

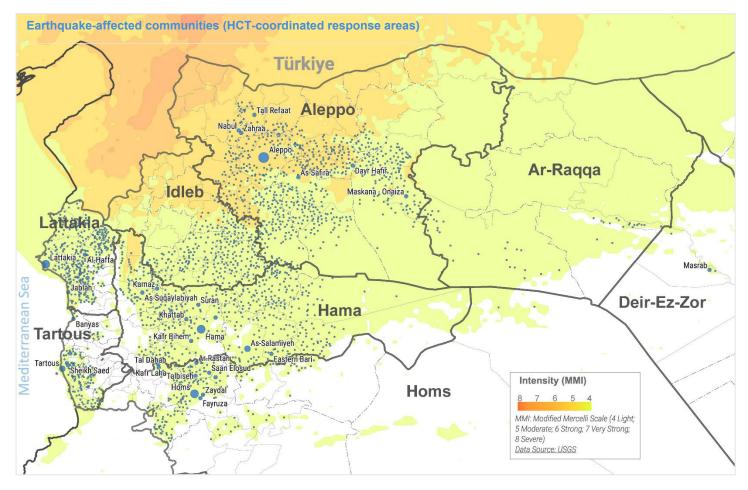
Syrian Arab Republic HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM (HCT) COORDINATED RESPONSE FLASH UPDATE #4 - EARTHQUAKE

As of 09 February 2023

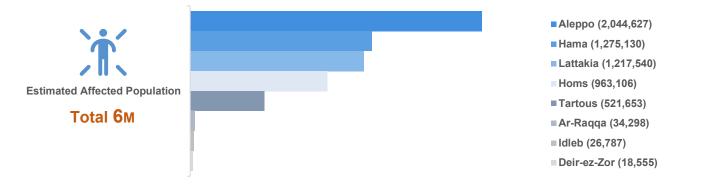
Highlights



 On 9 February, the Syrian Ministry of Health (MoH) reported 1,347 deaths and 2,295 injuries, mainly in Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama, Idleb countryside, and Tartous. The number of casualties is expected to rise as search and rescue operations are ongoing.



• Affected population (in HCT-coordinated response areas):



- At present, it is estimated that at least 6 million people residing in Syria Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Coordinated response areas have been affected. This includes communities in the most affected governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia, Home, Tartous, Idleb and Tartous. And some communities in the less affected governorates of Dier-ez-Zor, and Ar-Raqqa.
- Limited capacities including the lack of equipment and fuel continue to hamper search and rescue, and recovery efforts.
- Approximately 925,000 women of reproductive age among them an estimated 148,000 women are currently pregnant and 37,000 are expected to deliver over the next three months. An estimated 5,550 women may experience complications requiring emergency obstetric care including cesarean-section.
- Priority immediate needs/gaps continue to be recovery machinery/excavators, fuel for the humanitarian response, food, shelter, non-food items including winterization assistance, medicine, psychosocial support water, hygiene, and sanitation assistance.
- As of 8 February, preliminary reports indicate that 239 schools have been damaged in the northern and southern Governorates across the country.
- Initial reports regarding Lattakia Port indicates cracks on the quayside, while no reports were received on Tartous. However, both ports temporarily suspended operations due to the bad weather conditions.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Tartous and Lattakia

