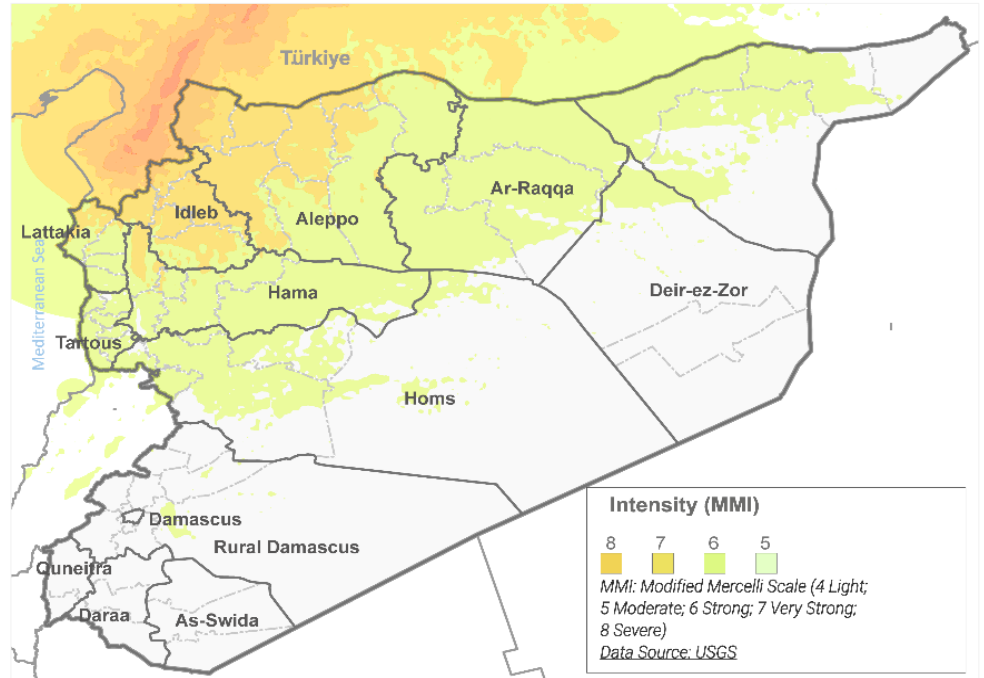


This report is produced by OCHA Syria on behalf of the HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM (HCT). It covers the period from 10-16 March 2023. The next report will be issued on or around 26 March.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI) sector is in urgent need of funding as the funding gap has reached US\$35.8 million.
- In Hama, 75 engineering committees assessed 60,000 buildings, where 5,118 are severely damaged, 32,576 need reinforcement, and 24,400 buildings are safe.
- A total of 128 shelters are reported as follows: (2 in Homs, 2 in Idleb, 24 in Lattakia and 100 in Aleppo).
- Five hundred and sixty-two Palestine refugee homes and 9 UNRWA facilities suffered varying degrees of damage from the earthquake. Thirteen per cent were severely damaged, 40 per cent partially damaged and 47 per cent had minor damages.



4M Affected people	2M Severely Affected	46,534* Palestine Refugees	1,414** Deaths	2,357** Injuries
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*As per UNRWA updates | ** as per latest numbers announced by MoH.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

This week marks twelve years since the Syria crisis began. Humanitarian needs have been made more acute by the onset of devastating earthquakes more than a month ago, crippling vulnerable communities in Syria and across the border in neighboring Türkiye.

The SNFI sector estimates that approximately 2.7 million people have been affected by the earthquake. The level of shelter/ housing damage ranges from broken windows to total building collapse. Much of the damage requires intervention beyond the scope of what is being provided by shelter sector.

The healthcare system was already overwhelmed and, after the earthquakes, is at risk of complete collapse in some affected areas as well as for certain life-saving departments and services. Disease surveillance teams detect in shelters suspected cases of cholera, diarrhea, scabies, lice, hepatitis A, COVID-19, measles and leishmaniasis.

FUNDING

To date, the flash appeal is more than seventy per cent funded. However, the 2023 Humanitarian Response plan is only five per cent funded.

Syria Humanitarian Fund Update:

- Carry over from 2022: \$5.9 million.
- Allocations in 2023 (including Cost Extensions and 1st Reserve Allocation): \$7.5 million.
- Contributions in 2023: \$12.3 million.
- Pledges in 2023: \$5.5 million.
- Available funds: \$10.7 million.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Early Recovery

Needs:

- Immediate support is needed in debris removal in the affected governorates.
- There is a need to provide emergency livelihoods and job opportunities for the most vulnerable earthquake-affected households.
- Support to the resumption of economic activity in the affected areas by providing emergency support to local shops and businesses is needed.
- Assessments stressed the urgent need for the rehabilitation of basic productive infrastructure.

Response:

Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ERL) partners continue to lay the groundwork for recovery in the affected areas.

