

# Now and in the long run

Immediate assistance and long term recovery for children and families, **Türkiye**

This earthquake is by far the worst disaster in Türkiye for many decades. ACEV faces the challenge of both immediate relief and long-term assistance to families affected by the earthquake. ACEV is mobilizing relief efforts beginning with urgent humanitarian provision, shifting to systematic basic services and then longer-term rehabilitation and recovery.

## The problem

The massive earthquake that struck Türkiye on Monday, February 6th has killed more than 7,900 people in the first 36 hours and the death toll continues to climb with WHO expecting it to be at least eight-fold. The situation is getting more urgent and desperate by the hour. The impact is spread over ten provinces affecting over 15 million people, majority of which are now homeless or unable to enter their homes, remaining outside in freezing temperatures with little access to food or water. Cellular networks and internet communications are down in many areas, along with electricity and water outages. All basic services including health and roads and are seriously damaged.

## The partner

AÇEV is a 30 year old NGO working in the fields of early childhood, parenting and women’s empowerment. ACEV’s mission is to ensure every low-socioeconomic child aged 0-6 in Türkiye is happy, healthy, supported, learning and safe, with improved long term socio-economic and wellbeing outcomes; through evidence-based early childhood, parenting support programs, and systemic change through partnerships, research, advocacy and regulatory change.

## The philanthropic solution

ACEV is mounting a three phase operation:

1. Humanitarian needs: Providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief is the immediate priority, while search-and-rescue efforts continue. The most urgent priorities are health, water, food, sanitation, and shelter. ACEV procurs and delivers urgently-needed items such as clothing, blankets, heaters, power-banks, nappies, hygiene kits and baby food.
2. Systematic basic services: Once search and rescue efforts are complete, maintaining basic service delivery standards will be prioritized, including basic

healthcare, emergency nutritional support, and child welfare. Based on prior experience with post-quake relief efforts in Türkiye, ACEV plans to establish:

- Mobile bread bakeries, kitchens, and canteens equipped to serve nutritional food
  - Mobile health clinics to address major primary health care needs
  - Laundry units
  - Play rooms / child friendly spaces
  - Mobile psychosocial support units
3. Recovery through permanent structures and services: Earthquakes separate children from their families, destroy their schools, and disrupt their childhoods. The priority will be to ensure children have access to quality education and early learning, and to support children to stay in school by leveraging expertise from prior disasters. ACEV will also provide mental health and psychosocial support to families by setting up physical rehabilitation centers and mental health clinics.

## The evidence

ACEV has developed experience in disaster relief and rehabilitation through the many earthquakes (Izmit 1999, Van 2011, Elazig 2020) and disasters (Soma Explosion 2014, Wildfires 2021) that Türkiye has suffered. ACEV is present in the affected areas of the country delivering disaster relief efforts, four flagship programs, and community centers.

## The impact

ACEV will enable children and their families coping with the horrors of the earthquake by addressing immediate survival needs but also helping to restore education, improve mental wellbeing and regain a sense of normalcy.

Location	Türkiye
Target group	Children and their families affected by the consequences of the earthquake
Partner(s)	ACEV
Co-sponsors	Multiple
Grant total	Donations ongoing
SDG(s)	2,3,4,6
Duration	12 months
Program ID	54016

Source: ACEV (2023)

All programmatic data provided by ACEV. 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.

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