

# Now and for the future

**Relief and recovery** for those affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria



Half a year has passed since a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit northern Syria and Southeastern Türkiye. The earthquake left a trail of destruction for millions of people in Türkiye and Syria, killing more than 55,000. Thanks to your support, AÇEV in Türkiye and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Syria are helping to alleviate the negative impacts from the natural disaster.

## **Supporting women and children during recovery**

AÇEV is an NGO that has been working in Türkiye in the fields of early childhood, parenting and women's empowerment for three decades. AÇEV predicts that life at container cities in the disaster area will last between 18 to 36 months. During this time, a series of works is planned to support children's education, equip parents with the skills to support children's psycho-social well-being and empower young women. AÇEV aims to reach 4,500 children and their parents as well as 2,500 young women affected by the earthquake through AÇEV centers, mobile learning units and other projects.

AÇEV has worked tirelessly since the February 2023 earthquake to support the health and well-being of those affected, particularly children. AÇEV has built the Adiyaman Child and Family Center, a permanent home for those efforts in the heart of temporary housing facilities in one of the most affected regions. The aim is to create a safe, happy and peaceful place for children and families.

AÇEV's area of expertise is the pre-school period when brain development is at its fastest and habits gained persist for life. The Adiyaman Child and Family Center features a library with toys and books for children, especially those living in

surrounding post-earthquake temporary housing. AÇEV has developed play-based child centered programs with semi-structured daily routines for preschool-aged children, so they can make a healthy transition to primary school.

To strengthen the integrated services for early childhood, AÇEV is also supporting parents and caregivers. To support parents' well-being and empower them with the skills to provide children with nurturing care, the center offers a structured parenting program to help them meet their children's needs. And to support young women's empowerment, the center offers a program aimed at supporting their well-being and giving them the tools to shape their own future.

AÇEV will open two additional centers in other affected areas – Gaziantep (Nurdagi) and Hatay (Defne) – in the coming months to reach more children, parents and young women.

## **Responding to a crisis within a crisis**

As a result of the earthquake, more than 80,000 people in Syria were displaced from their homes. Prior to the earthquake, Syria already had 15.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. One of the most pressing needs is food, as the ongoing economic crisis, prolonged conflict in Ukraine and weakened local currency have caused the prices of basic food items to nearly double in the past year.

Since 2012, the IRC has been actively involved in responding to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, implementing various programs to assist communities affected by conflict in both northern and southern regions. In the early days of its earthquake response, alongside trusted local partners, the IRC assessed the complex needs of those most affected in Syria. Multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) has been selected as the most feasible and appropriate way to support earthquake-affected households to meet a wide range of urgent needs, such as food, healthcare, household and hygiene needs, protection services, fuel and electricity, communications, transportation and basic non-food items.

The IRC was one of the first agencies to start providing cash support to clients, reaching tens of thousands in the first weeks. Continued support is going to help IRC scale up operations and reach a larger number of individuals, delivering an MPCA program to meet the urgent needs of more affected households.

All programmatic data provided by AÇEV and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues. This document is for informational and educational purposes only and has no regard to the specific objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any specific recipient. It is not intended as a promotion of any UBS services nor an offer or a solicitation of an offer to sell or buy any product or other specific service. UBS Optimus Foundation does not provide investment, legal or tax advice. It strongly recommends to all persons considering the information herein to obtain appropriate independent legal, tax and other professional advice.

© UBS 2023. All rights reserved. The key symbol and UBS are among the registered and unregistered trademarks of UBS Group AG. IS2302201; Exp. 4/30/2024