- To date, ERL partners reached 152,512 beneficiaries in 59 communities in the governorates of Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia.
- Since 14 March, partners reported removing a total of 6,050 m³ of debris out of a planned 10,000 m³ from the old city and other impacted areas in Aleppo.
- Partners provided emergency livelihood support through emergency employment for 50 people in Aleppo.
- To enable beneficiaries to meet their basic needs, partners provided multi-purpose cash for 46,099 beneficiaries in Aleppo, Hama, and Lattakia Governorates.
- 11,602 Palestine refugees (4,303 women, 327 persons with disabilities) in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama received multi-purpose cash assistance. Each family received SYP 441,600 per household (approximately \$64).. A total of 39,923 refugees have received their emergency cash entitlements since the distribution started on 26 February, against a targeted 46,534 targeted refugees. UNRWA intends to support these vulnerable households for three months, subject to the availability of funds.
- In coordination with other sectors, ERL partners continue to enhance the living conditions in the collective shelters by distributing solar lamps and flashlights to address the lack of access to energy for 6,163 people.
- Partners continue to provide technical support to Damage Assessment Committees in the three main affected governorates.
- ERL partners are supporting the planned inter-agency/sector Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA). In addition, ERL partners are participating in the rapid needs assessments in earthquake-affected communities (SYNAT tool) to better understand the needs in these areas.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of funding continues to limit the emergency response efforts and sustainable recovery in the affected areas.

Education

Needs:

- Safe reopening of schools requires expansion in support of debris removal and light rehabilitation of minorly damaged schools to ensure resumption of learning for school aged children. Continued assessments of schools in affected areas are also required to confidently encourage safe return.
- The impact of the earthquake on the mental health of children and their caregivers resulted in low attendance rates when schools in affected areas re-opened in the beginning of March. Awareness raising on safety and psychosocial support are needed for both teachers and children.
- Children of school age, especially those in collective shelters are still in need of further support with social and emotional learning activities, recreational and educational catch-up especially for those needing to sit for ninth and grade 12 national exams, in addition to the need for educational materials such as books, learning materials and stationery.
- The schools that are used as shelters need to be evacuated and reopened as schools to enable children to continue education. Thus, education sector is advocating to keep schools as last resort for shelters.

Response:

Education Sector Partners (UNICEF, PUI, SSSD, TGH, INTERSOS, COOPI, AVSI, Fouadi, GOPA DERD, Social Care and Taalof) continue to provide support in affected areas in Latakia, Tartous, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and parts of Idleb.

- Partners continue assessing schools in most affected areas for safety and structural integrity. To date 2,866 schools in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs and parts of Idleb have been assessed.
- Light rehabilitation started in 42 schools and preparation for rehabilitation is ongoing for more than 300 schools.
- 2,872 girls and boys in collective shelters and schools were reached with recreational kits, early childhood education kits, heaters, cleaning materials and stationery.
- 2,758 girls and boys received awareness sessions, recreational activities and psychosocial support on understanding better and coping with emotional distress post-earthquake. Sessions were conducted in schools and collective shelters.
- UNRWA schools continued normally with 4,339 students attending classes (2,225 girls, 60 students with disabilities). There was a 9 per cent increase compared to the previous week, indicating more students returning to school following the earthquake. Thirteen students sat for their IT exams and another 45 students resumed their second semester in Lattakia and Hama (33 women). UNRWA provided psychosocial support to 52 affected vocational students.
- 3,990 children received PSS services in schools (48 per cent girls), while 70 children (43 per cent girls) also received PSS in Ein el Tal camp during the week. Another 33 adults received PSS support this week (55 per cent women).
- Partners have set-up 8 temporary learning spaces in most affected areas in shelters or community centres targeting children who cannot resume their studies.
- Non-formal education is being provided and support for 967 students to sit shortly for the grades 9 and 12 national exams.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Education is further hampered as more than 100 schools are still being used as shelters in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous and Hama. In order to reopen, educational facilities would need to be rehabilitated.
- Connectivity and access to telecommunication methods including internet is constraining partners' ability to provide efficient and effective online learning. Unavailability of flexible funding is hindering education in emergencies response to affected school aged population.

Food Security

Needs:

- Following the Syria earthquake flash appeal, the Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) sector estimated 400,0000 people have been affected in Humanitarian Country Team-coordinated areas, with additional people having been affected indirectly and in host communities.
- There is a need to provide support to farmers and agricultural activities in urban areas.
- The Sector is advocating for further assessments to re-look at the needs in the country and is in the process of launching a traffic light analysis at a sub-district level to inform partners' response.

Response:

- Since 6 February, WFP supported 94,150 with RTEs including prevention nutrition supplies and date bars in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous and Hama. In addition, FSA partners supported 77,284 people with Ready to Eat (RTE) meals in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia and 21,568 beneficiaries with food baskets. 24,500 people are planned to receive cash and voucher assistance (CVA). Twenty-six partners are responding in the affected areas.
- FSA partners also supported earthquake-affected people living in the collective shelters with 777,244 hot meals.
- The Sector has started close coordination with partners to kick off the sector strategy response plan. All sector partners and other relevant partners at the national level met on 5 March in Damascus to map the needs related to the ongoing earthquake response, as well as identify gaps using the traffic light analysis, in particular in shelters and host communities areas. The Sector is planning to conduct two sub-national FAS meetings, in Lattakia and Aleppo with partners working in each area to follow up on the earthquake sector strategy response plan, and ensure the 3-6 months regular food assistance plan and response matrix is confirmed by all stakeholders. The sub-national sector partners are working closely with the operations rooms established in the affected governorates.
- Three newly displaced refugees from the same family received ready to eat rations in Lattakia. UNRWA is distributing food only to critical cases due to lack of funding.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Partners have reported challenges in accessing information on affected people's movements, and challenges in identifying displaced people outside shelters.
- Partners reported the need for additional funding as they reported available capacity to scale up the response.
- Lack and shortage of holistic assessments are also a challenge, and resources are needed to analyze the assessments conducted by partners to date.



