



A family in Jandairis, north-west Syria, lost their home to the earthquakes and now lives in the garden of the office of a non-governmental organization. 18 February 2023. Photo credit: OCHA/Madevi Sun-Suon

Key Figures in North-west Syria

4500+

Deaths

8300+

Injuries

9000+

Partially or fully
damaged buildings

48,000+

Suspected
cholera cases

Situation Overview

Mohammed's home is one of some 1,700 buildings in north-west Syria that were fully damaged by the 6 February earthquakes. At least 100 people have died in the building.

As of 18 February, the death toll in north-west Syria has risen to more than 4,500. At least 1,000 deaths have been recorded in the city of Jandairis alone, in the Afrin district, according to local partners, making it one of the worst affected areas in the country.

"I felt the shaking and smell of dust. I was sure that the upper floor would collapse on us," recalled Mohammed the moment the disaster struck at 4:17 am. His children quickly ran from the second floor. Another building crumbled down in front of their eyes as they stepped outside.

Two weeks after the earthquakes, Mohamed now lives in a tent with his wife and seven children in the garden of a non-governmental organization (NGO). The office of Bahar, one of some 30 Syrian NGOs funded by OCHA's Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) in 2022, has been his neighbor.

“I lost 15 relatives from that evening,” shared Mohammed noting that it was “raining, thundering, and cold”. Three of his brothers and their families were victims of the same collapsed building – only two people survived. Meanwhile, at least 20 neighbors passed away in another building next door.



Mohammed and his family of seven children share a single tent, as seen behind him, with two other families. 18 February 2023. Photo credit: OCHA/Madevi Sun-Suon

Mohammed used to work in an olive refinery, a common stint given Afrin’s reputation with olives, but is now unemployed. Since the earthquakes, his family gets by with food support provided by NGOs.

Even in the most difficult circumstances, he remains committed to his community. “We cooperate with each other as neighbors. If I have two sacks of bread and my neighbor has none, then I would share my portion,” said Mohammed.

On 18 February, a UN delegation led by the Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim on surge [visited Jandairis](#) to meet with local partners at Bahar’s office as well as hospitals and clinics supported by the Syria Relief and Development (SRD) organization. The delegation was comprised of representatives from IOM, OCHA, UNDSS, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO.

OCHA’s Head of Office Sanjana Quazi described Jandairis as “[a city that is almost wiped out.](#)” “As the United Nations, we are doing an interagency mission and we are here to see how we can help,” she said in [a video](#) released following the mission.

Shelters, winterization and multi-purpose cash have been identified as priority needs in north-west Syria, according to a [REACH Rapid Assessment](#). Health needs continue to be dire with at least 20 per cent of 604 assessed communities having no access to healthcare.

A health worker at the Al-Rehah hospital recounted the early days post-earthquakes: “Since the beginning, we tried to receive all the injured people since it was the only functioning hospital in Jandairis. We tried to help everyone with our simple capabilities.”



Medicines and trauma kits provided by the WHO were delivered to hospitals and health centers in Jandairis as part of the UN cross-border aid operation. 18 February 2023. Photo credit: OCHA/Madevi Sun-Suon

During the visit, medicines and trauma kits provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) were distributed to a hospital and clinics supported by SRD and the Bahar Primary Health Center. Some of these items have been pre-positioned while other batches have crossed through Bab Al-Hawa from Türkiye.

