On 6 February 2023, two powerful earthquakes followed by tremors and aftershocks ripped through the southern region of Türkiye. They were the largest to hit the country in the last century, causing the death of over 45,000 people and injuring approximately 115,000 others.1

The earthquake-affected area is known as Türkiye’s “fertile crescent”, accounting for approximately 15.3 percent of the country’s total agricultural gross domestic product,2 and employing 14 percent of its farmers.3

The significant damage and losses to crops, livestock, fisheries, and agricultural infrastructure were estimated at USD 6.3 billion, including USD 5.1 billion in losses and USD 1.3 billion in damages.3

In response, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) scaled up its emergency response and launched its three-year Earthquake Response and Recovery Plan (ERRP) with the overall objective of maintaining food production and availability through the restoration of critical agrifood systems and rural livelihoods.

In numbers

- **9.1 million** people affected in the 11 hardest-hit provinces – Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Elâzığ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa – of whom **35 percent** live in rural areas4

- **2.7 million** people displaced by the earthquakes5

- **13,284 livestock** shelters destroyed, 815,000 heads of livestock lost and **5,756 beehives** damaged6

- **USD 110.08 million** still needed under FAO’s 2023–2026 ERRP

In the Gölbaşı district of Adıyaman – one of the hardest-hit areas – 80 percent of food processing units have been rendered inoperable, while seeds, fertilizers, agricultural machinery and tools in Islahiye and Nurdağı suffered losses ranging from 50 to 75 percent.
Challenges facing food security and agriculture

More than six months have passed since the southern region of Türkiye was hit by devastating earthquakes, resulting in a significant death toll. The damages to agricultural lands, infrastructures and equipment, as well as the loss and injury of livestock severely affected rural communities’ livelihoods and food production. The earthquakes have also led to several identified environmental issues such as debris containing asbestos, persistent organic pollutants exposed in damaged facilities and contamination of water and soil resources.

More specifically, in the Gölbaşı district of Adıyaman – one of the hardest-hit areas – 80 percent of food processing units have been rendered inoperable, while seeds, fertilizers, agricultural machinery and tools in İslahiye and Nurdağı suffered losses ranging from 50 to 75 percent. In Hatay, more than 75 percent of the fishing industry and milk processing facilities have suffered extensive damage. Agricultural lands, livestock and irrigation systems have also been destroyed. In addition, there has been a reduced labour force due to the displacement of local populations, including rural and agriculture-dependent communities.

Immediate agricultural assistance from FAO has helped affected farmers and rural communities, but a more comprehensive approach is needed to support them in the medium and longer term to restore food production. This includes rehabilitating barns, rebuilding infrastructure and strengthening rural livelihoods and agrifood systems. Such efforts require innovative, tech-driven and climate-smart approaches to contribute to the sustainable recovery of the agriculture sector.
Response to date (February–August 2023)

- Conducted three assessments in partnership with the Presidency of Strategy and Budget and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) to identify the agricultural needs following the earthquake.
- Provided 150 pieces of agricultural equipment (100 portable motorized knapsack sprayers and 50 chainsaws) to 150 farming households.
- Distributed 340.8 tonnes of animal feed to 1,085 livestock producers.
- Distributed 89 tonnes of fertilizer to 630 farming households.
- Delivered 2.5 tonnes of cotton seed to 50 farming households and 175 bags of maize seed (50,000 seeds/bag) to 125 farming households.
- Provided 70,200 tomato seedlings to 75 farming households.

Planned response (September–October 2023)

- Provide 315 farming households with 70.75 tonnes of fertilizer.
- Provide 100 farming households with 100 milking machines.
- Provide 140 farming households with 20 milk cooling tanks.
- Provide 155 farming households with 310 pheromone traps.
- Deliver eight food processing machines to one cooperative.
- Deliver a portable motorized knapsack sprayer to one cooperative.
- Engage 150 farming households in cash-for-work activities (TRY 500 daily [USD 18.5]/household) for afforestation and sapling production for a duration of two months.
- Provide 6,000 farming households with unconditional cash transfers (USD 75 each).
- Finalize assessments including value chain analysis for dairy, aquaculture and horticulture subsectors, forestry impact assessment and a rapid rural appraisal in collaboration with MoAF and local partners.

Notes


Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING GAP</th>
<th>USD 110.08 million</th>
<th>98.3%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FUNDING RECEIVED</td>
<td>USD 1.92 million</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

- FAO requires USD 112 million under the 2023–2026 ERRP to assist 700,000 people.

Resource partners

Norway and Sweden through the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities, FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme and the European Union.

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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