Health

Needs:

- There is a need to support limited local capacity to respond to mass casualty emergencies (emergency care, trauma referral pathways, pre-hospital care, preparedness and mitigation measures).
- Lack of some specialized health services in hospitals are reported due to limited health and human resources.
- Presence of international health providers on the ground who are not coordinating under the health sector umbrella or the Department of Health (DoH) is causing duplication of services and misuse of resources.
- Better coordination between health sector partners is required during response planning with health authorities to avoid overlapping.
- Sufficient WASH facilities are not available which put people at high risk of spread of communicable diseases (improper sanitation and disposal).
- There is a continued need to address the provision for hygiene inside shelters due to the lack of privacy and limited WASH facilities.
- There is a need for adequate data on displaced people to host communities outside the shelters.
- Despite joint efforts to tackle mental health issues, there is a high incidence of mental health distress, fear and shock cases among the population due to the earthquake and continuous aftershocks.
- The high private healthcare costs put a huge burden on the public sector for case management and treatments.
- There is a need to support DoH reproductive health (RH) facilities with rehabilitation, medicine, equipment and other supplies to improve quality of services. In addition, RH kits are needed. In Aleppo, approximately 130 women living in shelters are giving birth every month, of whom 15 per cent are expected to have life-threatening complications.
- The RH working group (RHWG) in the affected governorates requested further support to ensure women have access to a full range of family planning methods to prevent unintended pregnancy.
- There is a need for funding alternative energy sources, including solar panels, to ensure health facilities are equipped with sufficient electricity.
- Top five morbidities continue to include influenza-like illness; acute watery diarrhoea (AWD); leishmaniasis; lice and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI). Twelve AWD and seven suspected measles cases were detected in Aleppo; two AWD cases nine suspected measles cases in Lattakia. No alerts detected in Hama.

Response:

- A total of 41 sector partners are responding, including six UN agencies, seven international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 24 national NGOs, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and three government structures, providing support in 217 shelters.
- 361,522 outpatient consultations, 10,621 trauma consultations, 411,877 mental health consultations were provided.
- 4,989 patients were referred to health facilities, 1,061,122 treatment courses delivered and 98 mobile teams are deployed.
- 198 health facilities supported and 100 ambulances (DoH, SARC and health sector partners) are engaged.
- 98 mobile teams and fixed health points are deployed covering 217 shelters and affected communities.
- 198 public health facilities continue to receive essential medicines, consumables and equipment.
- Vaccination coverage rate among children, which was already alarming pre-earthquake, remains a key concern. A total of 4,518 children were vaccinated with routine immunization while 886 women were vaccinated with tetanus and diphtheria vaccine in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Idlib and Lattakia.
- 2,311 UNRWA health facility based primary care consultations (64 per cent women) and 122 telemedicine consultations (57 per cent women) were provided in Aleppo City, Neirab camp, Ein el Tal camp, Lattakia and Hama camps during the week. In addition, 72 refugees (79 per cent women) received MHPSS services.
- UNRWA health center in Aleppo city (that used to run on a rented premises) was closed due to earthquake related damages. A new location has been identified and the health center is now functional. There is a need for mobile health services to regularly reach the Ein el Taal camp.
- In Ein el-Tal Palestine Refugees camp, an alternative location is needed for the mobile clinic to operate due to damaged buildings nearby.
- SBC health educators are continuing their response to provide awareness raise sessions, including on cholera, for IDP in collective shelters with minimum key messages for 70,006 parents and caregivers reached through community dialogues on life-saving earthquake key messages.
- The lead of national trauma sub-sector working group is on surge in Lattakia. Trauma sub-national sub-sector working group meeting took place.
- In coordination with the DoH Lattakia and DoH Hama, a sexual and reproductive health (SRH) sub-sector working group has been initiated to enhance coordination, expand RH coverage, and improve the quality of response. Aleppo will convene an SRH sub-sector working group next week. Key messages on SRH and mental health psychosocial (MHPSS) support were developed to raise awareness on when and how to access services. The partners are exploring options to support blood banks to ensure women have access to life-saving blood transfusions in emergency obstetric situations. Continued support is being provided to 15 static reproductive health facilities in the affected governorates and RH Kits have been provided to DoH hospitals and primary health care centres. Thirty-one RH-gender-based violence (GBV) Integrated Mobile Teams (IMTs) are deployed. SRH services are provided to more than 86,603 women and girls. Reproductive health referral pathways have been developed. A technical assessment of DoH facilities providing RH services using the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) assessment tool is ongoing to identify gaps and needs. The e-voucher project has been reactivated which supports the most vulnerable pregnant and lactating women to secure food and hygiene needs.
- Emergency Warning and Response System (EWARS) is collecting data on alerts from 211 sentinel sites in Aleppo, 155 in Lattakia and 95 in Hama. One hundred and eighty seven reports have been received from Aleppo; 120 from Lattakia; 72 from Hama. Twenty-four rapid response teams (RRTs) are deployed in Aleppo; 8 in Lattakia; 8 in Hama. A total of 39 vehicles are rented to support the DoH response.
- The draft of the March Health sector Syria Operational Update, Policy and Strategy on Preventing and Addressing Sexual Misconduct has been finalized.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The sector is facing lack of funding.
- Not all needs are met in regard to prevention and management of sexual and gender-based violence, including clinical care for survivors. This is being addressed by training offered to 37 OB-GYNs (in two sessions) on the Clinical Management of Rape (CMR). There are plans to expand this training.
- As a result of movement in and out of shelters obtaining accurate statistics of the displaced people which is essential to plan services, including response to obstetric and newborn emergencies remains a challenge.
- There is a lack of comprehensive 24/7 RH services and referral in rural areas including response to GBV and obstetric emergencies.
- There is limited funding to support expansion of critical RH services.
- Psychosocial needs remain and are of particular concern as stress during pregnancy can increase complications including premature birth and first trimester loss. Plans are underway for psychological first aid (PFA) and psychosocial support (PSS), however, there gaps remain for specialized psychiatric services and referrals.