An estimated 566 people were killed in the earthquake and over 880 people are estimated to be injured. There are reports of children being separated from their parents. As of 8 February, reported damages included the collapse of 109 houses, and 18 partially damaged buildings in Mislun in Al-Haffa resulting in the displacement of about 200 people. Other structural damages were reported in Dahr Safra in Tartous rural; one neighbourhood was reportedly completely evacuated with the affected people being hosted by relations. Structural damage of key infrastructure and installations like hospitals and water reservoirs were also reported in Latakia and Jablah. A civil registry building in Latakia city also suffered moderate damage and requires further technical assessment. UNHCR in partnership with SARC distributed 47 kits to the residents of Al-Basel collective shelter. This brings the total of distributions to 112 households in Latakia and 42 in Tartous. The number of families being hosted in the Sports City has reportedly reached 190 households. PUI is conducting a technical assessment of collective shelters in coordination with Governorate authorities. Lattakia Governorate established a committee to carry out structural damage assessments and issue a report on damages within three days. Meanwhile, a UNHCR partner is conducting a technical assessment of the collective shelters in coordination with the Governorate to determine needs. All UNHCR-supported community centres are functioning so far, however partners are still checking buildings for any structural damages. Three public hospitals in Lattakia are overwhelmed and stretched their capacity to treat around 770 injuries, there is need for blankets and medical supplies (WHO will provide medical supplies).

The Governorate has shared a list of 47 available reception centres which are currently hosting a total of 6,000 families (30,000 people). Medical support, psychosocial support and psychological first aid are also emerging as key needs among affected families. Many have been traumatized by the earthquake. In collaboration with partners, UNHCR distributed CRIs to 30 families in the "Sports City" shelter. UNHCR's partner is also supporting around 60 families who were reportedly displaced from Aleppo to Mashta Helou (Tartous Governorate). Partner legal teams have visited a number of collective shelters. So far, they have identified 359 families who have reported the loss of personal documents.

Aleppo

On 8 February search and rescue operations continued in Aleppo. The authorities informed that as of 8 February, they had designated 175 collective shelters in the Governorate including 100 schools. While they are using schools in the interim, the authorities have informed of their plans to designate collective shelters in identified empty spaces to relocate displaced people and clear the schools in preparation for the resumption of education activities. The authorities continue assessing the structural integrity and functionality of basic service infrastructure and houses; a total of 1,000 locations and at least 50 per cent of the assessed locations are not safe. They continue to call for technical support including of specialized personnel to continue the required assessments in all affected locations in the Governorate. An estimated 451 people were killed in the earthquake and over 700 people are estimated to be injured. A total of 54 buildings have collapsed and an unspecified number of buildings sustained damages. The number of collective shelters has increased

to a total of 173, and they are reportedly hosting around 12,640 families (over 52,840 individuals). Overall, an estimated 150,000 people have been displaced from their homes.

UNHCR teams are currently undertaking a rapid multi-sectoral assessment of the most affected collective centres and sites. Based on initial feedback from partners and staff, the most pressing needs include food, water, blankets and mattresses. UNHCR has released 1,500 CRI kits which are being distributed to affected families. Items being distributed include sleeping mats, mattresses, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, jackets and winter clothes. As of 8 February, 17 out of a total of 31 UNHCR-supported community centres are operating and functional. Eight community centres are closed due to structural damages, negatively impacting the delivery of services in those areas. Other centres remain closed because staff are unable to report to work. Community centres are prioritising the delivery of awareness raising sessions on safety and earthquake response, psychosocial support and referrals to available emergency services. Case managers are providing support on gender-based violence and child protection issues. In addition, 20 mobile units (out of a total of 28 mobile units) and 560 outreach volunteers were actively reaching out to affected people today (9 February), focusing on psychological first aid, information sharing and referrals to required services.

Homs

As part of their emergency preparedness efforts, Homs Governorate identified five collective shelters in Homs city that have the capacity to host about 3,000 people. This includes three centers in Al Bayadah neighbourhood center in Dier Ba'albah neighborhood and one Center in Baba Amro neighborhood. In addition to the possibility of using rural units in Hadyda, Tareen, Al Swiry, and Talkalkh sub-districts, as temporary shelters. SARC Homs reported that 50 people were displaced from different neighbourhoods in the city and have sought shelter at Al Ba'ath stadium. In addition, 20 other people that got displaced from Latakia arrived in Homs and are being hosted in a church in Muhajereen neighborhood. All evacuated people received food and NFI assistance from SARC and the local community. On 6 February, the local community in Homs delivered a humanitarian convoy consisting of canned food and NFI items, to the affected families in Hama Governorate. The local community in Homs is reportedly preparing another humanitarian convoy, to deliver assistance to the affected families in Aleppo Governorate.

