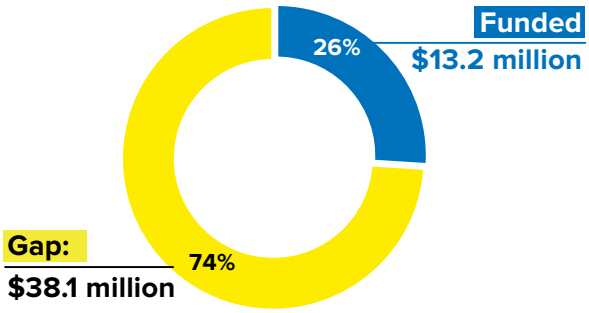
WHOLE OF SYRIA
Earthquake Emergency Response - Update #7

29 March 2023

UNHCR' partner WATAN installs tents/distributes CRI kits to people affected by the earthquake in Jisr-Ash-Shugur district, Idleb Governorate. So far 391 tents have been installed and 147 CRIs kits distributed in this community. Photo © WATAN

$51.3 million

UNHCR's financial requirements for the earthquake emergency response in Syria, **targeting 385,000 individuals**



8.8 million
people are affected by the earthquake in Syria

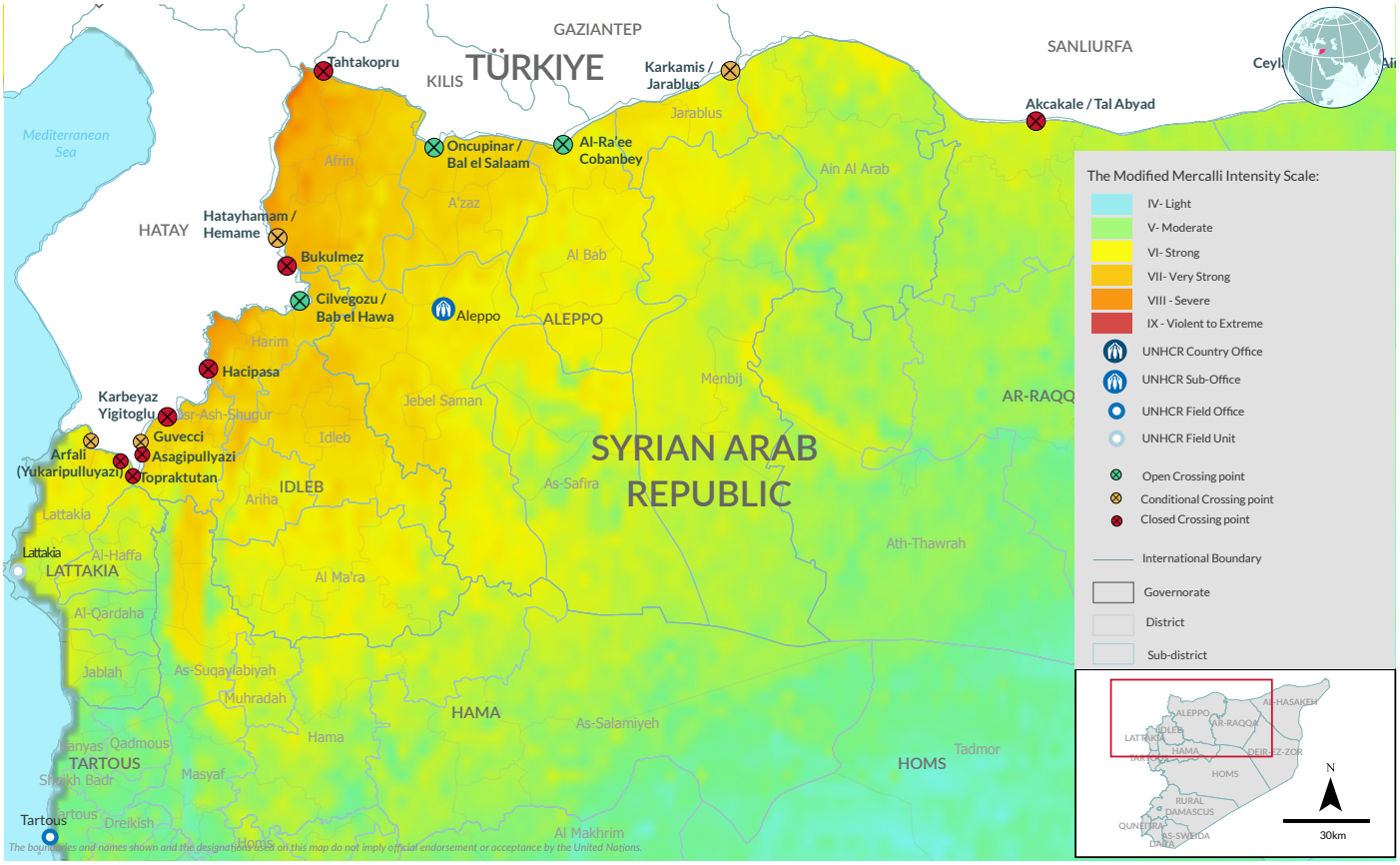
611,110
protection interventions carried out

