

HIGHLIGHTS (7 Apr 2023)

- The UN and humanitarian partners are addressing life-saving needs, driven by the earthquakes, through humanitarian and early recovery interventions.
- Shelter needs continue to be pressing due to the toll of damaged buildings. As of 4 April, more than 101,000 individuals were reached with emergency shelters since the earthquakes.
- Debris removal efforts are ongoing in Idleb and northern Aleppo. As of 5 April, some 80,000 m³ of debris have been removed by the humanitarian community.
- Markets have largely demonstrated resilience post-earthquakes, making cash support a priority. As of 23 March, multi-purpose cash (US\$10.9 million) was disbursed to 360,787 people.
- On 20 March, the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) allocated \$36.1 million to fund 58 projects through its first Reserve Allocation.



Camp resident Um Ahmad in Salqin prepares Iftar for her children in celebration of Ramadan post-earthquakes. 29 March 2023. Photo: OCHA/Ali Haj Suleiman

KEY FIGURES

4.5M

Population in north-west Syria

4.1M

People in need in north-west Syria

3.3M

Food insecure people

2.9M

Internally displaced people (IDPs)

1.9M

IDPs living in camps

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BACKGROUND (19 Jun 2022)

Disclaimer

This Situation Report covers developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad. OCHA Türkiye prepares this report with the support of Cluster Coordinators and the Humanitarian Field Officers (HFO). The data/information collected come from both sources.

FEATURE (7 Apr 2023)

2023 EARTHQUAKES: SITUATION OVERVIEW

“We seek help from the international community, from the world, in securing work opportunities. We want to improve our living conditions.”

Hussain, father of eight, in the Deir Ballut community spoke to an OCHA staff in one of the cross-border missions to north-west Syria this week.

For seven years, Hussein and his family have been living in an isolated tent in the Afrin district, which now has cracks from the earthquakes. He currently receives support from one of the cash assistance projects funded by the [Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund \(SCHF\)](#), which aims to foster short-term livelihood opportunities through cash-for-work modalities.

“I use the money to secure food and essential medicines but it is not sufficient,” he shared.

In another area in the same district, camp resident Tamer, father of six, also receives support from the same cash assistance project. Like Hussein, he also noted that while cash support is critical, he still lives on a day-by-day basis as money is quickly spent on debt payments, essential medicines and food for Ramadan.

“I used to be a chef in a restaurant. Now I lost my job and there are no restaurants here,” he told an OCHA staff, noting the toll of collapsed buildings by the earthquakes. One of the walls of his tent has also been damaged.

In the aftermath of the earthquakes, the UN and humanitarian community have been addressing immediate and longer-term needs in north-west Syria.

Over 50 UN cross-border missions have been conducted to north-west Syria, as of 5 April, some of which involved monitoring visits to project sites funded by the SCHF.

April 6 marks two months since the earthquakes first struck. Since then, ready-to-eat food rations, emergency shelters and non-food items have reached hundreds of thousands of people in heavy-hit areas. WASH services and supplies have been provided in 728 camps and reception centers. Over 80,000 m³ of debris have been removed by humanitarian partners across 17 sub-districts, reaching over 115,000 people.

However, beyond immediate needs, the humanitarian community has also called attention to the criticality of investing in dignified shelters, a formal school system that has largely been overstretched, and rehabilitation of shelters, health facilities and other critical infrastructures damaged by the earthquakes, among other longer-term needs. A second phase of the SCHF Reserve Allocation will build on its [first phase](#), valued at \$36.1 million and allocated on 20 March to 58 projects, towards a lifesaving and life-sustaining medium-term response.



An OCHA team visited a project site implemented by BINAA for Development and funded by the SCHF in Jandairis, one of the most affected areas by the earthquakes. 3 April 2023. Photo credit: OCHA

Funding however remains a critical gap in the overarching response.

