# UNHCR Syria Flash Update #2

## Emergency Response to Earthquake

**7 February 2023 /** Updated as of 16.00 hrs

UNHCR emergency core relief items arrive in Hama on 7 February. ©UNHCR/R. AlKoukou

**Over 2,300**
**People killed or injured in Syria according to the Syrian Ministry of Health**

**1,440**
**UNHCR core relief item kits were released to partners for distribution**

**Core relief item kits are being distributed in**
**Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Tartous**

## Update on Developments

- Preliminary assessments indicate that Aleppo has been the most impacted area within Government-controlled parts of Syria, although Hama, Latakia, Tartous and Idleb are also affected. The death toll is expected to continue to rise, as is the structural damage to buildings. Many buildings in the affected areas were already damaged during the crisis and could collapse following the additional damage caused by the earthquake.

- As of 7 February, the Syrian Health Ministry reported that at least 812 people were killed as a result of the earthquake across the Government-controlled areas of Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Tartous Governorates. The Ministry estimates that more than 1,500 people are injured.

- This new emergency is compounding suffering in a country already devastated by 12 years of crisis. The region also continues to witness extremely cold temperatures, complicating response efforts.

# UNHCR Capacity and Emergency Response

## Core relief items

- UNHCR has 30,000 core relief item (CRI) kits[1] in stock in Aleppo, Homs and Tartous that can be used for the response in the most impacted locations.
- CRIs are already being released to partners for distribution. As of 7 February, UNHCR had released CRI kits for distribution to 1,440 affected families (500 families in Aleppo, 440 families in Tartous, 200 families in Latakia and 300 families in Hama). Additional CRI kits will be released in the coming hours.
- UNHCR also plans to distribute available winter jackets and clothing kits. UNHCR is ensuring that Aleppo, Homs and Tartous each have at least 10,000 winter jackets/clothing kits in stock.

UNHCR emergency core relief items arrived in Latakia on 7 February. © UNHCR Syria

## Shelter

- UNHCR has 19,900 tents available in stock in Damascus, which can be deployed to affected areas.
- In addition, UNHCR has Rubb halls (large tents) which can be used for reception areas or collective shelters if requested. Moving these items from Damascus to any other warehouse will take an estimated 24 hours.
- UNHCR staff in the field are fully engaged in inter-agency needs assessments for shelter support which are still ongoing in Aleppo, Hama and Latakia/Tartous. So far, UNHCR has provided two generators with floodlights to support relief activities in Latakia during the night.

## Protection

- UNHCR plans to redirect all non-essential activities in its community centres and community-based structures (including outreach volunteers and mobile teams) to focus on the earthquake emergency response. This will include identification and prioritization of needs in affected areas and referrals.
- As of January 2023, UNHCR Syria was supporting 119 operational community/ satellite centres across the country. In addition, UNHCR is supporting 111 mobile units linked with 2,600 outreach volunteers across the 14 Syrian governorates.
- However, as of 7 February, only 10 out of 31 UNHCR-supported community centres in Aleppo Governorate were operational. Some centres are temporarily closed because staff are unable to report to work and/or because the buildings sustained structural damage. UNHCR is reviewing these issues on a case-by-case basis.
- Resources are also being redirected to ensure sufficient psychosocial support for affected persons with a particular attention to the most vulnerable including but not limited to children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.
- UNHCR, in coordination with the Protection Sector, is ensuring that protection considerations are reflected across sectors in the response, particularly in relation to gender-based violence and child protection.

[1] A CRI kit includes the following items: high-thermal blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, jerry cans and sleeping mats.

## Preliminary Overview of the Situation

### Aleppo Governorate

- Infrastructure and living conditions were poor before the earthquake, and local capacity to respond is limited. Search and rescue efforts are being hampered by the lack of equipment. Government authorities have called for support from the private sector.
- A total of 50 buildings collapsed and an unspecified number of buildings sustained damages. Dozens of people have reportedly been registered as missing by their relatives. Damage to infrastructure has been widely reported across the Governorate.
- The Aleppo sub-relief committee has designated temporary shelters for affected families. Mosques and other common areas are being explored as options for temporary accommodation.

### Homs/Hama Governorates

- The main impacted areas are Hama city and north rural Hama Governorate. In Hama, three high rise buildings reportedly collapsed and dozens of people are reportedly still missing.
- Civilians who have been evacuated from their homes have been asked to move to two locations within Hama city designated by the authorities as temporary collective shelters. Additional options for collective shelters are being assessed.
- Seven collective high-water tanks reportedly collapsed while five others were damaged as a result of the earthquake.
- No significant damage has been reported in Homs city although a partially damaged unoccupied building reportedly collapsed in Al-Qusayr (Homs Governorate).

### Idleb Governorate

- In south Idleb Governorate, reports indicate that several uninhabited buildings collapsed but no casualties have been confirmed.

### Tartous/Latakia Governorates

- Latakia is significantly more affected than Tartous, and preliminary information suggests the collapse of 53 buildings with others partially damaged. Rescue efforts are ongoing. Dozens of people have also been reported missing. Four temporary shelters have been designated in Latakia city. There are also reports of structural damage to water reservoirs and tanks.
- In Tartous 40 buildings in Banyas reportedly sustained structural damages and three buildings collapsed in Tartous. Reports also indicate that hundreds of families have moved from Banyas to the neighbouring villages. Two schools in Tartous reportedly sustained some structural damages.
- Local authorities have deployed debris removal equipment and ambulances.
- Partners reported that there are over 30 collective shelters with potential to host people affected by the earthquake.

For additional information, please refer to: Syrian Arab Republic - Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Coordinated Response Flash Update #1 - Earthquake (6 February 2023) and Flash Update #2 (7 February)

## Impact on UNHCR Staff and Premises

- All UNHCR Syria staff country-wide were safe and accounted for as of 6 February morning.
- The UN Hub where colleagues live and work from in Aleppo city appears to have sustained damage, and UN staff are working from home to allow time for a damage assessment.

**CONTACT:** UNHCR Syria

Email: SYRDAREPORTING@unhcr.org

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