217,265
people reached with core relief items (CRI) kits[1]

37,045
people reached with tents distributed in north-west Syria

[1] *A core relief items (CRI) kit includes high-thermal blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, jerry cans, solar lamps and sleeping mats.*

Earthquake affected areas



Key Developments

- In Syria, an estimated 8.8 million individuals have been affected by the devastating earthquakes in February. Over **1,400 deaths and 2,350 injuries** have been reported by the Syrian Ministry of Health. According to UN reports, as the earthquake response entered its seventh-week, mental health needs continue to increase, with mental health and psychosocial support being reported as the most needed service among earthquake-affected families.

- Partners continue to provide assistance to people affected by floods caused by intense rainfall from 17-20 March. At least 52 internally displaced people (IDP) sites are affected, with floods destroying or damaging more than 2,100 tents sheltering some 10,500 IDPs. The most urgent needs include replacing destroyed tents and basic items and providing food assistance.

- Since 14 March, 100,000 people in earthquake-affected areas have benefitted from the removal of 6,050 cubic meters of debris (out of 10,000 cubic meters planed) following damage caused by the earthquakes.

- On 28 March UNHCR joined an interagency mission to Ariha and Jisr-Ash-Shugur districts, Idleb Governorate to meet with families affected by the earthquake, monitor assistance received and assess additional needs.

UNHCR Emergency Response

Syrian Arab Republic

In Syria, UNHCR is leading the Protection and SNFI Sectors and working in close coordination with other sectors to effectively assist families affected by the earthquakes. Since the onset of the emergency, UNHCR and its partners have been providing protection services, core relief items and shelter support to thousands of families staying at collective shelters and hosted by local communities, particularly the most vulnerable such as female-headed households, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

Protection

In Latakia, UNHCR and partners conducted four recreational sessions and 20 awareness sessions on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in eight collective shelters during the reporting period. Activities reached more than 300 affected individuals affected by the earthquakes, including elderly persons and persons with disabilities, and focused on how to manage emotions and post-traumatic disorders.

In Aleppo, UNHCR and partners have provided case management sessions to over 1,200 children since the beginning of the earthquake response and approximately 370 children facing protections risks have been referred to specialized services, including psychosocial support, gender-based violence and health services. In addition, UNHCR and partners have reached a total of 31,990 individuals through key messages and awareness sessions on prevention against sexual exploitation and abuse, including information on available feedback and complaint mechanisms inside and outside of the collective shelters. On “World Down Syndrome Day”, UNHCR and partners implemented activities in community centres including awareness sessions on the rights of children with disabilities and recreational activities. Since the beginning of the earthquake response,

In response to a lice outbreak in a collective shelter activated in Aleppo following the earthquake, UNHCR’s partner raised awareness on lice treatment and prevention, provided personal hygiene kits, and supported the community to organize transportation from the collective shelter to a private bath facility. The initiative has benefitted 150 individuals so far.