While the [Syria Earthquake Flash Appeal](#) has secured over 95 per cent of the required funding, covering three months, the [Syria Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) is still largely underfunded at some six per cent. Only \$305 million has been received out of the \$4.8 billion required for the response for whole-of-Syria in 2023, as of 7 April.

FEATURE (7 Apr 2023)

2023 EARTHQUAKES: CASUALTIES, INJURIES AND DAMAGES

- **More than 4,500 deaths and 10,400 injuries** due to the earthquakes have been reported in north-west Syria according to the Health cluster. 43 per cent of the injured are women and girls. 20 per cent of the injured are children aged five to 14 years old.
- **At least 148 communities** in north-west Syria have been affected by the earthquakes. The districts with the highest number of deaths and injuries are Harim and Afrin. Some 1,100 deaths (a quarter of reported deaths) were recorded in Jandairis in the Afrin district.
- **At least 10,600 buildings** have been destroyed by the earthquakes at varying degrees (1,869 buildings have been completely destroyed and 8,731 buildings have been partially destroyed).



The Sanabel Al-Khair camp, in Salqin, Idlib, is home to some 120 households affected by the earthquakes. 29 March 2023. Photo: OCHA/Ali Haj Suleiman

FEATURE (7 Apr 2023)

2023 EARTHQUAKES: FUNDING

On 20 March, the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) completed an allocation amounting to \$36.1 million in its [first phase of the Reserve Allocation](#), funding 58 projects across all sectors. This first phase concentrates on addressing life-threatening needs. A second phase of the Reserve Allocation will follow, building on the first phase and taking on a medium-term approach with a particular focus on gaps, capacity and geographic coverage.

As of 7 April, 95 per cent of the [Syria Earthquake Flash Appeal](#) has been funded. However, only six per cent of the [Syria Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) for 2023 has been funded (\$305 million has been received out of the \$4.8 billion required).



In one of the UN cross-border missions, OCHA staff met with 12-year-old Karim whose cousin takes him in a wheelchair to classes every morning in Idlib. 4 April 2023. Photo credit: OCHA

FEATURE (7 Apr 2023)

2023 EARTHQUAKES: HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The earthquakes have added a crisis on top of a crisis for people who were already reeling from 12 years of conflict. Since the start of 2023, at least 4.1 million people in north-west Syria rely on humanitarian aid to meet their most basic needs. The majority are women and children. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes, shelter, multi-purpose cash support and winter aid were cited as the [top priority needs](#) as well as health needs.

The UN and humanitarian partners are addressing life-saving needs, driven by the earthquakes, and protracted needs, driven by 12 years of conflict. OCHA is currently tracking over [80 need assessments](#) by cluster partners, covering 42 sub-districts in north-west Syria.

Multi-purpose cash support

Assessed markets across north-west Syria were [found to be largely resilient](#) following the earthquakes, making cash assistance a priority in the humanitarian response. On average, shops that had closed immediately after [the disaster have been reopened](#) several days later.

As of 23 March, 360,787 people were reached with multi-cash support at a dispersed value of \$10.9 million. This assistance has been implemented by 14 partners across 22 sub-districts in north-west Syria. The majority of individuals receiving cash support are in Harim and Afrin - the worst-hit districts by the earthquakes.



Multi-purpose cash was distributed to families affected by the earthquakes in Jandairis as part of an SCHF-funded project implemented by the partner IHR. 13 March 2023. Photo: OCHA/Mustafa Al Maqsous

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

People reached post-EQ

Needs

- 1,154 IDP sites in north-west Syria, hosting 1,366,628 individuals, do not have proper camp management structures.
- Following the earthquakes, 80,401 individuals living across 108 newly established reception centers are in need of a coordinated multi-sectoral response.
- Findings from a recent CCCM analysis shows that nine reception centers (hosting 3,500 individuals) have severe services gaps while 70 centers (hosting 50,000 individuals) have moderate service gaps.
- 70 per cent of reception centers need fire points and/or fire mitigation/prevention measures, lighting poles or regular care and maintenance.
- Increased funding is needed to support new, temporary, unmanaged reception centers and informal sites.