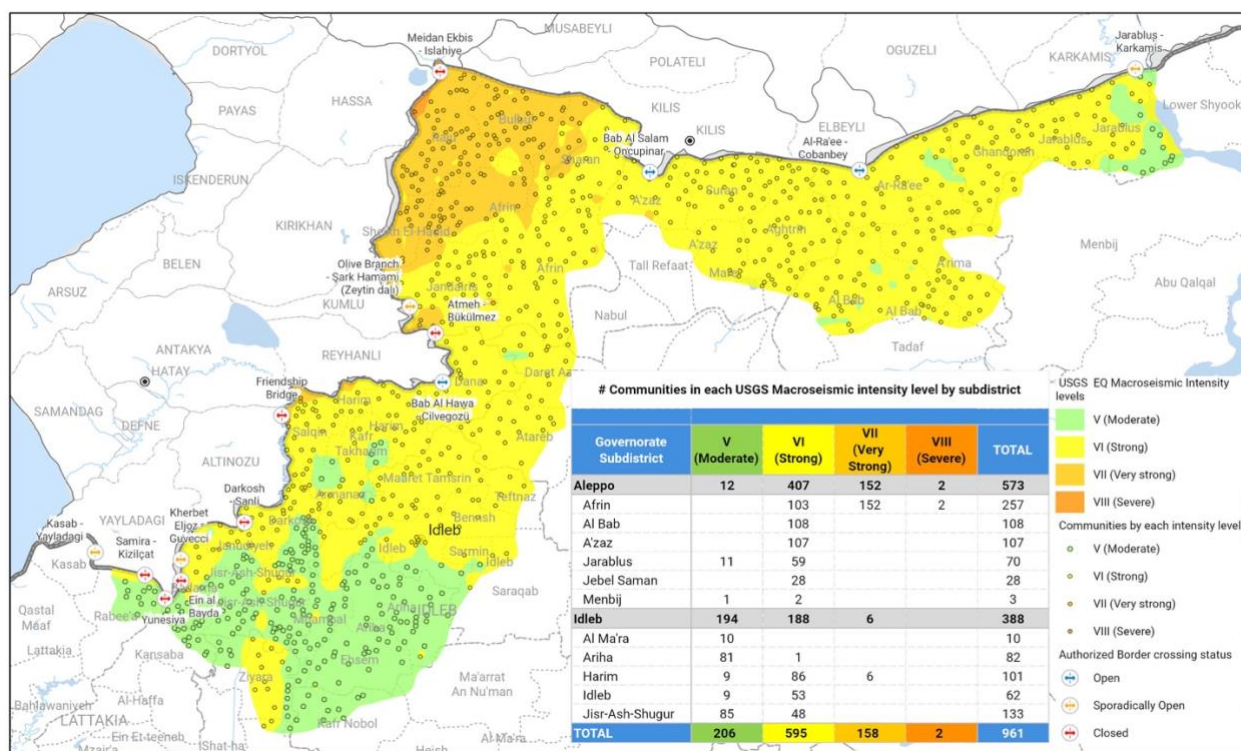
The UN continues to scale up its cross-border aid operation. As of 19 February, the UN has sent nearly 200 trucks loaded with aid – ranging from food and shelters to cholera testing kits and high-energy biscuits - through two border-crossings (Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al-Salam). Distributions on the ground are on-going by local partners.

Nearly 700,000 were reached with bread support since the first day of the earthquakes. More than 270,000 people residing in 88 reception centers and most affected communities were reached with WASH supplies, critical in mitigating cholera risks. As of February 18, more than 14,000 individuals have been reached with tents provided by the humanitarian community.

The UN is also rapidly mobilizing resources. OCHA's [Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund \(SCHF\)](#) has so far received pledged contributions aiming to respond to humanitarian needs in north-west Syria including the earthquake response thanks to the generous support of Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

However, more support is needed given the magnitude of this crisis. The UN and humanitarian partners are calling for US\$397.6 million in a [Flash Appeal](#) for Syria launched on 14 February.

Impact, Needs and Response



Earthquake-affected communities in north-west Syria and border-crossings (as of 15 February 2023)



Impact

- **More than 4,500 deaths and more than 8,300 injuries** have been reported in north-west Syria, as of 18 February, according to the Health cluster. Nearly 70 per cent of all reported injuries (5,687 injuries) were in Harim in the Idleb governorate alone.
- **At least 3 million people** affected by the earthquakes are in the Idleb province.
- As of 18 February, **more than 1,700 buildings** have been completely destroyed and **more than 7,900 buildings** have been partially destroyed. Some 60 per cent of partially destroyed buildings were reported in Harim in the Idleb governorate and Afrin in the Aleppo governorate.
- The earthquakes affected at least 138 communities and 34 sub-districts in north-west Syria as of 18 February.
- The districts with the **highest number of deaths and injuries** as of 18 February are Harim, followed by Afrin and Jisr-Ash-Shugur.