Since the beginning of the earthquake emergency response, the UNHCR-led **Protection Sector** and its partners have carried out around 533,600 protection interventions, mainly in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous and Hama. Out of these emergency interventions, 44% were related to child protection activities; 38% to gender-based violence activities, and 18% to general protection activities, including legal support for civil documentation and housing, land, and property issues, mental health and psychosocial support, monitoring, referral and case management, and individual protection assistance to people with disabilities and older persons.

Additional information is available in the Protection Sector’s latest update.

Shelter and core relief items

As of 28 March, UNHCR had distributed approximately 35,250 core relief item kits reaching a total of 168,600 affected individuals in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama and south Idleb Governorates. UNHCR has also distributed some 120,000 relief items to affected families, including winter jackets, winter clothing kits, rubber boots and adult diapers. Relief items are being released regularly from UNHCR warehouses in Aleppo, Tartous and Homs for distribution to affected families.

UNHCR and partners continue to distribute much needed relief items to affected families in rural Damascus. Photo: ©UNHCR/O. Kabalan

UNHCR and partners are conducting rehabilitation works in collective shelters of Aleppo Governorate, ensuring protection standards are in place. Photo: ©UNHCR/H. Maarouf

As of 28 March, the number of collective shelters in Aleppo Governorate has decreased from 100 to 77, hosting approximately 9,070 families (40,100 individuals). There are currently 15 collective shelters operational in Hama Governorate, accommodating around 450 families (1,830 individuals) while in Homs, almost 70 families (300 individuals) are residing in the two collective shelters in the governorate. UNHCR's partner also reported that 225 families have left some urban areas in Homs and returned to their areas of origin in Aleppo and Latakia.

Meanwhile, 19 collective shelters are currently operational in Latakia Governorate, hosting some 1,300 of the 80,000 families (367,500) affected by the earthquakes. According to Latakia operations room, approximately 20,000 buildings are in need of renovation and 6,300 in need of reinforcement.

In Aleppo Governorate, UNHCR-led **Shelter and Non-Food Item Sector** members are rehabilitating mid-term collective shelters. UNHCR and a partner will complete the adaptation works of the first collective shelter by the end of this week, aiming to accommodate approximately 50 earthquake-affected families (250 individuals). Furthermore, UNHCR and partners will conduct rehabilitation works in four other collective shelters, promoting protection mainstreaming through, for instance, the installation of partitions to enhance the privacy and dignity of affected population.

North-west Syria

UNHCR is providing direct assistance through its partners in north-west Syria and leads the Protection, Shelter/NFI and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters in close partnership with the Humanitarian Liaison Group, local and international NGOs, and the Whole of Syria coordination structure.

UNHCR' partner WATAN installs tents/distributes CRI kits to people affected by the earthquake in Jisr-Ash-Shugur district, Idleb Governorate. So far 391 tents have been installed and 147 CRIs kits distributed in this community.
Photo © WATAN

Protection

UNHCR partners continue to conduct outreach activities and work in community centres, communal shelters and through mobile teams. During the reporting period, 993 individuals were reached with community-based protection services and 7,492 individuals were reached with protection interventions. Since 9 February, UNHCR and partners have carried out more than **77,500 protection interventions**, which include psychological first aid, psychosocial support, awareness-raising activities on GBV prevention, case management and referrals to basic and specialized services, child protection activities, and legal counseling and awareness-raising activities on civil status documentation and housing land and property rights.

The Protection Cluster has been analysing the initial findings of its rapid needs assessment in 32 sites most affected by the recent floods. Pregnant and lactating women, and people with chronic illnesses are the most affected vulnerable groups. Loss of property, homelessness and lack of access to basic services were indicated as the most relevant protection issues and needs. The Protection Cluster is working with partners to improve identification and referral mechanisms for missing persons, which also emerged from this needs assessment.