- Living conditions in the shelters remain difficult. The overall hygiene situation is very poor, directly impacting health of girls and women.
- People with disabilities, especially hearing aid assistive devices, must be addressed.

Nutrition

Needs:

- Moderate acute malnourished cases among pregnant and lactating women in Tartous have increased to 6.2 per cent among 7,576 screened women as of 15 March. More focus is needed to provide pregnant and lactating women with preventive nutrition products such as high energy biscuits (HEBs) and micronutrients (MMNs).
- In Aleppo, Rapid Nutrition Assessment was conducted for displaced children under 5 years old and pregnant and lactating women in 241 collective shelters. The assessment showed rates of acute malnutrition at 0.8 per cent for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 0.2 per cent for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) among children under 5 years old, and 7 per cent for MAM among pregnant and lactating women. One of the three stabilization centres is affected as it is within the pediatric division in the Aleppo university hospital which is currently closed due to earthquake-related damages.

Response:

- Twenty-nine nutrition outreach teams are deployed to the affected areas in Lattakia (26), Tartous, (2) and Idleb (1).
- Eight infant and young children feeding (IYCF) teams deployed to the designated collective shelters in Lattakia to support, protect and promote breastfeeding and optimal practices of IYCF.
- Between 8 February and 15 March, a total of 27,597 children (Girls: 13,930) aged 6-59 months have been screened (Lattakia: 23,594, Tartous: 1,701, Idleb: 2,302). Among them, 167 cases of MAM have been detected (Lattakia: 106, Tartous: 3, and Idleb: 58) and 61 (32 girls) SAM children were identified and enrolled in the treatment programme (Lattakia: 35, Tartous: 2, Idleb: 24). All screened children aged 6-59 months 27,597 children (girls: 13,930) have been reached with 3 PACs of micronutrient powders (MNPs).
- A total of 7,576 pregnant and lactating women were screened (Lattakia: 6,150, Tartous: 453, Idleb: 973) and 472 (6.2 per cent) of them were identified as MAM cases. All screened mothers received individual breastfeeding counselling and received appropriate treatment/supplements.
- 55,828 people (30,279 women) (Lattakia: 46,682, Tartous: 6,099, Idleb: 3,074) have been reached with nutrition promotion messages on breastfeeding and complementary feeding.
- 27,579 children aged 6-59 months were reached with LNS_MQ nutrition outreach teams (Lattakia: 23,594, Tartous: 1,701, Idleb: 2,302).
- Six cases of SAM were admitted to stabilization centres in Lattakia and 19 cases in Hama.
- Ten mobile nutrition teams along with 50 trained community outreach volunteers in Aleppo (including Manbij and Ain Al-Arab) were immediately mobilized for the response. To date, 15,733 children under 5 years old (U5) were screened for malnutrition using the middle-upper arm circumference (MUAC) method. Out of them, 126 children were identified with moderate wasting and 36 with severe wasting, and were enrolled in treatment programmes; in addition, 8,992 U5 children received multiple micronutrients, 1,011 U5 children received HEBs and 1,264 U2 children received LNS-MQ.
- 2,139 pregnant and lactating women PLW were screened for acute malnutrition in Aleppo, of whom 152 were identified with MAM and enrolled in a treatment programme. In addition, 2,108 of these women received micro-nutrients tablets.
- Infant and young child feeding program in emergency (IYCF-E) is activated and 10,784 caregivers including pregnant and lactating women have been reached with awareness on appropriate IYCF in Aleppo.
- 1,208 cartons of LNS-MQ were received from WFP to be distributed to children 6-23 months screened in the collective shelters in Aleppo. This is enough to cover 12,080 children for a month.
- Nutritional surveillance teams supported by WHO are in place, 3,564 U5 children were screened for acute malnutrition, of whom 55 were MAM, seven were SAM and six were referred to stabilization centres.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is shortage of flexible funds to sustain nutrition preventive and curative interventions.
- Uncoordinated distribution/donation of infant formula milk led to losing the opportunity of breastfeeding for children aged 0-6 months.
- In Aleppo, the continuous movement of people between shelters and host communities, unhygienic environment and practices, in addition to humanitarian response focus being on collective shelters leaving affected host communities underserved are among the main constraints.

