

UNHCR Syria Flash Update #8

Emergency Response to the Earthquake

14 February 2023 / Updated as of 16:00 hrs

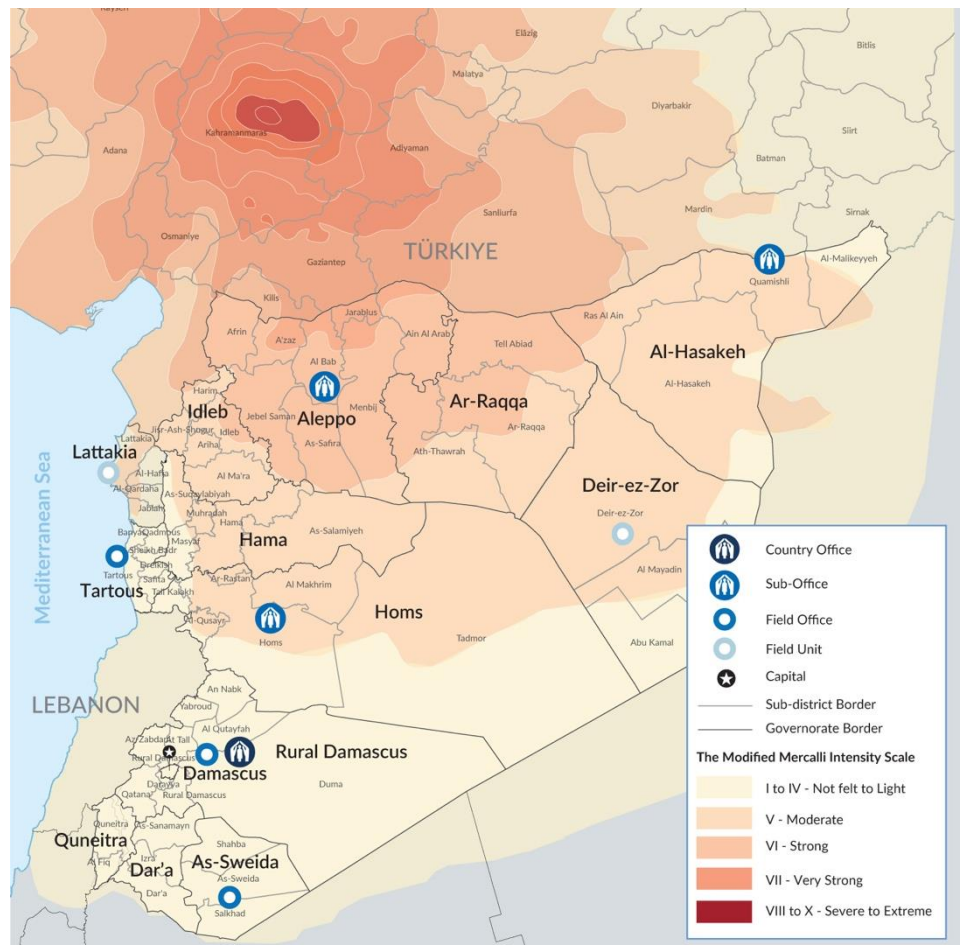


UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Kelly T. Clements visits areas impacted by the earthquake in Aleppo. ©UNHCR/H. Maarouf

7.2 million
people are affected by the earthquake in areas coordinated by the Syria Humanitarian Country Team

57,000
People have so far benefited from protection services by UNHCR and partners in Aleppo

Distribution of core relief items continue in Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Tartous





Overview of Developments

- On 14 February, the UN published an [inter-agency flash appeal on the earthquake situation](#), covering the Syrian Arab Republic's main humanitarian needs. The appeal **targets 4.9 million people** out of **8.8 million people affected** by the earthquake.
- During his mission to Aleppo on 13 February, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths [met](#) with UN and NGO staff, families affected by the earthquake and search and rescue groups leading the earthquake response.
- On 13 February, the UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Kelly T. Clements visited some of the areas most affected by the earthquake in Aleppo, including collective shelters and a community centre, to oversee the response by UNHCR and partners.
- United Nations Secretary General António Guterres [welcomed](#) the decision by the Syrian President to open the two crossing points of Bab Al-Salam and Al Ra'ee from Türkiye to north-west Syria for an initial period of three months. The opening of these crossing points will allow the timely delivery of humanitarian aid to those affected by the earthquake.

