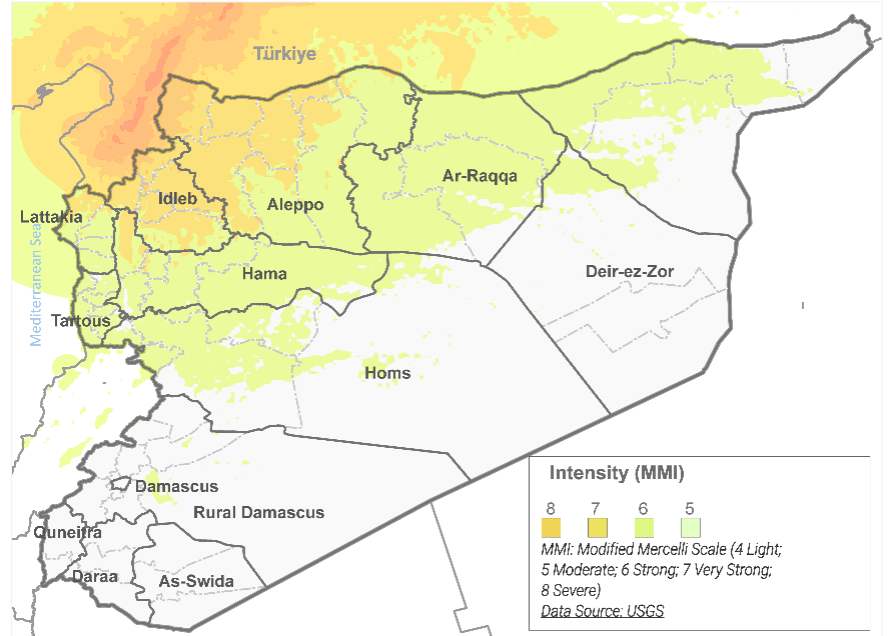


This report is produced by OCHA Syria on behalf of the HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM (HCT). It covers the period from 24-30 March 2023. The next report will be issued in mid April.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Aleppo and Lattakia, relocation of affected people from current temporary collective shelters to the mid-term shelters has started during the week. So far, four mid-term shelters have been rehabilitated in Aleppo. In Lattakia, rehabilitation has also begun.
- Following a temporary interruption, child protection (CP) activities resumed in schools used as collective shelters in Aleppo.
- At least 2,270 schools reopened though still damaged in earthquake-affected areas.
- More displaced people are taking shelter in collective centres in Hama.
- The Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) has launched its second Reserve Allocation for 2023. The Allocation will support responding to the critical humanitarian needs following the earthquake. A total of US\$23 million has been made available to humanitarian partners operating in affected areas.



4M

Affected people

2M

Severely Affected

48,520*

Palestine refugees living in 4 affected governorates (Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia and Tartous)

1,414**

Deaths

2,357**

Injuries

*As per UNRWA updates | ** as per latest numbers announced by MoH.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 30 March, the total number of collective shelters dedicated to earthquake-affected IDPs stands at 107 (70 in Aleppo, 18 in Hama out of which three remain empty, 17 in Lattakia and 2 in Homs).

The number of displaced people inside collective shelters in Hama Governorate reached 472 families, or 1,927 people, which is an increase from 451 people in the previous week.

The total number of families hosted in collective shelters in Aleppo dropped to 8,346 families, or 37,234 people. The relocation of affected people from the current shelters to mid-term shelters has started. So far, four mid-term shelters have been rehabilitated. As tensions have been reported during relocations, the operation room will provide complaint boxes in the shelters.

The situation deteriorated in the rural areas of Hama due to the windstorm that hit the Governorate on 29 March, especially in Al Ghab area where 13 collective shelters are located. The strong winds also caused a blackout in Tell Salhib Region, interrupted mobile services and rendered a bakery out of service.

In Homs, 718 displaced families, or 3,028 people, are hosted by local communities, while 225 families returned to their areas of origin. Most of the families were displaced from Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama, Tartous and Homs Governorates.

On 26 March, following the suspension of soft activities in schools used as shelters and subsequent field-level advocacy, activities resumed on 27 March conditionally, subject to the coordination of activities, dates, and locations with Directorate of Education (DoE).