→ Response

- Some 57,000 have been reached with CCCM activities post-earthquakes.
- In close collaboration with other clusters, the CCCM cluster has jointly created an Indicator Checklist for the Management of Reception and Collective Centers in North-west Syria. This is multi-sectorial checklist aims to guide a coordinated humanitarian response in centers and CCCM partners have used it to verify the needs and provision of services in the sites. Between 20 and 24 March, data collection and verification were carried out by the CCCM field team in 109 sites (77 in Aleppo and 32 in Idlib) with support from the Protection cluster.
- The CCCM cluster continues to track displacements, incidents and multi-sectoral needs across north-west Syria.

↔ Gaps

- Data collection is a key challenge for CCCM cluster members due to the rapid opening and closing of reception and collective centers.

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Early Recovery and Livelihood (ERL)

570K

People reached post-EQ

? Needs

- There is a need to remove a minimum of 650,000 cubic meters of building debris due to the earthquakes which affect some 800,000 people in north-west Syria.
- The ERL cluster is targeting about 40,000 people affected by damaged schools, 50,000 people affected by damaged health facilities and about 60,000 people with livelihood opportunities, including emergency employment and business support, over a three-month period.

→ Response

- Debris removal activities are ongoing. As of 5 April, 14 ERL cluster partners have reportedly removed over 80,000 m³ of debris across 17 sub-districts, reaching over 115,000 people.
- As of 5 April, 140 classrooms were rehabilitated in 23 schools, reaching 22,240 people including students and their families.
- As of 5 April, 17 health facilities were rehabilitated or are under rehabilitation, reaching 19,450 people.
- As of 5 April, 22,047 people have been supported with emergency employment (cash-for-work) opportunities, and 361 micro and small businesses were supported.
- For more information, please visit the [ERL Dashboard](https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/syria/) on the Earthquake Response

↔ Gaps

- There is nearly a 90 per cent gap in debris removal, as of 5 April.
- More than 25,000 people are in need of school rehabilitation.
- More than 50 health facilities need to be rehabilitated and 30,000 people are in need of health facilities rehabilitation.
- More than 40,000 individuals are in need of accessing livelihood opportunities.

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Education

150K

Children and ed personnel reached post-EQ

? Needs

- More than 1 million school-aged children need education support and are at risk of being out of school due to the earthquakes,
- At least 25,000 teachers affected by the earthquakes are in need of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), appropriate compensation and capacity building, especially in recovering from learning loss.
- A minimum of 452 primary and secondary schools have been reportedly damaged to varying degrees. This number is expected to increase as the Education cluster's school assessment is underway.
- There is a critical need to invest in an overstretched, under-resourced and severely impacted formal school system.

→ Response

- The Education cluster, in partnership with [ACU](#), is conducting an ongoing school assessment involving community surveys, school surveys, and building damage assessments.
- As of 4 April, cluster partners have reached 94,784 children, adolescents and youths with formal education; 38,632 children, adolescents and youth with non-formal education; and 16,775 teachers and education personnel with monetary and non-monetary support in formal and non-formal settings.

↔ Gaps

- The Education cluster is targeting 500,000 people over a three-month period in their Earthquake Emergency Response Plan. As of 4 April, there is a 70 per cent gap in reach.
- Over 90 per cent of reception centers and IDP sites are in need of formal and non-formal safe learning spaces integrated with mental health and psychosocial support and child protection services.
- Lack of funding is a key gap as it constrains the capacity of partners to provide timely and integrated responses. This affects the continuation of access to protective, inclusive and quality education services.

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Food Security and Livelihood (FSL)

Needs

- Some 3.3 million people in north-west Syria are food insecure according to the [2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#).
- The FSL cluster is targeting 400,000 people with the most urgent humanitarian needs, covering an initial period of three months post-earthquakes, as detailed in the [Flash Appeal](#).

