

CHILDFUND ALLIANCE STATEMENT Earthquake in Syria and Türkiye

7 February 2023

On 6 February, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Türkiye and northern Syria. The devastation caused has been immense, with more than 3,000 people estimated to have lost their lives and over 13,000 injured. These figures are likely to rise exponentially in the coming days.

Significant damage to buildings and other essential infrastructure is also putting lives at risk. Families face the difficult choice of returning to their unsafe homes or find alternative shelter in the currently freezing conditions.

In Syria, where children and families have had to contend with years of conflict, displacement, and lack of access to basic needs, the compounding impacts of the earthquake will be far-reaching.

ChildFund member WeWorld, which has been implementing humanitarian programs in Syria for more than a decade, has activated its Emergency Unit and is now conducting urgent assessments.

Staff are already providing basic first aid services in Aleppo and working in partnership with hospitals to support those injured.

ChildFund Alliance holds grave concerns about children and families living in earthquake-affected regions and wishes to extend its compassion to all those impacted.

In the coming days and weeks we will work closely with WeWorld to ensure that immediate and longer-term relief is made available to prevent further loss of life, and the protection and wellbeing of children is prioritized.

For more information, please contact:

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About ChildFund

Eleven child-focused development agencies are part of the global ChildFund Alliance network, which helps children and their families overcome poverty and the underlying conditions that prevent children from reaching their full potential. Together we reach nearly 23 million children and family members in 70 countries. Members work to end violence and exploitation against children; provide expertise in emergencies and disasters to ease the harmful impact on children and their communities; and engage children, families and communities to create lasting change. Our commitment, resources, innovation, knowledge and expertise serve as a powerful force to transform the lives of children around the world.