- To date the Syria Earthquake Flash Appeal 2023 is more than ninety per cent funded, However, the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan is only five per cent funded.
- Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) update:
 - Carry over from 2022: \$5.9 million.
 - Contributions in 2023: \$17.8 million.
 - Allocations in 2023 (including Cost Extensions and 1st Reserve Allocation): \$8.5 million.
 - Pledges in 2023: \$5.8 million.
 - Available funds: \$15.2 million.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Early Recovery

Response:

- As of 30 March, ERL partners reached 172,538 people in 62 communities in the governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Tartous, and Lattakia.
- Partners provided 56 emergency livelihood opportunities through emergency employment in Aleppo.
- In coordination with other sectors, the ERL partners distributed solar lamps and flashlights to address the lack of access to lighting for 8,885 people in Aleppo, Hama, Tartus and Latakia.
- UNICEF conducted a rapid post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey among earthquake-affected families who benefitted from UNICEF's emergency cash assistance in Aleppo governorate.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) published the findings of a recent assessment that evaluates the effect of the natural disaster on workers, their families and businesses.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited funding continues to constrain emergency response efforts and the long-term recovery.
- Shortage of skilled human resources in the labour market.
- Absence of critical equipment in local markets.

Education

Needs:

- At least 2,270 schools reopened while still damaged. Safe return to education in the affected areas require additional and continued assessment and immediate intervention.
- Attendance rates are still very low in functional schools in the affected areas. Intensive awareness with key safety and accurate messages and mental health and psychosocial support must be provided to teachers, children and their caregivers.
- After eight weeks of disrupted education, school-aged children, especially the most affected, need learning materials, educational catch-up sessions that include socio-emotional learning support. Specific attention is required for those who must sit for grades 9 and 12 national exams.

Response:

- Education Sector Partners (UNICEF, WFP, Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI), The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD), Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), INTERSOS, COOPI, AVSI foundation, Fouadi Foundation, GOPA DERD, Social Care and Taalof) continue to provide support in the affected areas in Lattakia, Homs, Hama and Aleppo.
- 10 schools were assessed in Homs and Hama for safety and structural integrity.
- 1,160 girls and boys benefitted from temporary learning spaces in two school-turned shelters in Aleppo.
- 91,575 students benefitted from school feeding in Aleppo and Lattakia.
11,775 school-aged girls and boys, teachers and caregivers received life-saving messages through awareness sessions and psychosocial support activities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- More than 100 schools continue to be used as collective shelters in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous and Hama. In order to reopen, educational facilities would need to be rehabilitated.
- Lack of funding is hindering the response to the most affected school-aged children.

Food Security and Agriculture

Needs:

Further assessments of food situation in the north-west of Syria (NWS) and HCT-response areas are needed as part of the process of launching a traffic light analysis at a Sub-District level to inform partners' response.

Response:

- Since 6 February, food security and agriculture (FSA) partners supported 221,873 people with ready-to-eat rations including prevention nutrition supplies and date bars in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous and Hama.
- 26 FSA partners supported 23,528 people with food baskets in the earthquake-affected governorates.
- FSA partners also supported people living in the collective shelters with 1,028,243 hot meals.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Constant changes in the numbers of collective shelters and IDPs particularly in Aleppo continue to challenge partners' planning.
- Identification of earthquake-affected people living outside collective shelters continues to be one of the main response gaps.
- Lack of funding will be detrimental to the provision of hot meals and food assistance to affected people in shelters in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama.

Health

Needs:

- Hygiene services inside shelters due to the lack of privacy and limited WASH facilities. The need continues for Reproductive Health (RH) services to support the affected communities with medicines, equipment and supplies.
- Coverage of 24/7 maternity care in rural areas.
- Capacity of gynecologists and midwives to manage sexually transmitted infections.
- Health response to gender-based violence.
- Short Term Recovery Priorities (0 – 18 months):
 - Light repair of partially damaged health facilities.
 - Replace affected medical and nutrition equipment, devices and ambulances.
 - Start mobile medical units and temporary health and nutrition facilities.
 - Update health and nutrition facility and service mapping.
 - Upskill health workers, especially in mental health and rehabilitative care for moderate and severe trauma patients with long term disabilities.
 - Scale up referral mechanisms, including to specialized services and across sectors.
 - Conduct after-action review (AAR) of earthquake response.

Response:

- A total of 42 partners are engaged in the response, including six UN agencies, seven INGOs, 25 national nongovernmental organizations (NNGOs), Syrian Arab Red Crescent, and three governmental structures.
- From the onset of the response:
 - 480,909 outpatient consultations provided.
 - 10,787 trauma consultations provided.
 - 532,571 mental health consultations were provided.
 - 6,239 patients referred to health facilities.
 - 1,113,979 treatment courses delivered.
 - 78 mobile teams are deployed.
 - 101 shelters covered.
 - 215 health facilities supported.
 - 75 ambulances (Directorate of Health (DoH), SARC and health sector partners) are engaged.
- Seventy-eight mobile teams and fixed health points are deployed covering 101 shelters and affected communities.
- Twenty-five rapid response teams (RRTs) are deployed in Aleppo; eight teams are deployed in Lattakia; and eight in Hama. A total of 39 vehicles are rented to support the DoH response.
- Partners continued to support the disease surveillance system, including 211 sites in Aleppo, 155 in Lattakia and 95 in Hama. 24 sites are supported at IDP sites in Aleppo and 21 sites in Lattakia.
- A total of 4,658 children were vaccinated with routine immunization while 1,212 women were vaccinated with tetanus and diphtheria vaccine in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Idleb and Lattakia.
- Social and behaviour change (SBC) health educators are providing awareness raising sessions, including on cholera, for people in collective shelters with earthquake life-saving key messages for 103,452 parents and caregivers provided through community dialogues.
- At least 31 integrated mobile teams (IMTs) and 19 static clinics provide sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

