugees face high protection risks and economic insecurity. The UN and humanitarian organizations' response aims to support the government in promoting protection and solutions, emphasizing the need for increased international responsibility sharing in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. The focus is on fostering social cohesion, supporting the most pressing protection and basic needs, and engaging in medium and long-term solutions.

Key challenges and needs specific to the country

Key challenges						
FACTORS						
Possible factors	Impact on Response	Type of Impact	Rate of Impact	Importance	Time Frame	
Reluctance of local authorities to collaborate due to the changing political atmosphere in the country. The government has begun implementing securitized humanitarian assistance and increasing scrutiny over NGOs. Such actions might increase if the Turkish government conducts military operations in Syria or Iraq	Difficulty in implementing and monitoring project activities in the field can lead to lack of visibility and monitoring in project areas	Negative	Medium	High	Until the first half of 2024	
De-registration of partner or WV	Decreasing funding and the impact of the organization's activites in the country	Negative	Low	Decreasing	2023-2025	
Increasing tensions between refugees/ marginalized groups and host communities due to social (mostly cultural) and economic reasons	Social integration among the communities decreases, making their involvement in projects more challenging	Negative	High	Increasing	2023-2026	

¹ At the end of this document, there is an additional table with details on the country's needs in the annex.

3. Country interventions

Main sectors: WASH, Protection, Livelihoods

Beneficiary numbers reached per sector during FY24 in this country:



WASH: 5,000 beneficiaries, including 3,000 children



Protection: 77,000 beneficiaries, including 42,000 children



Livelihoods: 48,000 beneficiaries, including 23,000 children

Key WVSR interventions:



Provide psychosocial support sessions.



Offer career counselling.



Established Emergency Child-Friendly Spaces (ECFs).



Provide legal support for work permits.



Comprehensive focus on preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH).



Distribute hygiene items.



Provide cash assistance.



Conduct water trucking.



Rehabilitate WASH facilities.



Children participating in psychosocial support Cash cards distribution in Türkiye. © World activities. © World Vision Syria Response Partner, International Blue Crescent Relief



Vision Syria Response Partner, International Blue Crescent Relief



Hygiene kits distribution. © World Vision Syria Response Partner, International Blue Crescent Relief

Key activities being implemented:

Sector	Activity	Location	
Protection	Life in fullness together (LIFT) global pilot project: providing integrated approach to address the complex needs of children and caregivers through various development activities targeting early age, adolescents, and the caregivers in earthquake-affected areas of Türkiye.	Gaziantep, ⊡anliurfa and Kilis	
	 Providing structured and non-structured psychosocial support and social cohesion activities for adolescents. Conducting structured life-skill sessions for adolescent boys and girls. Conducting positive parenting sessions for caregivers of adolescents. Providing case management/referral services to children and GBV survivals. 	Nurdall and Islahiye (Gaziantep), Sanliurfa and Adiyaman	
	PNS People with Disabilities:	Hatay	
	• Providing physiotherapy services for individuals.		
	• Providing assistive devices for the patients in need.		
	 Providing PSS support with special focus on PWDs and their caregivers. 		
Livelihoods	RECOVER:	🛚 anliurfa, Gaziantep	
	 Providing holistic and personalized career development and counselling sessions to both Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens. 		
	• Conducting monthly workshops aimed at improving job- searching, employability skills, and working conditions for both Syrian refugees and Turkish participants.		
5000	 Providing a package of market-facing skills enhancement trainings for participants. 		
	 Providing seed capital/cash grants to 100 SMEs and to four women cooperatives (48 women members). 		
	Nourishing Hope: Providing support to the farmers, SMEs, and cooperative through training and in-kind support to the earthquake- affected people.	Samanda?, Hatay	
	Providing vocational training, job placement for the participants microgrants, and capacity building activities for SMEs all for the earthquake affected people.	Hatay	
	Referrals to education, providing in-kind kits, awareness raising sessions, and PSS sessions for families and children at risk.	Sanliurfa, Hatay	

4. Security overview

Generally, the security situation in Türkiye is stable. As one of the Middle East's largest and most dynamic economies, Türkiye holds significant regional influence. However, recent earthquakes, rising living costs, and the declining lira have all negatively impacted the economy, leading to protests in Istanbul, Ankara, and other cities. Inflation has worsened, particularly following interest rate hikes. These economic challenges, coupled with growing unity among the opposition, have created potential political instability. Anti-refugee protests and security campaigns against illegal refugees occasionally escalate into looting and attacks on properties owned by refugees. Additionally, due to the ongoing military exchanges between Türkiye and the PKK, as well as the persistent tensions and intense security operations

against PKK and IS cells, the possibility of terrorist attacks remains present.

The threat of a traditional ground war in Türkiye is low, with any conflict likely to affect areas bordering Syria, Iraq, or Iran. The conflict with the PKK has involved urban battles in the southeast. Türkiye occasionally faces cross-border fire from Syria and has maintained a military presence in northern Syria since 2016 to remove Kurdish militants. The security environment along the Turkish-Syrian border remains complex. Since 2016, Türkiye has launched three large-scale operations into northern Syria, leading to periodic spill over violence in border provinces like Gaziantep, Hatay, and Kilis. While the threat of cross-border attacks has diminished, it still poses risks, particularly if a renewed assault occurs, potentially escalating conflict in northern Syria.