Protection

Needs:

- On 16 March, the Protection sector participated in an intersectoral mission to the Sheikh Maqsoud in Aleppo, which was significantly affected by the earthquake. Protection concerns exacerbated by the earthquake include psychological distress, child labour, intra-family violence against women and children, limited availability of protection services and scarcity of specialized services for people with disabilities and older people.
- There is a need for safe spaces in camps and shelters to conduct activities and awareness-raising sessions for the local community.
- People in collective shelters continue to show signs of severe panic attacks, distress, insomnia, and disorientation 6 weeks after the earthquake, highlighting the continued need for long-term psychosocial support interventions.
- There are no dedicated private spaces for breastfeeding mothers in shelters.
- A GBV risk mitigation assessment conducted in ten shelters in Aleppo City highlighted the need for MHPSS, GBV risks due to overcrowding inside and outside shelters, and the need to scale up GBV services, including specialized case management. There is a lack of recreational spaces for GBV services awareness raising. Safety concerns and gaps were reported to the relevant sectors, including Protection, Shelter, Health, Nutrition and WASH.
- The limited availability of feedback and complaints mechanisms further contributes to low GBV reporting. This calls for enhancing inter-sectoral coordination on creating safe spaces and entry points for safe, private and confidential reporting.
- The living conditions within collective shelters continue to exacerbate child protection risks among , with an increase in reported cases of GBV and harassment against girls.
- The risk of child labour has continued to increase as children are reported to drop out of school increasingly.
- There is an urgent need to identify children who require specialized support in the collective shelters.
- Protection training of humanitarian workers remains a pressing need, including minimum standards for emergency child protection response.

Response:

- Forty-seven organizations (27 NNGOs, 114 INGOs, 5 UN agencies and one government institution) contributed to the earthquake response covering the period of 6-15 March.
- Since the earthquake emergency response began, the protection sector and its Areas of Responsibility (Child Protection, Gender Based Violence and Mine Action) partners have conducted 382,971 protection interventions to support people affected by the earthquake. Activities/interventions have been carried out mainly in directly affected governorates (Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Tartous) and other governorates where people were displaced, with a total of 127 sub-districts and 398 communities.
- Out of all emergency interventions, 34 per cent were conducted under child protection activities, 44 per cent under GBV activities 21 per cent under general protection activities, including legal, MHPSS, monitoring, referral and case management, and individual protection assistance to people with disabilities and older persons.
- Aleppo is the Governorate with the highest percentage of earthquake emergency interventions (253,859), followed by Hama (44,334), Latakia (40,024), Tartous (9,566) and Homs (7,801). Those governorates represent 93 per cent of the total interventions.
- Protection partners have distributed 71,021 dignity kits in response to the earthquake. 91,475 beneficiaries attended awareness-raising sessions on protection concerns, GBV and child protection issues. 65,354 people benefitted from psychosocial support sessions, 45,645 attended PFA sessions and 44,379 beneficiaries participated in recreational activities. Legal services, including legal counselling and legal awareness, as well as legal interventions/assistance, were provided to more than 8,295 beneficiaries. More than 5,948 referrals were made to other services. 6,304 people benefitted from general protection, GBV and child protection case management. 4,698 people received medical and general in-kind assistance.
- Protection sector partners continue to assess and identify the needs of the affected population by conducting focus group discussions (38), household visits (7,324 HH) and community visits (1,905 visits). 7,533 cases of persons with specific needs have been identified.
- UNHCR in partnership with Al Ihsan, Al Nada, Al Ta'alouf, Al Batoul, Aoun, Bara'm, Child Care, GOPA, MSJM, Namaa, Social Care, Al Yamama, SARC and SSSD provided 99,174 protection interventions (55,065 general protection, 35,076 child protection and 9,033 GBV interventions).
- UNICEF in partnership with Al Ihsan, Anis Saade, Mosaic, Al-Tamayouz, Nour Foundation, Inaash Al-Faqir, EPDC, Al Yamama, SSSD and Fouadi provided 79,723 child protection interventions.
- UNFPA in partnership with Aga Khan, Aga Khan Health Services, Al Ihsan, ASSLS, Mosaic, Palestine Red Crescent Society, Al Bir Hama, SARC, SFPA and SSSD provided 133,908 GBV interventions during the emergency response.