Aleppo

- 19 health sector partners are operational: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, AAH, Dorcas, Medair, GOPA, JRS, BICS, Al-Taalouf, Al-Ihsan, YBY, CCS, SSSD, Namma, MSJM and SFPA.
- Water quality monitoring activities are in place. 299 samples were collected and analyzed (158 samples of them were from shelters and 141 samples were from residential areas). 17 samples were bacteriologically contaminated.
- 18 IMTs continued to provide RH services in the shelters. 98 women who gave birth last week, from both shelters and communities, had medical expenses covered by health sector partners.
- Planning is in place to train RH mobile teams and partners on mental health.
- 3,640 outpatient consultations were provided.
- 2,302 treatment courses were delivered.
- 5 NNGOs received support of medicines, including for non-communicable disease, to cover the needs of more than 5,000 treatment courses.
- 180 collective shelters covered.
- 6,324 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services were provided.
- 5,672 people were reached out with risk communication and community engagement activities.
- 33 MHPSS teams are rolled out.
- 2,664 trauma consultations were provided.
- 2 NNGO provided referral support to 169 patients.

Lattakia

- 28 MMTs are deployed.
- 312,923 health services provided.
- 6 integrated SRH-GBV mobile teams are deployed.
- 6 medical facilities provide free outpatient consultations and medicines for children under 15 years and women in child-bearing age in the affected areas.
- 4 static RH facilities are operational.
- Referral pathway is in place.
- 35 MHPSS teams are deployed in coordination with DoH, DoE and local NGOs.
- 10 RRTs are deployed to collective shelters and affected communities to enhance surveillance and active case reporting and referrals.
- 27 vaccination teams are supported for routine vaccination.

Hama/Homs/southern Idleb

- 9 national partners provide services: SARC, JAD, BCAD, Albir Hama, SFPA, MADAD, Sout Alkher, DoH Hama, DoE Hama. The work is supported by WHO, UNICEF, INTERSOS, UNFPA and ICRC.
- 36 MMTs and MHPSS teams deployed in Hama. 3,499 outpatient consultations, 2,834 treatment courses and 45,590 MHPSS services were provided.
- 6 MMTs and MHPSS teams deployed in Idleb, managed by SARC and SFPA.
- 5 integrated mobile teams are providing vaccination, nutrition surveillance, and IYCF consultations.
- 8 surveillance teams and RRTs are enhanced to monitor the expanded programme on immunization situation and receive daily emergency warning and response system reports.

RH Sub-Sector Working Group

- SRH working groups have been initiated in Aleppo, Lattakia, and Hama with DoH. Aggregated data collection with all SRH partners has been initiated and mapping to guide programme planning will begin soon. Emergency referral transport vouchers for obstetric and GBV emergencies are in place in all shelters and will soon be introduced in rural areas.
- Ambulances are available at no cost in selected areas through SARC. The largest gaps in these services are in the most remote areas.
- 69 pregnant women had medical expenses covered by partners.
- All shelters and 60 earthquake-affected rural communities are visited by RH mobile teams at least twice a month and all pregnant women in shelters have received antenatal care. At least 35 IMTs and 19 static outpatient facilities supported 43,552 women including 1,041 pregnant women this week.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Vaccine availability in earthquake-hit areas and those hosting displaced people.
- Psychosocial support to pregnant women in the affected communities.
- First-aid training for ambulance staff.
- Provide facilities with sanitizers and personal protective equipment.
- Infection control training to emergency centres health workers (personal prevention and safe disposal of medical waste).
- Provide shelter to older people and identify their number in collective shelters.
- Provide physical and mental health care to the elderly who survived the disaster.
- Provide auxiliary/assistive medical devices (wheelchairs, sphygmomanometers, glucose meters and thermometer).
- Provide first-aid kits to older people.
- Offer awareness sessions to the elderly.
- Train health personnel and trainees.
- Provide chronic disease medicines, nutrition and heating for patients in health facilities.
- Implement the elderly companion programme.
- Support organizations and civil society societies to provide all types of support to the elderly.
- Lack of critical gynecological medicines such as gynecological anti-inflammatory medicines and others.