Protection Cluster partners provided services to 223,418 persons during the last week mainly focusing on legal awareness and counselling, awareness raising activities, capacity building, case management session, cash assistance for protection, and psychosocial support sessions.

Shelter and core relief items

Over 1,000 trucks of humanitarian aid provided by six UN agencies have crossed the Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salam and Al-Ra'ee border-crossings since the earthquake, of which UNHCR has sent 132 trucks with 13,000 CRI kits, 8,700 tents and 850 Refugee Housing Units. These have assisted more than 48,000 people in need.

Delivered

13,000 CRI Kits

8,700 tents

8 Rubb halls*

850 RHU**

** Large tent*
***Refugee Housing Unit*

Status	Crossing point	CRI Kits	Tents	Rubb halls	RHUs
Delivered	Al Ra'ee	1,250			
Delivered	Bab Al-Hawa	7,750	6,500	8	850
Delivered	Bab Al-Salam	4,000	2,200		
Upcoming 30 March	Bab Al-Salam		1,000		150
Upcoming 4 April	Bab Al-Salam	1,000			
Upcoming 5 April	Bab Al-Hawa	2,500			

Assistance distribution as of 14 March:

Tents 7,409 distributed
37,045 individuals reached

CRI Kits 9,733 distributed
48,665 individuals reached

Since 6 February, UNHCR partners have installed **7,409 tents**, and distributed **9,733 CRI kits**, and additional deliveries of assistance is in the pipelineThe distribution of assistance is fully coordinated with the Shelter/NFI Cluster.

Shelter/NFI Cluster members, led by UNHCR, are responding to the earthquake emergency and the floods with emergency shelter and CRIs in affected communities, reception centres, existing camps and collective centres. As of 27 March, Shelter/NFI Cluster members have distributed CRI kits to over 191,500 individuals and tents to over 91,800 individuals. Around 16,770 individuals have been reached with the provision of emergency shelter kits.

While a comprehensive coordinated damage assessment is needed, a gap analysis focusing on remaining emergency needs for temporary shelter and relief items shows that 54,000 individuals are still in need of emergency shelter and CRIs, at least some 855,000 individuals have damaged homes, and at least 265,000 individuals displaced by the earthquake need a dignified shelter. The Shelter/NFI Cluster plans to target around 25% of the people affected by the earthquake (260,000 individuals) with longer-term shelter interventions in the coming months.

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Camp coordination and camp management

In the month of February alone, the **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster** tracked more than 108,900 displacements,[1] of which almost all were because of the devastating earthquake.[2] By way of comparison, the total number of displacements for the entire year 2022, was 126,000 persons.

Many of the displaced families report fears of returning home, even when damage to their homes have been repaired. At the same time, the CCCM Cluster tracked that over 17,500 IDPs have returned to their place of origin within north-west Syria.

The CCCM Cluster is leading the process of drafting a roadmap for the response in reception and collective centres established in response to the earthquakes. In close collaboration with other clusters, the CCCM Cluster has created a Multisector Reception and Collective Centre Indicator Checklist to guide a coordinated humanitarian response in these centres. Findings show that nine sites are classfied as "severe" and all are located in Aleppo governorate. Of these nine, six can be found in Jandairis sub-district.

[1] *This figure reflects the number of movements due to the earthquake, noting that individuals may have been exposed to multiple displacement, and that the reasons for moving may vary.*
[2] *Most displacements originated from Jandairis and Afrin in Aleppo governorate (58%) and Salqin and Harim sub-districts in Idleb governorate (24%). The top sub-districts of arrival were Salqin and Dana (24%) in Idleb governorate and Afrin and Jandairis (14%) in Aleppo governorate.*

Donors

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the earthquake response, with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds as well as those who have provided earmarked contributions.

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