- GBV actors continue to provide GBV survivors with PFA and case management services in line with the survivor-centred approach and ensuring privacy and confidentiality. Thirty-two integrated mobile teams and eight women and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) remain active in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Lattakia and Tartous. GBV mobile teams continue to rove across collective shelters on a daily basis, disseminating key messages, including on GBV referral pathways, menstrual health management and PSEA, and ensuring timely referrals to essential care. GBV referral pathways have been revised for all earthquake-affected areas. The GBV AoR continues to provide technical support to inter-cluster teams to ensure risk mitigation measures are established.
- UNFPA and Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population (SCFAP)-supported GBV helpline remains operational 24/7 on 9416 (free call). A referral mechanism remains active between mobile teams and WGSS staff for safe and easy referral of GBV survivors. Mobile teams also continued assisting women and girls in collective shelters with transportation and referrals to WGSS to ensure timely access to multi-sectoral life-saving services, including health and PSS, and remote case management.
- Child Protection partners reached 86,662 children and caregivers in collective shelters in directly affected areas with PFA, MHPSS, recreational activities and parenting programmes. These sessions and interventions aim to decrease stress levels and provide children and caregivers with tools and skills that enable them to cope better with their challenges. Parents have highlighted that children attending such activities are showing signs of improvement in their psychosocial well-being, including being more social and having increased appetite.
- In close collaboration with implementing partners, UNICEF continues to provide case management services to 460 girls and boys severely affected by the earthquake. Out of these, 89 children are considered unaccompanied and separated children and have been referred to specialized services, including family tracing and reunification and provided with alternative care arrangements with extended family..
- In Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous, 14,238 children and caregivers were reached with key messages on coping during emergencies.
- Due to the increased need for psychosocial support for affected populations, UNICEF, together with SCFAP organized training in Aleppo and Lattakia on the National Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Manual reaching more than 150 frontliners who are expected to deploy to collective shelters. Similar training will be organized in Hama in the coming days to ensure that frontline staff use the Manual to implement activities in affected areas.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The response is moving into mid-term programming, which requires more long-term planning and programming, which requires more financial resources and specialized protection staff.
- The visit to the new shelters in Aleppo showed a lack of key child protection facilities. For example, shelter plans did not include child protection spaces, which are an entry point for recreational activities and case management support.
- Neirab and Ein el-Tal Palestine Refugee Camps: There are increasing needs for PSS due to the effects of the earthquake. There is a need to increase psychosocial support staff to support the growing needs, materials and space for PSS activities. There is also need for repairs of damaged homes and installations, food assistance, blankets and other NFIs. In Ein el-Tal, an alternative location is needed for the mobile clinic to operate due to damaged buildings nearby.
- The visit to some of the collective shelters showed a lack of systematic interventions by some actors. Several activities were limited to "one-off" interventions, which do not provide adequate support. Through the established coordination mechanisms, child protection actors intend to train child protection actors on the minimum standards for child protection.

Shelter

Needs:

- The SNFI needs are significant with the current response remaining very much emergency orientated i.e. focusing on displaced populations' temporary shelter locations. Partners are yet to mobilize a comprehensive response to the needs of people in hosting arrangements and to the non-displaced living in safe yet damaged housing.
- Five hundred and sixty-two Palestine refugee homes and nine UNRWA facilities suffered varying degrees of damage from the earthquake: 13 per cent were severely damaged, 40 per cent partially damaged and 47 per cent had minor damages.
- A month after the earthquake, the majority of Palestine refugees living in the earthquake-ravaged northern part of Syria are awaiting official certification of the status of their properties from the Government's Engineering Syndicate.
- SNFI partners urgently require:
 - **Funding:** The funding gap for SNFI is considerable and is currently constraining SNFI partner implementation efforts. One month into the three-month flash appeal period, SNFI sector coordination had projected funding mobilisation efforts and donor contributions to be significantly higher than they are.

- **NFIs:** NFI partners continue to work hand in hand with authorities to complement and distribute bilateral NFI aid, however, contingency NFI stocks, in line with NFI sector standards, are currently depleted and require immediate replenishment.
- **HCT Position on Settlement Establishment:** At present, government authorities are moving toward the planning and establishment of 'temporary' settlements to provide short/ medium term shelter for the most affected communities.
- **HCT Advocacy for Access to Data:** Shelter sector partners continue to support the authorities on the rapid damage assessment exercise in the most affected governorates. Requests have been made to the operations rooms to share data/ findings as this is essential to target various sector interventions.
- **HCT Advocacy for Collective Shelters Location Clarity:** In the early stages of the disaster response a significant number of collective centres were temporarily opened to house the displaced. At present, consolidation efforts remain somewhat vague which is hampering shelter partner ability to plan and implement adaptation/ rehabilitation works.

Response:

- Fifty-six Palestine refugees mothers of newly born babies received baby kits (50 in Aleppo, six in Lattakia/Hama) and two mothers received core relief items consisting of mats, mattresses and kitchen sets. Only targeted critical cases received NFIs due to limited funding.

Aleppo

- **On Rapid Damage Assessments:** It is estimated that approximately 18,000 buildings were assessed as part of Rapid Structural Assessment. Preliminary analysis (of a section of the data) indicates that 10,702 are classified as green [no structural damage], 3,602 as yellow [need minor structural repair] and 1,568 as red [severe structural damage].
- **On Emergency Shelter & NFI Interventions:** The Operations Room noted that 100 facilities are designated as collective centres in Aleppo. Shelter partners are currently supporting with the rehabilitation of 17 buildings which will act as short/ medium term collective shelters. An additional 13 locations will be provided with collective centre adaptations. As such, the collective centre/ shelter consolidation plan aims to move toward 30 facilities in total.
- Shelter sector is facilitating the design of a training module aimed at building capacity of NNGOs identified to manage collective centres. The module focuses on identifying shelter and protection needs and referring them to the right actor.
- As of 16 March, NFI partners¹ (ACT/FCA, ACF, AKAH, MEDAIR, NRC, SIF, EPDC, UNHCR, UNRWA, GVC and ZOA) distributed 356,604 various items to support more than 51,457 families in collective centres and in hosting arrangements.