Response

- More than 142,000 Ready-to-Eat Rations (RTE) of dry food (142,704 RTEs as of 4 April) have been distributed by 50 FSL cluster partners since the earthquakes struck. An RTE ration is sufficient for one family of five for one week.
- More than 80,000 people were reached with Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), supported by six FSL cluster partners, since the earthquakes struck. Out of this figure, nearly 80 per cent of people (62,823 people) were reached in the month of March.
- A total of 656,536 cooked meals (one-off distribution) were distributed by 28 FSL cluster partners since the beginning of the earthquake response (as of 4 April). 17,000 cooked meals were distributed in the last week alone.
- 154,316 people affected by the earthquakes with access to cooking facilities were supported with one-off emergency food baskets, as of 4 April. These food baskets were distributed by 15 FSL cluster partners.

Gaps

- Funding is a critical gap and there is a lack of private funds.
- The FSL cluster is advocating and working to reach reception centers that have not received any response.
- The status of reception centers remains fluid with centers rapidly closing or opening in other locations. The FSL cluster is coordinating with the CCCM cluster to track their status and locations in a timely manner.

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Nutrition

199K

Children and PLWs reached post-EQ

Needs

- An estimated 365,076 people in north-west Syria are in need of nutrition assistance with the most urgent humanitarian needs. This includes:
 - 114,901 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) require malnutrition prevention supplies
 - 99,034 PLWs need nutrition support
 - 42,851 children and PLWs are moderately acute malnourished
 - 40,744 adolescent girls are in need of nutritional support
 - 9,398 severely acute malnourished children require inpatient and outpatient treatment

Response

- As of 1 April, 180,892 children under 5 were screened for malnutrition. Among them, 2,480 were identified as having Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and were admitted/referred to in-and-outpatient settings for treatment. 8,112 PLWs were identified as having Moderately Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and were admitted/referred to outpatient settings for treatment.
- As of 1 April, 90,378 children aged 6-59 months were admitted to malnutrition prevention programmes. 26,557 PLWs were admitted to malnutrition prevention programmes.
- As of 1 April, 59,926 PLWs received counseling on Infant and Young Child Feeding.
- Efforts to monitor Breast-milk Substitute (BMS) violations are ongoing.

Gaps

- Funding gap: \$4.6 million is needed, of which \$2 million is in the pipeline.
- Operational gap: 60 rapid response teams (RRTs) and 50 mother baby areas are needed. So far, 37 new RRTs and five mother baby areas are planned to be established in earthquake-hit areas.
- Supply gap: There is a 91 per cent supply gap in iron-folic tabs; 50 per cent supply gap in ready-to-use supplementary food; and a 30 per cent supply gap in high-energy biscuits.

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Protection

141K

People reached post-EQ

Needs

- 270,000 people have been targeted with protection assistance in the aftermath of the earthquakes.
- Assistance is provided under four priorities: 1) addressing family separation risks and provision of individualized protection assistance; 2) improve rule of law environment by providing legal assistance and guidance to address civil documentation and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) related issues; 3) tailored response and provision of protection services to most affected groups; and 4) community-based protection mechanisms mapped and strengthened for risk mitigation.

→ Response

- As of 4 April, 47,735 people have been supported with Psychological First Aid (PFA) interventions by Protection cluster partners. 41,168 people were reached with protection awareness-raising activities.
- As of 4 April, 7,759 Structured Psychosocial support (PSS) interventions have reached 4,956 people.
- Legal awareness-raising sessions and initiatives including HLP-related issues have reached 5,884 people.

↔ Gaps

- Lack of resources constrains the guarantee of scaled-up protection services such as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. There is a low operational capacity to cover existing demands on the provision of legal-related services.
- There is a need to adjust the prioritization criteria for the provision of protection services to reach the most affected population groups.