Nutrition

Response:

- 5,860 children aged 6-59 months were screened for acute malnutrition, including 3,299 children in Aleppo, 193 in Hama, 252 in Idleb, 1,877 in Lattakia and 241 in Tartous. Out of these, four children have been identified with severely acute malnourishment and were admitted for treatment.
- 1,391 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were also screened for acute malnutrition in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous. In addition, 4,195 PLW received micronutrient tablets.
- Nutrition partners reached a total of 4,950 children under-five with micro-nutrient powder (MNP), including 2,452 in Aleppo, 128 in Hama, 252 in Idleb, 1,877 in Lattakia and 241 Tartous.
- Partners also provided messages on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices in emergencies for 6,571 primary caregivers in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous.

- In Aleppo, nutrition surveillance teams supported by WHO screened 3,564 children under five years for acute malnutrition, 55 of them were moderately malnourished (MAM), seven were severely malnourished (SAM) and six were referred to stabilization centres (SCs).

Protection

Needs:

- Clear legal procedures and mechanisms must be established for building demolition. There is a need to develop clear mechanisms for alternatives that will be provided to affected people when houses are demolished or classified as unsafe.
- Retrieving lost or damaged Housing, Land and Property (HLP) documentation to obtain repair/reconstruction permits, compensation, grants and bank loans.
- Informal residents should be allowed to register tenure status and claim HLP rights to apply for rehabilitation/construction permits.
- The spread of scabies and lice in shelters led some caregivers to refrain from sending their children to CP activities.
- DoE in Aleppo recently communicated approval to resume CP activities in school shelters in Aleppo.
- Inadequate shelter arrangements for pregnant and breastfeeding women and women with disabilities, as well as a lack of services for people with specific needs, remain a key gap.
- A recent gender-based violence (GBV) audit assessment in Lattakia highlights the need to address GBV issues with concerned stakeholders. Most of the assessed sites remain overcrowded, with poor sanitation and hygiene conditions.

Response:

- Fifty-four organizations contributed to the earthquake response covering the period of 6 February until 28 March.
- The Protection Sector and its partners carried out 579,460 protection interventions to support people affected by the earthquake in Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama, Tartous and other governorates hosting displaced families.
- Aleppo is the governorate with the highest percentage of earthquake emergency interventions (374,489), followed by Lattakia (57,175), Hama (54,279), Homs (12,525) and Tartous (11,201). Those governorates represent 88 per cent of the total interventions.
- Since the earthquake emergency response began, protection partners distributed more than 135,900 dignity kits; more than 143,600 people attended awareness-raising sessions, 118,400 people benefitted from psychosocial support, 58,662 attended psychological first aid (PFA) sessions, and 68,130 people participated in recreational activities.
- Legal services, including legal counselling, awareness and assistance, were provided to about 10,500 people. About 8,600 referrals were made to other services. 9,901 people benefitted from GBV, general protection (GP) and CP case management and 6,585 medical and in-kind assistance was provided.
- Protection partners continue to assess and identify the needs of the affected people by conducting 97 focus group discussions (FGD), household visits (8,076 families were visited) and community visits (1,313 visits). Over 12,400 people with specific needs have been identified.
- UNHCR with 15 NNGOs, (Al Ihsan, Al Nada, Al Ta'alouf, Al Batoul, Aoun, Bara'm, Child Care, GOPA, MSJM, Namaa, Social Care, Al Yamama, SARC, SSSD and Syria Trust) provided 133,269 protection interventions (76,972 GP, 46,133 CP and 10,164 GBV).
- UNICEF with 14 NNGOs, including Al Ihsan 'Aleppo and Tal Hamis', Al-Rajaa, Anis Saade, Mosaic, Al-Tamayouz, Nour Foundation, Inaash Al-Faqir, Social Care, EPDC, Al-Bir, Al Yamama, SSSD and Fouadi provided 193,994 CP interventions.
- UNFPA with 10 NNGOs (Aga Khan, Aga Khan Health Services, Al Ihsan, ASSLS, Mosaic, Palestine Red Crescent Society, Al Bir Hama, SARC, SFPA and SSSD) provided 176,242 GBV interventions.
- UNRWA provided support to 19,971 affected Palestine refugees by PFA, MHPSS and recreational activities.
- UNDP provided protection interventions in the affected governorates, including 2,376 GP and 1,866 GBV interventions.
- INGOs provided the following emergency support to the affected people:
 - SIF distributed 3,518 dignity kits in the affected governorates (2,200 in Aleppo, 800 in Lattakia and 518 in Tartous).
 - FCA distributed 1,400 dignity kits in Aleppo.
 - AVSI distributed general in-kind material assistance to 391 people and provided recreational activities for 1,157 people in Aleppo.
 - CARITAS distributed 1,766 dignity kits in Aleppo, 1,254 in Lattakia and 151 in Homs.
 - COOPI distributed 10,467 dignity kits and conducted PFA sessions for 2,431 people in Aleppo. Four hundred fifty-one people in Aleppo participated in recreational activities.

