

UNHCR Syria Flash Update #10

Emergency Response to the Earthquake

16 February 2023 / Updated as of 16:00 hrs

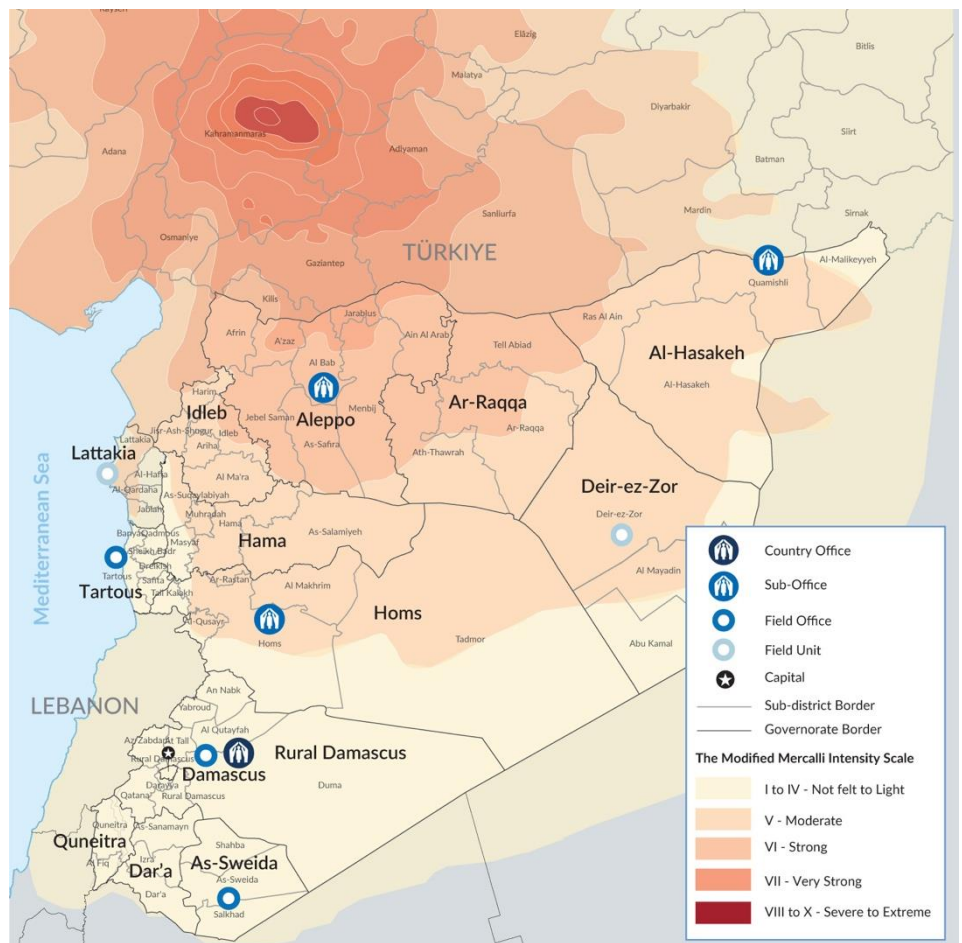


Core relief items distribution in school that is being used as a collective shelter in Aleppo. ©UNHCR/H. Maarouf

8.8 million
people are affected by the earthquake in Syrian Arab Republic

30,200
core relief item kits have been released by UNHCR for distribution to affected families

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





Overview of Developments

- On 16 February, UNHCR released its [Syria and Türkiye Earthquake Emergency Supplementary Appeal](#) covering a period of three months. At least 8.8 million people have been affected by the earthquake in the Syrian Arab Republic, with the majority anticipated to need some form of humanitarian assistance. UNHCR Syria's appeal of US\$ 51.3 million, including the cross-border operation aims to assist 385,000 individuals with protection and access to social services; psychosocial support and counselling; relief items; emergency shelter; cash and in-kind assistance.
- The humanitarian situation has [significantly worsened](#) post-earthquake. As of 15 February, over 9,000 buildings have been completely or partially destroyed in the north-west, rendering people homeless. To date, UNHCR has contributed 4,500 CRI kits and 2,200 tents into [north-west Syria](#).