5. Main advocacy messages:

- Increased funding for Türkiye is urgently needed as the destruction from the earthquake still persists.
- Operational access for INGOs is crucial to continue providing essential services to vulnerable
- populations. WV's registration should be renewed to allow uninterrupted direct implementation.
- Refugee protection must be ensured in the country, underlining the specific needs of vulnerable groups, including children, women, and persons with disabilities.

6. Appendix:

Reports and publications:

- Report: "Lost and Alone: Addressing the Crisis of Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Post-Earthquakes Northwest Syria and Southern Türkiye"
- Advocacy brief: "Spotlight on Nutrition, Food Security and Climate Change in Syria and The Host Countries of Lebanon, Türkiye, Jordan and Iraq"

Annex:

Sector			Location		Number of People in Need ²
	Needs	District	Sub-district	Location	
Protection	Protection services for vulnerable groups such as GBV Survivors, Persons with Disabilities, Women/ girls, and boys especially in Syrian settlements	Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Adıyaman, Hatay, Kilis	All sub-districts	Formal and informal settlements	250,000 approximately
İ	Support to access legal rights, including information around legal rights and legal documentation	Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Adıyaman, Hatay, Kilis	All sub-districts	Urban areas, formal and informal settlements	250,000 approximately
	Access to protective services, including mental health/psychosocial support through the PSS and MHPSS interventions and the establishment of referral system	Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Adıyaman, Hatay, Kilis	All sub-districts	Urban areas, formal and informal settlements	250,000 approximately
WASH	Sanitation Facilities	Adıyaman and Hatay	Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda②, Kahta, Besni	Formal and informal settlements	100.000 approximately
	Hygiene Promotion	Adıyaman, Hatay and Gaziantep	Antakya, Øskenderun, SamandaØ, NurdaØi, Øslahiye	Formal and informal settlements	125.000 approximately
	Waste Management	Gaziantep, Adıyaman and Hatay	Islahiye, Nurda2ı refugee camps (Gaziantep), Antakya, 2skenderun, Samanda2 (Hatay), Kahta, Besni (Adıyaman)	Formal and informal settlements	100.000 approximately
Health	Primary Healthcare Services	Adıyaman and Hatay	Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda② (Hatay), Kahta, Besni (Adıyaman)	Formal and informal settlements	10.000 approximately
①	MHPSS	Adıyaman, Hatay and Gaziantep	Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda② (Hatay) Kahta, Besni (Adıyaman, Nurda②ı, ②slahiye (Gaziantep)	Urban areas, Formal and informal settlements	125.000 approximately

 $^{^2}$ The number of people in need for each sector received from the report released by the Turkish government: https://www.sbb. gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-Kahramanmaras-ve-Hatay-Depremleri-Raporu.pdf

	Nutrition	Adıyaman, Hatay and Gaziantep	Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda② (Hatay), Kahta, Besni (Adiayaman), Nurda②ı, ②slahiye	Formal and informal settlements	125.000 approximately
Education	Access to Education	Adıyaman, Hatay, Gaziantep and ②anlıurfa	(Gaziantep) Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda③ (Hatay), Kahta, Besni (Adiyaman), Nurda③l, ②slahiye (Gaziantep), Akçakale, Haliliye, Eyyübiye, Harran (Sanliurfa)	Urban areas, Formal and informal settlements	100.000 approximately
	Parent and Community Engagement	Adıyaman, Hatay and Gaziantep	Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda② (Hatay), Kahta, Besni (Adiyaman), Nurda②, ②slahiye (Gaziantep)	Formal and informal settlements	125.000 approximately
	Protection and Child Safeguarding	Adıyaman, Hatay and Gaziantep	Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda② (Hatay), Kahta, Besni (Adiyaman), Nurda②, ②slahiye (Gaziantep)	Urban areas, Formal and informal settlements	125.000 approximately
Livelihoods	Capacity Building	Adıyaman, Hatay, Gaziantep, Kilis and ②anlıurfa	Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda② (Hatay), Kahta, Besni (Adiyaman), Nurda②ı, ②slahiye (Gaziantep), Akçakale, Haliliye, Eyyübiye, Harran (Sanliurfa)	Agribusinesses, cooperatives and SMEs	160.000 approximately
	Job Placement for (Un) Skilled workers	Adıyaman, Hatay and ②anlıurfa	Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda②, Kahta, Besni, Akçakale, Haliliye, Eyyübiye, Harran	Agribusinesses, women cooperatives and Industrial Zones	100.000 approximately
	Direct CASH and Voucher support in formal and informal settlement	Adıyaman, Hatay, Gaziantep, Kilis and ②anlıurfa	Antakya, ②skenderun, Samanda②, Kahta, Besni, Nurda②ı, ②slahiye, Akçakale, Haliliye, Eyyübiye, Harran	Agribusinesses, women cooperatives and Industrial Zones	50.000 approximately