- DRC distributed 399 dignity kits, provided PFA sessions to 265 people and recreational activities for 281 children in Aleppo.
 - Dorcas provided awareness-raising sessions to 92 children, case management for 213 female GBV survivors, psychosocial support (PSS) activities for 242 children and recreational activities for 340 women, as well as 1,445 PSS sessions. Over 1,460 people benefitted from psychological first aid (PFA) in Aleppo.
 - Intersos provided protection support for the affected people in Hama. A total of 2,556 children attended awareness-raising sessions and 509 children participated in recreational activities. Dignity kits were distributed to 1,473 people in Hama and 660 in Idleb. Ninety-four case management services were delivered. Over 190 people attended PFA sessions and 34 attended PSS sessions.
 - Medair conducted CP awareness sessions for 586 children and 461 PFA sessions in Hama; and 13 PFA in Aleppo.
- The protection sector at the sub-national level provided training on protection mainstreaming to enumerators and nominated outreach volunteers to conduct key informant interviews (KIIs). The findings of this survey will feed into the response planning for these affected communities in the medium and long-term response planning.
 - Partners provided PSS and PFA in 33 prioritized shelters. Among these locations, 12 included shelters with high protection concerns, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and GBV.
 - This week, a total of 978 people were reached through PSEA key messages and awareness-raising sessions, including information on available feedback and complaint mechanisms inside and outside the collective shelters, reaching 32,968 people since the start of the earthquake.
 - Humanitarian agencies conducted three PSEA awareness-raising sessions targeting 63 people, bringing the total of individuals reached from the onset of the emergency to 2,856.
 - As part of the sustained efforts to improve the PSEA capacity among humanitarian actors, 19 humanitarian workers attended PSEA refresher sessions, bringing the total number to 387 staff.

GBV area of responsibility

- Safety audit assessments were conducted in 10 collective shelters in Lattakia, Hama and Idleb to identify available services, the level of safety to access them and risks and gaps that might expose women and girls to GBV in collective shelters.
- GBV actors continue to provide GBV survivors with PFA and case management services. Thirty-two integrated mobile teams and eight women and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) remain active in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Lattakia and Tartous.
- A previously damaged WGSS in Deir Hafer in Aleppo is now fully functional and has resumed support to the earthquake-affected people.
- UNHCR partners continued to conduct GBV mobile outreach activities, including awareness-raising sessions on domestic violence and sexual cyber bullying in 27 community centres. Recreational activities were organized as entry points to discuss GBV-related matters. UNHCR and its partners provided GBV services to 10,164 vulnerable women and girls.
- On 27 March, UNHCR conducted training on protection minimum standards in collective shelters in coastal areas for 28 collective shelter managers from Al Areen, Syrian Youth Council, Ayadina, Kebarona, Mosaic, Bena Almojtamaa and Child Care Association. The training covered overall protection principles, minimum standards of protection in collective shelters, basic GBV/SEA principles, the outcomes of safety audit assessments conducted in five collective shelters in Lattakia, accountability to and engagement of affected people and engagement in the management of collective shelters. The training also included case studies on addressing protection risks in collective shelters by applying the minimum protection standards. To address issues related to families' evictions from collective shelters, shelter managers were briefed on existing referral pathways, including for legal support.
- On 29 and 30 March, UNHCR and UNFPA delivered a two-day training on GBV and PSEA to 25 Hama collective shelter managers from Al Areen Association and DoE. The training addressed real case scenarios and protection standards to be met by shelter managers.
- In Hama, Social Care Association, supported by UNICEF has provided PFA and awareness-raising sessions to young girls about sexual abuse and harassment inside the shelters.
- UNDP continues to provide PSS and PFA at the Women Empowerment Centre in Hama city and online PSS counselling through the Fadfadah Platform.
- In Homs, NFRD's mobile team visited the shelters and provided awareness sessions and referrals to SARC for IDP families.