Lattakia and Tartous

- **On Emergency Shelter & NFI Interventions:** As of 16 March 2022² collective centres are currently operational in Lattakia Governorate where 9,675 individuals are taking refuge. Adaptation works have been completed in nine, ongoing in five, and works are scheduled to commence in four facilities.
- To date, it is estimated that 2,460 displaced families are residing in Tartous and Lattakia, in host communities.
- Local authorities continue to state plans to consolidate the 26 collective centres into seven (four in Lattakia City and 3 rural). A nine-storey building was identified as a potential collective shelter. PUI and UNHCR are doing a feasibility study on rehabilitating the first three floors to accommodate 63 displaced families.
- Families who fail to produce attestation documents from municipality or mukhtar are reportedly being evicted from Sports City collective centre in Lattakia.
- UNHCR has held meetings with Syria Trust to discuss draft ToRs for the management of collective centres.
- As of 16 March, NFI sector partners³ (AAKH, NRC, SIF, UNHCR and UNRWA) were able to reach 3,983 families (19,365 people) in Lattakia and 1,607 families (5,204 people) in Tartous with various NFIs.

Homs and Hama

- ICRC/SARC are rehabilitating four collective shelters which will provide temporary safe and secure living conditions to 464 people in Hama.
- As of 16 March, 855 families in Homs were assisted with emergency NFIs, by sector partners³.

¹ Partners who reported their EQ response to the sector via Activity Info.

² Of the 26 C.Cs, 3 facilities are yet to be officially designated as C.Cs by local authorities.

Idleb

- ICRC/SARC are rehabilitating four collective shelters which will provide safe and secure living conditions with adequate privacy and protection from elements to 200 people.
- Earthquake response has depleted the contingency stock of NFI sector partners. No contingency stocks is available for to meet any sudden shocks/emergencies in the future.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Debris removal is noted as a gap in the affected regions.
- Identification and provision of assistance to displaced families in hosting arrangements in rural/remote locations continues to be a challenge due to lack of information on their needs.
- Medium term collective centres are still being identified by local authorities, hence shelter partners need to adjust the technical assessments for adaptation of the newly identified collective shelters. to ensure safe and secure living conditions with adequate privacy and protection from elements.
- Structural assessment is a multi-tiered and lengthy process. Only once the local authorities officially declare building as safe for intervention can shelter partners engage with households/tenants to undertake minor to moderate repair works.
- For people whose homes were fully damaged in the earthquake, longer-term sustainable shelter solutions need to be identified in coordination with the local authorities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- To undertake essential emergency repairs and small-scale rehabilitation of WASH infrastructures.
- To support water quality monitoring and surveillance (assure quality of drinking water).
- To ensure sustained provision of safe drinking water for affected communities in areas where water systems are no longer operational
- To ensure provision of emergency latrines, solid waste collection, water disinfection consumables / supplies, WASH NFIs in collective shelters and affected communities / neighbourhoods
- To provide emergency operational and maintenance support to WASH infrastructures, including power supply.
- To intensifying hygiene promotion activities in the affected areas.
- To introduce sustainable long-term WASH interventions in Lattakia Governorate.
- Major needs have been identified in the water provision infrastructure in Jebla. Different components of water supply systems were affected including distribution networks, elevated tanks, pumping stations.

Response:

- During this reporting period, WASH response interventions were implemented by the following sector partners: UNICEF, WHO, OXFAM, NRC, WWGVC, AAH, ADRA, DRC and MEDAIR, and in coordination with the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and local water authorities.
- To ensure improved access to water through humanitarian lifesaving/emergency water facilities and services:
 - During the reporting period, UNICEF continued providing safe drinking water through water trucking to 127,227 internally displaced persons (IDPs) staying in temporary shelters in Aleppo City and Hama Governorate. In Aleppo, UNICEF continued to provide drinking water to IDP shelters and most affected neighbourhoods at 670,000 liters per day reaching about 120,000 IDPs. Also, GVC distributed 183 m³ through water trucking for 2,560 beneficiaries.
 - In Lattakia, UNICEF has achieved the following:
 - Installed water tanks in 10 schools, which suffered damages from the earthquake. The provision of these water tanks ensured that 5,890 school children have access to clean drinking water.
 - Continued ensuring the functionality and cleanness of the rehabilitated WASH facilities, through conducting daily cleaning and solid waste collection campaign in the Sports City shelter through a private company, benefiting more than 1,000 earthquake IDPs.
 - Started the quick repair of water network in one Al Datour area which will benefit more than 2,000 people.
 - Completed the installation of 11 water tanks in 11 schools affected by the earthquake in benefiting around 4,000 school children.
 - In process to deliver and install six water tanks and a boosting pump for Al Basel shelter to improve access to water for 233 IDPs.

