

Earthquake Recovery Grants for Small Businesses

With funding from Sweden, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing a regional Earthquake Recovery Grants Program to assist small businesses damaged in the February 2023 earthquakes. UNDP is working with Chambers of Commerce and Industry in 11 provinces: Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa.

The Regional Grant Program has **two priority goals**:

- First, it aims to help entrepreneurs and small businesses that were forced by the earthquakes to shut down to restart their operations, recognizing their vital contribution to the local economy.
- Second, it provides additional assistance to help women-led businesses recover from earthquake damage, since women entrepreneurs face greater obstacles to successful recovery, including an increased burden of home care work that they were not performing before the earthquakes.

The total program budget of **\$4.5 million** is divided into three components:

1. **Direct grants.** 80 percent of the budget will be transferred to small business owners as direct grants. In this way UNDP aims to ensure that as much of the funding as possible is applied directly for immediate business needs, whether for rent, repair, or purchases of equipment and supplies. Small businesses have already struggled for five months; they need cash infusions now.
2. **Capacity building.** To meet business needs for advice on how to cope with new post-disaster realities, 10 percent of the budget will be dedicated to capacity building initiatives for companies and chambers such as support in product development, marketing and distribution.
3. **Vocational training.** Another 10 percent of the budget will be devoted to vocational training, to enable entrepreneurs to develop new skills to improve productivity and expand product offerings.

Grant amounts. Grant awards will range from a minimum of **TRY30,000** to a maximum of **TRY300,000**.

Deadlines. Applications will be accepted for a one-month period between **30 July** and **30 August 2023**.

How to apply. Application guidelines and eligibility criteria are currently being refined and will be announced soon. Potential applicants are encouraged to monitor official UNDP channels for updates.

A partnership for earthquake recovery. The regional Recovery Grants Program reflects the shared determination of the Government of Sweden, UNDP, and the different chambers of commerce and industry to work together to support small businesses as a first step towards economic recovery.

This collaborative effort aims to combine financial resources, capacity-building initiatives, and vocational training into a simple, rapid and effective offer of support to entrepreneurs and small companies, in the hope that reviving small business dynamism can help in turn to spur a larger recovery in the local economy.