Humanitarian needs

- **Priority needs: Winterization, shelter and multi-purpose cash support** were cited as the top priority needs, according to a REACH [rapid assessment](#) involving 604 communities.
- **Internal displacement updates:**
 - ✓ Some 40,000 households were reportedly displaced within their own communities, according to the REACH rapid assessment. 13,000 of the households were in the Salqin sub-district.

- ✓ Movements of the population are continuing to be registered in the direction of the northern Syrian border and east Syria.
 - ✓ More than 86,000 displacement movements were recorded as of 17 February, according to the **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster**.
- **Shelter and winterization needs:** At least 50,000 households are in need of tents or emergency shelter, according to REACH. At least 88,000 households are in need of mattresses, high thermal blankets and clothing.
 - ✓ Most of the affected population have been displaced within their own communities, but many have also arrived in reception centers or pre-existing camps, increasing the burden on facilities and services provided in those locations.
 - ✓ **The Shelter/Non-Food Item (SNFI) cluster** reported that the most urgent needs are tents and other temporary shelter units, NFI kits, basic and winter clothing, and heating fuel. Adaptation of collective shelters and minor repairs to damaged buildings are also urgent requirements.
 - ✓ **The SNFI cluster** calls to increase dignified shelter delivery and planning on longer-term shelter solutions as soon as possible.
 - **Post-earthquakes health needs amidst a cholera outbreak:** At least 20 per cent of 604 assessed communities by REACH reported that they do not have access to healthcare, notably in the Badama and Harim sub-districts.
 - ✓ At least 53 health facilities have been partially damaged and two health facilities have been fully damaged, as of 19 February, according to the Health cluster. In addition, 12 health facilities have been suspended.
 - **Markets demonstrate a certain level of resilience:** Markets remain generally accessible to all or most of the population in assessed communities with earthquake impact. Only 11 per cent of the assessed communities indicated increased unavailability of items.
 - **WASH needs putting people at risk of water-borne diseases:** Top WASH needs of persons displaced by the earthquakes include water, water tanks, latrines, hygiene items and sewage infrastructure.
 - ✓ **The WASH cluster** shared that the displaced population affected by the dam collapse in Al-Talul and subsequent flooding is partially returning. However, the dam cannot be repaired at this point and people are at risk of catching water-borne diseases.
 - ✓ 93 per cent of 43 assessed collective centers reported that they need hygiene support.
 - **Urgent funding needed to replenish food stocks:** Shortages of food items in Idlib and surrounding areas have been reported by **the Food Security & Livelihoods (FSL) cluster**.
 - ✓ As of the second week of February, FSL reported that the nominal price of key commodities in the food basket (bread, lentils, vegetable oil, sugar and rice) increased in almost all of the heavily hit Syrian governorates compared to the pre-earthquakes week.
 - ✓ A large proportion of assistance reported by **FSL** partners is one-time/one-off (90 per cent of cooked meals and 40 per cent of bread distribution) and is not sustained over time. Urgent funding is required to replenish food stocks, scale-up response while in parallel resuming and maintaining regular food assistance to support targeted food insecure people.



Humanitarian response

- **UN cross-border aid operation:** As of 19 February, a total of 197 trucks loaded with aid provided by six UN agencies (IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO) have so far crossed to north-west Syria since the earthquakes.