Preliminary reports indicate that areas in Jablah, Hanadi, and Fakhoura sub-districts and Qardaha districts were affected. and that 102 buildings had collapsed, while 120 others were damaged. Reportedly, at least 40 temporary shelters have been designated across the governorate including governmental buildings, mosques, schools' yards, Syria Trust NGO's community centers and hotels.

Hama

In Hama, local authorities reported that a specialised committee will assess the structural integrity and safety of some buildings in the city and rural Hama that were partially damaged to inform decisions on whether their owners can reoccupy, On 7 February, the Homs Area Humanitarian Country Team (AHCT), and sub-national sectors operational in Governorate carried out an interagency needs assessment in Hama. The team met with the Governor's office and government departments, visited Al Arba'een neighbourhood, and the two designated collective shelters. The authorities informed that five collective shelters were designated to receive the families that lost their houses in the city, in addition to one collective shelter in Salhab village, north Hama that is hosting families from Ain Kroum village that was also affected by the earthquake. According to the authorities, 120 people are residing in Salhab collective shelter, and 100 others are in collective shelters in Hama city. As of 8 February, the Water department confirmed that 17 high water tanks were either damaged or affected in rural Hama. The WASH sub-national sector confirmed receipt of all the required information through the water department and that they will start coordinating with the authorities to find solutions for the impacted communities.

Deir-ez-Zor

In Deir-ez-Zor according to the local authorities 580 families got temporarily displaced as a result of the earthquake. Of these, 68 remain temporarily displaced and are being hosted in the Sports centre as they wait for the authorities to finalise the structural integrity and safety assessments on their houses.

Rural Damascus

There has been no largescale destruction in Damascus and Rural Damascus. However, last night (8 February) a four-story residential building collapsed in Harasta (Rural Damascus). There were initial reports of two casualties. The building was reportedly already damaged during the crisis. UNHCR has a satellite centre (smaller version of a community centre) in Harasta that stands ready to offer support to affected families.

All 27 community/satellite centres in Damascus and Rural Damascus are functioning and ready to support people affected by the earthquake. Mobile teams have also been mobilized to reach out to people who may be unable to approach community centres for a variety of reasons.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND CAPACITIES

Coordination

Sector partners are working with local authorities to undertake needs assessments across key geographic areas. OCHA and partners are conducting a coordination mission to Latakia. and are planning more missions. Coordination with authorities is increasing on logistical arrangements for incoming relief supplies and ensuring complementarity of efforts across the affected area in order to reach as many people as possible.

WASH

Preliminary reports indicate significant damage to the water networks. Assessment of WASH facilities and installations continue. Two technical teams were deployed to carry out WASH assessments in the northern and eastern rural parts of Aleppo. WASH Sector partners are supporting water trucking in 157 collective shelters. Hygiene kits have also been distributed. Turbidity, contamination, and reduced functionality have been reported, and as such there is anticipated higher risk of waterborne illness, including exacerbation of pre-existing cholera and hepatitis A outbreaks. In addition to the dispatch of water disinfection tablets and brochures, WHO is working with focal points on the ground to monitor water quality and prepare for impacts on water infrastructure.

🌥 Food

Food Security and Agriculture Sector partners are conducting rapid needs and market assessments in Aleppo. WFP and their partners supported 4,500 beneficiaries with hot meals and provided 2,500 RTEs (including preventative nutrition supplies and date bars) in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, and Hama, during the first three days of the response. In total 23 partners informed the sector on their plan to support with food emergency assistance. In Homs, a committee was established at the section level to assess the building damage. WFP partners distributed 100 meals on 7 February to 300 displaced people that are sheltered at AL-sham University, and another 200 meals on 8 February. WFP dispatched ready to eat food rations to the coastal areas and will be allocated as follows: 1,900 to SARC Latakia and 2,300 to GOPA Latakia.