CP area of responsibility

- 134,993 children and caregivers received PFA, MHPSS, recreational activities and parenting support by UNICEF partners in the three most affected regions.
- UNICEF partners have provided various awareness-raising sessions in shelters. 31,313 children and adults were reached with key messages on the earthquake, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), GBV and PSEA.
- 46,133 children were supported by UNHCR and its partners, including awareness-raising sessions for 17,464 children. 15,289 children benefitted from CP and PSS group activities, 11,179 children participated in recreational activities, 1,552 case management services were provided, and 340 people benefitted from parenting programmes.
- UNICEF partners were able to refer 2,423 children severely affected by the earthquake to different specialized services.
- UNICEF with NGOs have provided case management services to 189 unaccompanied and/or separated children, supported tracing and reunification with their caregivers, or provided them with alternative care options. A total of 174 of these children were reunified with their families or provided with alternative care with their extended families. Fifteen unaccompanied children were identified and are still supported by case managers to provide them with appropriate alternate care.

Gaps and constraints:

- A continuous reduction in the number of shelters and the need to move between shelters is adding to the challenges and instability of the affected people.
- Increasing costs of transportation is an additional challenge to timely access. Case management has been constrained in instances when people were relocated as a result of shelter closure.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs:

- SNFI partners are yet to mobilise a comprehensive response to the needs in hosting arrangements and to the non-displaced living in damaged housing.
- SNFI partners urgently require:
 - Funding: the funding gap for Shelter and NFI (SNFI) Sector is considerable.
 - Contingency NFI stock is currently running low and require immediate replenishment.
 - The Government is planning to establish 'temporary' settlements to provide short/ medium-term shelter for those most affected. While the shelter sector has provided preliminary assistance, inter-sector/ HCT clarity is required around the principles and parameters of the way forward.

Response:

Aleppo

- As of 21 March, nearly, 54,926 buildings were assessed as part of the rapid structural assessment. Preliminary analysis indicates that 6,056 buildings in Aleppo City and 7,150 buildings in rural Aleppo sustained structural damage and need reinforcement. A total of 21,854 in Aleppo City and 19,866 in rural Aleppo are considered safe.
- Operations room estimates Stage 1 of damage assessment will be completed by end of May.
- 70 collective centres are hosting 8,112 families.
- Adaptation works are ongoing in six medium-term collective centres, three collective centres are rehabilitated and works on nine collective centres are expected to start soon.
- As of 30 March, NFI partners (ACT/FCA, ACF, AKAH, EPDC, GVC, MEDAIR, NRC, SIF, UNHCR, UNRWA and ZOA) were able to reach 59,330 families or 295,531 people in different collective centres and hosting communities.

Lattakia and Tartous

- Nearly 31,350 buildings were assessed as part of the rapid structural assessment. Preliminary analysis indicates that 12,929 can be classified as green; 6,303 as yellow, 754 as red and 11,361 buildings as safe.
- Adaptation works at Sports City collective centre were completed. Fifty-four partitions were installed to enhance safety, security and privacy of people living in the centre.
- PUI, supported by UNHCR, is undertaking adaptation works at Shabeeba collective centre, where 83 families or 322 people are taking shelter.

- As of 28 March, 19 collective centres are operational, hosting 1,229 families or 5,014 people.
- As of 30 March, six NFI Sector partners (AAKH, NRC, SIF, SSSD, UNHCR and UNRWA) were able to reach 4,433 families or 22,817 people in Lattakia and 1,084 families or 5,278 people in Tartous with various emergency NFIs.

Homs and Hama

- Four hundred fifty families are taking shelter in 15 collective centres in Hama, 69 families in two collective centres in Homs and 22 families in two collective centres in Idleb.
- Rebeaa collective centre in Hama is reportedly overcrowded as some rooms are said to be accommodating four families.
- As of 30 March, NFI partners (NRC and UNHCR) were able to reach 1,023 families or 6,364 people in Hama and 14 families or 69 people in Homs with emergency NFIs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Aid is mostly provided to families in collective centres while families hosted by local communities are underserved.
- Identifying and assisting displaced families in hosting arrangements in rural or remote locations continues to be a challenge due to lack of information about humanitarian needs.
- Families reportedly continue to need official letters from community leaders to take shelter in collective centres identified by operations room.
- Medium-term collective centres are still being identified by local authorities. Therefore, shelter partners need to adjust the technical assessments for adaptation of the newly identified centres.
- Structural assessment is a multi-tiered and lengthy process. Only when local authorities officially declare a building is safe for intervention, shelter partners can undertake minor to moderate repair works.
- For people whose homes were fully damaged, a longer-term sustainable shelter solution needs to be identified in cooperation with local authorities.
- In Homs and Hama, earthquake response has depleted the contingency stock of NFI partners. No more stock is available to meet any sudden emergencies.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- Safe drinking water for affected communities in areas where water systems are no longer operational.
- Emergency latrines, solid waste collection, water disinfection consumables and supplies, WASH NFIs in collective shelter and affected communities and hosting communities.
- Emergency operational and maintenance support to water and sanitation infrastructures, including power supply.
- Enhance hygiene promotion activities in the affected areas.
- Sustainable long-term WASH intervention in Lattakia Governorate is urgently needed.
- Water infrastructure in Jablah as water systems were affected.