UNHCR Emergency Response



Core relief items

- Core relief items (CRIs) are being released by UNHCR to partners for distribution. As of 13 February, UNHCR had released 25,700 CRI kits¹ for distribution to affected families in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama and south Idlib Governorates. Distribution of these CRIs is ongoing.
- UNHCR has also released 17,800 winter jackets and 7,900 winter clothing kits from its warehouses in Aleppo, Tartous and Homs for distribution to affected families. In addition, almost 41,200 adult diapers, critical for thousands of elderly persons and persons with disabilities, were released for distribution.
- By 13 February, 10 out of 11 civil registry offices in Aleppo had resumed their activities. However, some of the civil registry offices need light repairs to ensure their full operational capacity.
- A total of 3,790 people from Aleppo city have been newly displaced to five sub-districts in rural Aleppo. Mobile teams and community centres are supporting displaced families with protection and referral services. While the needs remain massive and in great part unmet, UNHCR partners have assisted thus far a total of 1,300 families (approximately 6,500 people) in rural areas of Aleppo.
- UNHCR continues to undertake field response monitoring assessments, with 29 collective shelters assessed to date. Shelter remains amongst the main critical needs within displaced families, as many of those families are currently staying in open areas or seeking accommodation in damaged buildings.

Situation Updates

Aleppo Governorate

- Since the beginning of the earthquake emergency response, UNHCR and partners have provided protection services to over 57,000 people in Aleppo.

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

Ar-Raqqa Governorate

- UNHCR, partners and local authorities assessed the impact of the earthquake on the communities and infrastructures in Ar-Raqqa Governorate. UNHCR's partners confirmed that, compared to other affected areas, Ar-Raqqa Governorate presents less damages to buildings. However, the impact was clearly felt on the community, mostly because of the many years of trauma caused by war and displacement.
- UNHCR has dispatched 10 large-sized tents to accommodate people affected by the earthquake. Once the tents reach their destination, they will be installed in coordination with the local authorities and UNHCR partner.

Homs/Hama Governorates

- UNHCR partner assessed the needs of affected families in Hama and Rural Hama, with psychological first aid being provided to more than 50 people living in collective shelters.
- As of 13 February, 110 families (640 individuals) in rural Hama who have been affected by the earthquake have been identified and assessed. UNHCR partners started case management activities across affected areas, including psychological first aid sessions and psychosocial counselling.

Southern Governorates:

- On 13 February, UNHCR and its partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) conducted a field mission to Ora and Qaryat communities, in Sweida Governorate, where displaced families from Governorates impacted by the earthquake, including Aleppo and Idlib, have reportedly arrived.
- The displaced families are temporarily staying with relatives who were previously displaced to Sweida, and reported pressing needs of CRIs, sanitary napkins, batteries, and fuel for heating.
- UNHCR partners and other humanitarian agencies supported displaced families with emergency kits containing food items,

blankets, solar lamps, mattresses, and diapers for children.

- The UNHCR-supported community centre in Ora village in Sweida Governorate is providing psychosocial support to children at risk, and outreach volunteers are delivering assistance to displaced families.

Tartous/Latakia Governorates:

- UNHCR partners identified 340 newly displaced families including 18 children in Raas Al-Basei.
- UNHCR's partner SARC assisted over 810 families in different locations of Latakia city and rural areas. Meanwhile, UNHCR and partners continued assessing and identifying the legal needs in shelters and affected areas.
- In Latakia, a total of 200 people attended awareness sessions on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) through UNHCR's partner. Hotline numbers were shared to report incidents.

For additional information on the situation, please refer to: [Syrian Arab Republic - Humanitarian Country Team \(HCT\) Coordinated Response Flash Update #8 - Earthquake \(As of 13 February 2023\)](#) and [Syria HCT: Protection Sector Earthquake Update: February 14, 2023](#)

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