Number of Trucks Crossed per Day by Border Crossing Point

● Bab al-Hawa ● Bab al-Salam



- ✓ The UN resumed its cross-border operation on 9 February following three days of disruption due to damaged roads connecting Gaziantep to the UN Transshipment Hub in Hatay.
 - ✓ As of 14 February, three border-crossing points are opened for UN aid delivery: Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salam and Al Ra'ee.
 - ✓ On 14 February, the first aid convoy crossed to north-west Syria through Bab Al-Salam since 2020. The convoy was comprised of 11 trucks carrying non-food items provided by IOM.
- **Debris removal:** As of 17 February, seven **Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ERL)** partners reported debris removal interventions in three Aleppo communities and thirteen Idleb communities. To date, the total amount of reported debris removed is approximately 28,600 m³.
 - ✓ UNDP Debris & Waste Management Expert will deliver an Online Session on Debris Management Planning on Tuesday 21 February from 12:00 to 14:00. The Online Session can be accessed [via this link](#).
 - **Shelter and Non-Food Item (SNFI):** The **SNFI cluster members** are responding with emergency shelters and NFIs in affected communities, reception centers, existing camps, and collective centers.
 - ✓ 17 SNFI cluster members have reported completed or ongoing responses.
 - ✓ As of February 18, more than 14,000 individuals have been reached with tents. Close to 50,000 individuals have been reached with the provision of emergency NFIs and over 3,750 individuals have been reached with the provision of emergency shelter kits.
 - ✓ UNHCR and IOM currently report the highest stock levels as well as items in the pipeline for emergency shelters and NFIs.
 - **Food support and cash voucher assistance:** **FSL cluster** partners are providing a first-line response to the food needs of people affected by the earthquakes, including ready-to-eat (RTE) food (which covers the food needs of a family for one week), cooked meals and multi-purpose cash.
 - ✓ 37 partners reached almost 320, 000 beneficiaries through RTEs distribution
 - ✓ Since 6 February, 696,525 people with bread support were reached.
 - ✓ 14 partners distributed 112,425 cooked meals of which nearly almost 70, 000 were distributed last week. FSL is coordinating with the Cash Working Group on the distribution of cash voucher assistance.

- **WASH: The WASH cluster** is continuing to provide desludging and water trucking support, among other assistance. A contingency and preparedness assessment was completed.
 - ✓ A WASH Advocacy Working Group has been established. Health and WASH strategy meetings are ongoing to coordinate the cholera response post-earthquakes.
 - ✓ Since the earthquakes, UNICEF and partners have reached 279,611 affected people residing in 88 reception centers and most affected communities with lifesaving WASH supplies and services in north-west Syria.
 - ✓ Services such as water trucking, solid waste management, and desludging of septic tanks reached over 79,748 people by UNICEF. In addition to this, hygiene promotion sessions have been delivered to 105,497 people.
- **Resumption of learning in schools in Idlib:** Local authorities in Idlib reportedly announced that learning in school will resume on February 20. Committees have been established to assess the safety and damage of school buildings.
 - ✓ **The Education cluster** has developed an [Emergency Response Plan](#), targeting 500,000 people over three months. Activities include school rehabilitation, debris removal, provision of Psychosocial First Aid for teachers, caregivers and students, and the establishment of child-friendly temporary learning spaces. \$24 million is required to implement this Plan.
 - ✓ UNICEF and partners have distributed 10,371 stationary kits to schools in anticipation of the resumption of education activities.
- **Nutrition assistance: The Nutrition Cluster** has reported that partners have screened 18,717 children aged 6-69 months. 532 children were reached with Severe Acute Malnutrition treatment.
- **Protection:** As of 19 February, UNICEF and partners reached 1,594 individuals with Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) activities in the past 48 hours in the Aleppo and Idlib governorates.
- **PSEAH Hotline:** UNICEF and partners have established a functional Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) hotline as of 16 February.
- **Funding:** The UN and humanitarian partners are calling for US\$397.6 million in a [Flash Appeal](#) for Syria launched on 14 February.
 - ✓ **The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF)** has received contributions aiming to respond to humanitarian needs in north-west Syria including the earthquake response thanks to the generous support of Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
 - ✓ The pledged contributions to SCHF are worth some \$64 million, as of 19 February, with paid contributions reaching a total of \$2.1 million. OCHA request all donors to complete the pending contribution process for funds to be utilized in time for an upcoming Reserve Allocation.
 - ✓ Other UN agencies have activated their internal emergency funds.

To contribute to the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF), please [click here](#).

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