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Protection: Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility (AoR)

31K

People reached post-EQ

? Needs

- After the earthquakes, the GBV AoR and its partners are targeting 85,000 women and girls in need of GBV emergency response for the first three months. This includes the provision of 107,000 services and 75,000 Dignity Kits.
- According to the Rapid Protection Assessment (RPA), female heads of households, pregnant and lactating women, and persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups affected by the earthquakes.
- Pre-existing needs have been further exacerbated by the earthquakes, exposing women and girls to an increased risk of GBV, especially sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment, and intimate partner violence, in reception centers and existing camps.
- The most pressing needs include safe access to GBV services, health services, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, as well as access to Dignity Kits and gender-segregated shelters and WASH facilities.

→ Response

- Since the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes, GBV partners ensured the continuation of service provision, including case management and referral. In locations where safe spaces were not damaged, face-to-face GBV case management was quickly restored. Remote case management was launched in space spaces that were temporarily unavailable.
- Challenges were met given the sudden and large-scale impact that the earthquakes had on the communities, including on the GBV service providers themselves who were affected by personal losses, trauma, and stress.
- A total of 60 participants, from 18 national and international NGOs, took part in the GBV AoR-led capacity-strengthening sessions on Safety Audit.
- The training consisted of two online sessions targeting field teams in north-west Syria and GBV programme supervisors in Türkiye.
- The findings of the Safety Audits were useful to identify GBV risk mitigation measures in reception centers and camps to make the locations safer for women and girls. Recommendations include: ensuring proper lighting and locks for shared latrines; involving women in camp management committees; raising awareness on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) risks and reporting channels.
- As of March 26, a total of 41,621 Dignity Kits were distributed to women and girls in earthquake-affected areas.

↔ Gaps

- Partners encountered difficulties in providing individual services and consultations for survivors in reception centers due to overcrowding and difficulty securing a private space to ensure safety and confidentiality.
- In a context where pre-existing GBV risks and needs are aggravated by the earthquakes, with new needs arising, the GBV AoR and its members urge donors to provide additional funding for GBV programming. Rapid funding must be available to address the escalating incidence of recurrent disasters in north-west Syria, especially extreme weather conditions.

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Protection: Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR)

29K

People reached post-EQ

? Needs

- 730,000 people live in 42 earthquake-impacted communities contaminated with explosive ordnance and are at risk of accidents.

- The earthquake may have led explosive items to move or resurface and consequently, invalidating previous mapping work. Survey work is critically needed in impacted communities including communities with new IDP arrivals and rubble removal sites.

➔ Response

- The earthquake put specific population groups at increased risk of explosive ordnance accidents like people displaced to new environments and rubble removers operating in contaminated areas. Children are also particularly at risk and accidents involving them are often lethal. Mine action interventions are prioritizing these groups.
- Explosive ordnance risk education to teach safe behavior and explosive ordnance disposal to permanently remove the threats are critical.

↔ Gaps

- **Funding gap:** Of the \$2.2 million requested by the mine action partners, only \$137,000 have been secured, creating a funding gap of 95 per cent. As a result, only four per cent of the people in need of mine action interventions have been supported, leaving thousands of people at risk of explosive ordnance accidents.

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI)

197K

People reached post-EQ

📋 Needs

Life-saving shelter and NFI emergency response:

- People in need: 2.1 million individuals
- Estimated target: 265,500 individuals (covering the first three months post-earthquakes in line with Flash Appeal)

Life-sustaining response*:

- People in need: 1.1 million individuals
- Estimated target: 263,000 individuals

**Life-sustaining response includes shelter repair and rehabilitation for shelters with minor and moderate damages as well as dignified shelter for those who lost their homes.*

➔ Response

Life-saving shelter and NFI emergency response (as of 4 April):

- 101,330 individuals reached with emergency shelter
- 197,610 individuals reached with NFIs
- 16,770 individuals reached with emergency shelter kits

Life-sustaining response (as of 4 April):

- The first funding towards the life-sustaining response has been secured through the first Reserve Allocation of the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) for 2023. This includes shelter repair and rehabilitation as well as dignified shelter activities with an implementation timeframe of six months.