Education

Preliminary reports indicate that 239 schools have been damaged (65 in Aleppo, 53 in Tartous, 36 in Homs, 27 in Hama, 16 in Latakia, 16 in Dar'a, 15 in Rural Damascus, 10 in Damascus and one in Idleb). The level of reported damages is varied and range from those that require light rehabilitation to very heavy damage. Assessments of the structural integrity and safety of schools are ongoing, and the numbers of affected schools are expected to increase.

🕏 Health

The health sector continues to support the response in all the affected Governorates. A total of 32 mobile medical teams from the NGOs and department of health have been deployed to the designated collective shelters while two NGO managed hospitals are providing emergency health care, free of charge. At least 45 ambulances (15 from SARC) and 30 from the department of health have been deployed to transportation of medical cases. A local NGO partner YBY supported group of physical therapists and nurses visited AL-Razi and Aleppo university hospital to assess injuries and distributed kenetic assistive devices to those that needed them. In the affected coastal areas (Lattakia and Tartous), the health sector is enhancing coordination mechanisms, and is in the process of developing the response matrix. Efforts to deploy mobile medical teams in the most affected areas and rapid response teams in the collective shelters are underway.

The first charted WHO flight bringing multiple types of medical supplies into the country lands today 9 February. The supplies, which include Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), equipment, and Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) kits will be delivered to Aleppo, Lattakia, Homs, and Hama and distributed according to needs. A second charted WHO flight is scheduled to land on 10 February. WHO continues to support 17 mobile teams in Aleppo and Hama.

UNFPA has 27 integrated sexual reproductive health SRH and GBV mobile teams -integrated medical teams (IMTs) working on the immediate needs of women and adolescent girls in Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia, and Tartous. UNFPA is undertaking the distribution of dignity kits and sanitary pads in affected areas. UNFPA is providing GBV response services through 9 Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) and 15 Reproductive Health (RH) clinics in affected areas.

UNICEF is conducting a MIRA assessment and Rapid Nutrition Assessment in Aleppo. UNICEF is working with the Directorate of Health in Hama to develop a plan for emergency Infant and Young Children Feeding (IYCF) in Hama hospital.

UNICEF supported Health and Nutrition teams will be reassigned to collective shelters in Hama. All regular UNICEFsupported Health and Nutrition services are ongoing in Homs, Hama, Lattakia, and Tartous.

NFI NFI

As of 8 February, UNHCR core relief items (CRIs) are being released to partners for distribution. As of 9 February, UNHCR has authorized the release of 9,440 CRI kits for distribution to affected families (8,300 families in Aleppo, 440 families in Tartous, 400 families in Latakia and 300 families in Hama). UNHCR Syria is ensuring that 30,000 CRI kits remain in stock in Aleppo, Homs and Tartous that can be immediately used for the earthquake response in affected areas. UNHCR is also ensuring that Aleppo, Homs and Tartous each have at least 10,000 winter jackets/clothing kits in stock.

Shelter

Several inter-agency needs assessments for shelter are ongoing in Aleppo, Hama and Latakia/Tartous. To date UNHCR has provided two generators with floodlights to support relief activities in Latakia during nighttime.

ADRA is responding in two shelters in Lattakia city, the Sports Center and Al-Basel Training Center, through providing drinking water and ready to eat meals. Also they are planning to provide winter hats, gloves, and socks this week. On the night of 6 February, the IDPS in Sports center received blankets and pillows from Syria Trading. UNHCR in partnership with PUI INGO provided a generator to the relief committee and has informed that they will deliver another generator and a lighting projector.