- UNICEF also continued to monitor the quality of drinking water in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, and Lattakia together with local water authorities. This will continue until regular service can be resumed following repairs to the water networks.
 - UNICEF is in the contracting process for the immediate repair and replacement of water and sewage networks impacted by the earthquake. UNICEF is also working with the MoWR to supply vital tools, equipment and spare parts needed for the efficient operation and maintenance of damaged water infrastructure.
 - NRC is planning to rehabilitate two identified water supply systems in Jebela. In addition, NRC is rehabilitating WASH facilities and conducting maintenance of the lighting system in the Tajamu Al'enath collective shelter in Jebelah.
 - WHO undertook water quality monitoring and analysis covering 27 shelters in Aleppo. A total of 289 drinking water samples were collected of which 46 were bacteriologically contaminated. No contamination was detected from any of the 39 reservoirs and 12 tap water sources. The detected contamination was at the jerry can level. In addition to awareness raising, 1,250 water purification tablets were delivered to the administration of the 27 shelters.
 - UNICEF launched an online capacity mapping tool for the sector mapping which will provide comprehensive info to sector partners about WASH needs and response on both infrastructure and WASH in IDPs shelters.
- In terms of hygiene promotion activities and behavior change campaigns:
 - UNICEF distributed baby diapers to 835 children in Al Ramel Al Janobi -- one of the most affected areas in Lattakia city.
 - In collaboration with partners, UNICEF distributed in Aleppo 1,467 family hygiene kits (2,864 cumulative), 227 cartons of baby diapers (1,277 cumulative), 1,431 cartons of women's sanitary napkins (4,172 cumulative), and 172 jerry cans (1,569 cumulative) benefitting about 10,000 (28,512 cumulative) IDPs in shelters.
 - UNHCR distributed 2,858 hygiene kits in Lattakia, 973 in Tartous and 400 in Idlib as part of NFI kit distribution.
 - In Lattakia and Jablah cities, UNICEF has restored gender-responsive WASH facilities in two schools being used as shelters for 409 people.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Massive damage to water and sanitation infrastructure.
- The continuous change in the number of residents in and the location of the collective shelters affects distribution and WASH response.
- Funding inadequate to the WASH needs within the affected areas.

Logistics

Response:

- For the earthquake-affected areas in rural Aleppo, rural Damascus and Lattakia, the Logistics cluster can avail free-to-user managed warehouse space in WFP-managed warehouses upon request, based on availability.
- Logistics cluster introduced revised Concept of Operations reflecting the earthquake response.
- The cluster is assisting partners in replying to queries regarding humanitarian assistance, in coordination with OCHA.
- Coordination with OCHA to find potential partners (NGOs) for receiving unsolicited cargo.

Bilateral Service Provision:

- Fuel provision:
 - 2,000 L fuel on behalf of ACF and IMC.
- Transport:
 - Provided transportation of 20 m³/ 9 MT of shelter, health and food items for in kind donations from Aleppo airport to Aleppo warehouse.
 - Provided transportation for a total of 25 MT/201.5 m³ shelter, health and WASH items on behalf of UNFPA
- Warehousing
 - Provided storage for a total of 1,688 m³ of shelter, health, WASH, nutrition and food items of in kind donations from the Government of Jordan in Kiswa and Aleppo warehouses
 - Storage services for a total of 1,859 m³ of shelter, health, WASH and nutrition items on behalf of UNFPA, UNHCR, NRC and UNICEF in Aleppo, Kiswa, Homs and Sarmada warehouses .

GENERAL COORDINATION

The OCHA/SHF is organizing a joint donor field visit to Lattakia from 19 to 21 March. The visit aims primarily to see first-hand the impact of SHF projects, and to observe the wider humanitarian response to the earthquake. Delegations from Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Spain and the EU are scheduled to participate. The field visits will include collective centers in Lattakia city, as well as Jableh, Al-Haffeh and Durin in northern rural Lattakia.

In Lattakia, The sub-national Cash working group is re-activated, and the first meeting was convened on 13 March to discuss the mapping tool for activities. The access team conducted a scoping mission to Lattakia, to produce an analysis nuanced to the earthquake response, which would support partners on the ground by outlining the main priorities that require advocacy and humanitarian negotiation efforts.

At the onset of the emergency response, there were no dedicated Child Protection coordination mechanisms in most of the districts affected by the earthquake. The need to provide child protection services has increased the number of organizations contributing to the response. To address coordination challenges, the child protection sub-cluster coordination group for the Aleppo governorate was set up this week. Eighteen child protection actors attended the first meeting, which included UN agencies, and international and national child protection organizations. The forum will ensure responsive, efficient, and effective child protection services, support the capacity-building of child protection responders and ensure interventions are consistent with the child protection minimum standards.

The Weekly national health sector coordination meeting took place in Damascus on 14 March and the risk communication and community engagement sub-sector national working group meeting took place in Damascus on 14 March.

Background on the crisis

In the early hours of 6 February, multiple earthquakes, the strongest being of 7.8 magnitude on the Richter scale struck southern Türkiye and northern Syria. The epicentre was identified as Gaziantep near the Türkiye-Syria border. At least 1,206 aftershocks have been confirmed as of date of publication. While the magnitude of the earthquake has affected north, central, south, and the coastal parts of Syria, severe human and material damages were reported, mainly in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, and Lattakia Governorates, and impacting almost every person living in north-west Syria.

The earthquakes have created a disaster of colossal proportions and casualty numbers keep climbing. They have destroyed many homes, basic service infrastructure and installations, leaving many people without food, water and shelter and in urgent need of emergency medical and psychosocial assistance. As of 14 February, in Syria at least 5,791 people have reportedly been killed and 10,041 injured. This includes 4,377 reported deaths and 7,692 reported injured in north-west Syria with many still missing. These numbers likely under-represent the true scale of needs, which will become clearer as further assessments are concluded. The humanitarian community estimates that 8.8 million people in Syria have been affected by the earthquake.

Several factors are influencing and exacerbating the severity of humanitarian needs, including pre-existing extensive humanitarian needs, logistical and access constraints to certain areas, winter conditions and an ongoing cholera outbreak. Prior to the earthquake, some 15.3 million people in Syria were assessed to require humanitarian assistance in 2023, an all-time high for the country entering its 12th year since the hostilities began.

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