Response:

- During this reporting period, WASH response interventions were implemented by the following sector partners: UNICEF, WHO, OXFAM, NRC, WWGVC, AAH, ADRA, DRC, UNHCR and MEDAIR, and in coordination with Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and local Water Authorities.

Aleppo

- UNICEF continues to provide drinking water to IDP shelters and the most affected neighborhoods at 600,000 litres per day, reaching about 120,000 IDPs.
- UNICEF continues to monitor water quality jointly with Aleppo Water Establishment (AWE) at the water source, tankers and end users on a daily basis.
- PUI rehabilitated a WASH facility in a collective centre Sultan Basha Al Atrash School.
- PUI is currently conducting light WASH maintenance, distributing cleaning kits, and supporting solid waste management in six collective centres.
- OXFAM is supporting water trucking to 15 collective centres at 969.5 m3, reaching 12,077 families or 53,434 people.
- OXFAM is repairing water networks in 14 communities to support 4,777 people.

- OXFAM supported with lights, sewer drains, toilet hoses, door locks and sink maintenance works benefiting 17,514 people.
- GVC is trucking water at 270 m3 in three affected neighborhoods and five collective centres, reaching 5,080 people.

Lattakia

- UNICEF, through a private company, is conducting daily cleaning and solid waste collection campaign in the Sport City shelter in Lattakia, benefiting more than 1,000 IDPs.
- UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities at Jaafra Nasif shelter in Al Ramel Al Janoubi, benefiting around 404 IDPs.
- UNICEF is repairing the water network in Al Datour neighbourhood in Lattakia City through private contractor and with close coordination with Lattakia Water Establishment (LWE).
- NRC is currently conducting technical assessments in coordination with the Directorate of Water in Jablah, Lattakia on the identified water distribution networks.
- NRC completed the rehabilitation in Tajamu Alenath Collective Shelter in Jablah.
- ADRA completed the rehabilitation of water pipes in villages in Lattakia and in Jablah city.
- ADRA supported LWE by providing generator 5000 KVA and generator 6700 KVA.
- ADRA provided solar system for lightening and water heating in Adnan Almalki, Jamal Dawod and karadaha Hotel.

Hygiene promotion:

Aleppo

- In collaboration with partners, UNICEF distributed 60 containers (CTN) of baby diapers, 404 CTN of lady sanitary napkins, 202 family hygiene kits and 202 jerry cans benefiting about 1,000 affected people in IDP shelters.
- PUI distributed 15 cleaning kits for affected families in Jamilieh Boheird school-turned shelter.
- OXFAM distributed 453 hygiene kits (including 453 sanitary pads) for 453 families or 2,201 people in five collective centres.
- OXFAM distributed 149 children diapers pack for 149 children.
- OXFAM distributed 34 elderly diapers to 164 elderly people.
- OXFAM provided 11 hygiene promotion awareness-sessions to 180 people in five collective centres.

Lattakia

- UNICEF, through Ausrat Al Ekha NGO, distributed baby diapers to 481 children in Al Ramel Al Janobi, Al Datour and Al Ramel Al Shimali in Lattakia City.
- UNICEF continues to distribute water disinfectant tablets (aqua tab) to 1,115 people in the earthquake-affected areas in Lattakia (Sqoubeen, Al Ramel Al Janobi, and Jableh).
- In collaboration with partners, UNICEF distributed soap bars in Al Ramel Al Janobi and Al Datour neighbourhoods in Lattakia benefiting 300 earthquake-affected people.
- UNICEF distributed 385 jerry cans in the affected communities in Lattakia (Qastal Maaf) benefiting around 1,925 affected people.
- As of 25 March, UNHCR with SARC distributed 3,424 hygiene kits in Lattakia, 941 in Tartous, and 400 in GoS-controlled areas in Idleb. The kits were distributed to displaced families who were affected by the earthquake along with NFI packages which are one-time distribution.
- ADRA is distributing 2,000 hygiene kits, cleaning tools and material in shelters. To date, ADRA has distributed 1,000 kits in shelters.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of power supply and fuel shortage negatively affects the water supply in the affected governorates, specifically rural areas.
- The continued change in the location of collective shelters and the number of IDPs and the families in shelters.
- Massive damage to water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Inadequate funding.