Protection

In Aleppo, 32 community centers were reactivated, and 39 mobile teams are providing protection services. Coordination and functioning referral systems are being scaled-up noting that protection and GBV referral pathways should be activated as soon as possible in any shelter reception areas that will receive displaced persons to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence. Humanitarian assistance should ensure affected populations are protected against the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse as people are extremely vulnerable. Psychosocial support and referrals to multi-sectoral emergency services. UNHCR developed and shared guidance with staff working in community centres, where activities have been redirected to focus on the response to the earthquake. Specific key messages on the earthquake response were developed for staff engaged in child protection, prevention and response to gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, support to persons with disabilities and elderly people, and psychosocial first aid. All 17 UNHCR-supported community centres in Homs and Hama Governorates are operational and offering support to families affected by the earthquake.

One of six child protection centres reopened in Aleppo city and is delivering psychological first aid and protection from abuse (PFA). Sector partners have also deployed mobile teams to complement the services. Ten child protection centers in the rural areas require structural integrity and safety assessments.

UNFPA is providing GBV response services through 9 Women and Girls Safe Spaces, 15 RH clinics and 27 mobile teams to respond to the SRH needs of women and girls and mitigate the health and emotional consequences of GBV. GBV services include basic psychosocial support, psychological first aid, case management and awareness raising activities

UNHCR developed and shared guidance with staff working in community centres, where activities have been redirected to focus on the response to the earthquake. Specific key messages on the earthquake response were developed for staff engaged in child protection, prevention and response to gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, support to persons with disabilities and elderly people, and psychosocial first aid.

Logistics cluster

The Logistics Cluster (LC) is working with partners to identify the possible gaps in the aftermath of the earthquake. The LC has emergency stocks that could be deployed to partners. Current stock level are four mobile storage units in Aleppo and two in Homs. The LC has pallets that could be used to support partners.

Early Recovery and Livelihoods

Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector partners are providing support to the ongoing structural integrity and safety assessments on basic infrastructure including electricity and water infrastructure and installations, that are being conducted by technical committees set up by local authorities in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia. In addition to assessments of the debris removal related needs in the affected areas as well as needs assessments to inform other response programmes including cash assistance.

Immediate needs – high-level key advocacy points:

- New resources are urgently needed, however reduced funding is severely affecting operational capacity and ability to respond to any additional/emerging crises. Additional supplies are urgently required, in particular trauma and surgical supplies, prosthetics and assistive devices, basic first aid kits.
- All modalities approach, including cross-border and cross-line
- Supplies: Additional trauma and surgical supplies, prosthetics, and assistive devices, basic first aid kits.
- Facilitated entry and distribution of medicines, supplies, equipment, and surge support staff
- Continuity of health care services, especially for women, children, elderly, persons with NCDs
- Fuel for re-deployment of health workers, ambulance transport, search, and rescue, etc.
- Support partners to ensure supply of sufficient safe water
- Essential needs for the immediate response include: RH medical supplies, menstrual hygiene materials, winterised dignity kits, blankets, newborn items, winter clothing, and food. Fuel is also urgently needed to ensure continuation of critical service provision, particularly in health facilities.

Ö Syrian Humanitarian Fund

Total pledged amounts: **\$1,379,086** (\$1,043,841 by Switzerland and \$335,245 by Japan).

Total amounts in the pipeline: **\$10,972,312** (\$2,178,649 by the Netherlands, \$3,347,040 by Sweden, and \$5,446,623 by Germany).

Funding update

Carry over from 2022: **\$5.94 million**

Available funds: \$5.94 million

Pledges in 2023: \$1.4 million

Allocations in 2023: \$0 million

Contributions in 2023: **\$0 million**



As the number of cases of injuries is increasing, UNRWA continues to provide essential health, psychological and social services to the families that have been impacted by the earthquake in Neirab Camp in Aleppo. UNRWA's mobile clinic also continues to provide medicines and clinical advice as well as telemedicine for people with a disability and the elderly. Psychosocial support are provided to children in the school. UNRWA has coordinated with the local authorities to ensure the safety of drinking water in the camp and access to emergency hospital services.