↔ Gaps

- 39,500 individuals still need to be reached with shelter and NFI assistance before the initial Flash Appeal target is met. Looking beyond the scope of the Flash Appeal, at least 53,000 families displaced after the earthquakes need a dignified shelter.
- Partners continue to face issues with procuring quality items from the local market in north-west Syria. Some Shelter/NFI cluster partners have reported restrictions on the procurement and transshipment of prefabricated shelters and related construction materials, such as sandwich panels, into north-west Syria.
- Shelter/NFI cluster partners have reported that most of the NFI kits and tents distributed for the earthquake response were shifted from the usual pre-earthquake programming and winterization response. To enable a more timely response to earthquake-affected communities as well as any future large-scale displacements or weather incidents, it is important that the stock of partners is replenished.

CLUSTER STATUS (7 Apr 2023)



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

350K

People reached post-EQ

📋 Needs

- 1.1 million people in north-west Syria require urgent WASH assistance following the earthquakes and amidst an ongoing cholera outbreak.
- WASH assistance includes the provision of WASH service delivery (such as water, latrines, drainage and domestic washing facilities) and supply of family hygiene kits, rehabilitation/construction of elevated and groundwater reservoirs, repair of WASH infrastructure, and water and sanitation management.

➔ Response

- WASH services and/or supplies have been provided in 728 camps and reception centers, as of 5 April. There are plans to reach additional 330,000 people in 394 camps and reception centers.
- Field facilitators have assessed and verified WASH status in 109 registered reception centers.
- WASH cluster partners have scaled up the cholera response, ensuring the chlorination of water, mobilization of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and the operationalization of the “Case Area Targeted Interventions” (CATIs) mechanism. Efforts to monitor water quality across all locations and sites are ongoing.

↔ Gaps

- Funding is a critical gap to ensure a comprehensive WASH package is meeting the needs of the population. Prices of construction materials have reportedly increased in local markets which affects on-going and planned WASH activities.
- There are information gaps, particularly with regard to tracking of newly established sites, population movement to sites of last resort and number of IDPs living outside untracked reception centers. Limited funding or funding cuts to ongoing programs could drive further IDP movements as people may be forced to move to areas with on-going response.

ANALYSIS (7 Apr 2023)

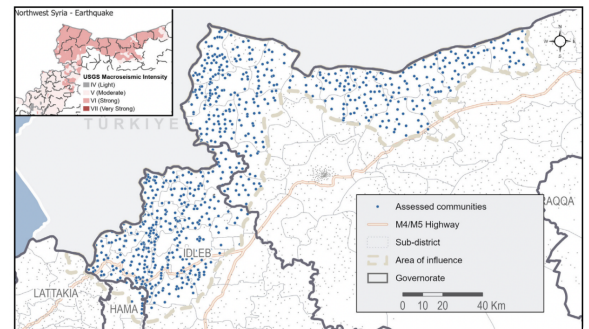
REACH EARTHQUAKE ASSESSMENTS

REACH-CCCM Cluster Earthquake Response Displacement Monitoring: [Download Full PDF](#) (published on 9 March 2023)

Joint Rapid Assessments of Markets: [Download Full PDF](#) (published on 27 February 2023)

Rapid Needs Assessment: [Download Full PDF](#) (published on 15 February 2023)

MAP 1: COMMUNITY COVERAGE For REACH's Rapid community displacement assessment



- Key reported needs for newly arrived IDPs were winterisation and shelter support, while winterisation and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) were most reported for pre-earthquake populations in affected communities.
- Damage was particularly often reported in Greater Idleb near the Turkish border, and in Afrin district in Northern Aleppo. Residential buildings were reportedly strongly impacted.
- Access to key services was reportedly low, with no access to healthcare reported in 20% of assessed communities, which were directly impacted.



OCHA

NORTH-WEST SYRIA

Situation Report

Last updated: 7 Apr 2023

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