Logistics

Response:

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the access to 2,000 litres of fuel through bilateral services provision (BSP) on behalf of AAH and IMC INGOs.
- The Cluster also facilitated free of charge transport of shelter and food items for a total of 38.5 mt /322 m³ on behalf of St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee.
- The Cluster facilitated access to free of charge storage for an in-kind donation shipment in WFP's Kiswa warehouse on behalf of OCHA. This shipment is 78.6 MT/235.4 m³ that contains health, shelter, protection and WASH items.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated through BSP access to storage services for a shipment in WFP's Aleppo warehouse on behalf of UNFPA, FCA and NRC. This shipment is 52 mt/427.4 m³ and it has shelter and WASH items.

Constraints:

Various bottlenecks were faced at WFPs Kisweh warehouse due to delayed approvals.

Cash Relief Response

- As of 30 March, UNHCR and partners in Hama have assessed 449 families and reviewed documents of 319 families. Thirty-seven families have received SYP2,100,000 equal to \$466 per family as the first tranche of the multi-purpose cash assistance. They will receive the second tranche of SYP1,050,000 equal to \$233 in April.
- As of 28 March, UNICEF reached 67,277 people or 13,122 families in affected areas of Aleppo and Hama with emergency cash assistance to support their basic needs and mitigate the economic shock created by the earthquakes. The majority of them were female-headed families and those caring for children with disabilities or children with chronic illness.
- In Aleppo and Hama, the vertical expansion of the programme will cover about 12,500 earthquake-affected families or 70 per cent of humanitarian cash transfer caseload.
- As of 30 March, over 3,500 people have already received their first cash transfer tranche. In Aleppo, children with disabilities who have been affected by the earthquake have also received complementary assistance, including 1,000 children with disabilities who received diapers. Case management of affected families continues to refer to services and PSS.
- In Lattakia, the registration process started for all families with children between 0-17 in six communities. In addition, vulnerable families caring for children with disabilities who have been affected by the earthquake are being identified and registered. As of 28 March, 3,680 people or 736 families have been identified and registered. As soon as the registration process is completed, all families will receive their first round of cash assistance to reach 30,000 people or 6,000 families in the Governorate.

GENERAL COORDINATION

- Throughout earthquake affected areas, operations rooms have been requested to support response planning by clearly articulating timelines for mid-term shelter moves, gaps in remaining stocks for shelters and communities and criteria to be used to identify not only cash-based response, but also prioritization among affected families for movement to mid-term shelters. This includes Lattakia, where local authorities are going to use 1,000 prefabricated shelters, but need to clarify where the shelters will be hosted, how infrastructure will be put in place, and by when this is planned to be completed.
- Humanitarian organizations have requested clarification on formalization of how operations rooms will message needs and clearances for shelter and community work moving ahead, in order to reduce continued lack of coordination and lack of information. While numbers of displaced people in shelters continue to be shared in all areas based on operations rooms information, specific sectoral needs are not.
- Area HCTs are engaging operations rooms to map training needs for NNGOs and other organizations involved in shelter management, stocking, supply, distributions, cash-based projects and other technical subjects. This is in addition to the ongoing work on GBV/PSEA referral mechanisms and complaints hotline awareness-raising activities.
- There have been significant delays at the local level with facilitation to host community SYNYAT assessments in all areas. These have been overcome in all areas with the exception of Aleppo where facilitation letters are still outstanding to allow enumerators to access communities.

- In Aleppo, OCHA facilitated and hosted a training of 84 volunteers from 10 NNGOs on protection, shelter management and safety and security. The volunteers will cover the medium-term shelters hosting affected people.
- On 26 March, in Hama, a coordination meeting with AHCT partners was held in preparation for a planned meeting with Hama Governor. Action points included clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the emergency cell; inquiring about the Governorate plans for collective shelters and asking for update on IDPs living within host communities.
- The ISC assessment using SYNAT was carried out on 25 and 26 March targeting over 231 affected areas in Homs and Hama Governorates.
- Homs ISC meeting was held on 30 March. The main discussed points included an update on SYNAT assessment in Homs and Hama, an update on the earthquake response in shelters and within host communities among others.
- On March 26 and 27, Lattakia and Tartous finished the SYNAT training for the coastal region. The training was attended by about 200 enumerators nominated by UNICEF and UNHCR to assess a total of 259 localities.
- In Lattakia, a meeting was held between Syria Trust and OCHA to brainstorm on how coordination and information sharing will be formalized with the operations rooms. It was also agreed to collaborate to create a brief strategy outlining how the shelters are moving forward in the coming period (closures, planning, criteria).

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, Idlib, 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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