UNHCR Emergency Response



Core relief items

- Core relief items (CRIs) are being released by UNHCR to partners for distribution. As of 16 February, UNHCR had released 30,200 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 25,800 winter jackets and 11,400 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.



Protection

- [UNHCR and its partners](#) continue providing protection assistance, including case management, psychosocial support, child protection, assistance to gender-based violence survivors, legal and outreach activities to the affected communities in Aleppo, Hama, Homs and the coastal area.
- The [protection assessments](#) are ongoing in affected areas, including at collective shelters of Aleppo and Latakia, and have

confirmed high levels of distress among children and families.

- On 16 February, the Protection Sector, led by UNHCR, issued guidelines on [Protection Mainstreaming Key Elements & Safe Distributions](#), focusing on reducing protection risks during in-kind distributions. This is particularly important as there are reports of incidents, including gender-based violence, taking place during distributions.

Situation Updates

Aleppo Governorate

- As of 16 February, UNHCR and its partners have provided protection services to over 75,000 people in Aleppo. UNHCR is also disseminating information on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and available feedback and complaint mechanisms.
- A total of 235 collective shelters are currently established in Aleppo, hosting approximately 183,000 affected individuals. UNHCR has supported the implementation of the inter-sector assessment in 173 collective shelters, aiming to have a clearer overview of the protection situation in the collective shelters.
- Out of 31 UNHCR-supported community centres in Aleppo, three additional centres

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

that had previously been closed have re-opened. In contrast, one active centre has been closed as structural damages were identified, bringing the total number of active centres to 23.

- UNHCR distributed urgent multi-purpose grants to 34 refugee and asylum seeker families affected by the earthquake to support their urgent needs, bringing the total number of people supported to 130 individuals.

Homs/Hama Governorates

- As of 16 February, a total of 280 affected families (1,090 individuals) were identified in Homs. Of these, approximately 270 families arrived from Aleppo, Latakia and Hama and have been accommodated by the local community in Homs city and rural Homs. UNHCR partners are supporting these families with relief items such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps.
- In Hama, UNHCR and its partners have provided relief items to a total of 419 families (2,095 individuals) since the onset of the emergency. Relief items distributed include thermal blankets, mattresses, solar lamps, kitchen sets, jerry cans, jackets and winter clothing.
- UNHCR and its partners are conducting daily assessments to identify the needs of affected families, particularly those residing in the urban areas, either being hosted by local communities or staying in newly rented places.

Tartous/Latakia Governorates:

- On 16 February, according to the National Earthquake Center, another earthquake measuring 4.8 on Richter scale and at 10 Km depth hit the north-west of Latakia Governorate. Damages are still being assessed in the area.
- There are currently 29 collective shelters in Latakia.
- UNHCR and its partners started adaptation works of the biggest collective shelter in Latakia (Sport City). The main planned works are the installation of partitions to provide families with privacy, minor civil works, and the rehabilitation of two WASH facilities.



Ongoing works in a collective shelter in Latakia
©UNHCR/S.Mansoori

- A total number of 1,140 displaced families were identified outside collective shelters. These families fled their damaged houses in Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia and are being hosted by relatives and local communities.
- As part of the response of the mobile teams to the earthquake, a UNHCR partner conducted home visits to 162 newly displaced families in Tartous, Al Mintar, and Bsireh to assess their needs and provide different protection services to 116 affected individuals, including psychosocial support, child protection case management, and mental health specialized referrals.

For additional information on the situation, please refer to: [Syrian Arab Republic - Humanitarian Country Team \(HCT\) Coordinated Response Flash Update #11 - Earthquake \(As of 16 February 2023\)](#); [Syria HCT: Protection Sector Earthquake Update: February 16, 2023](#) and [Flash Appeal: Syrian Arab Republic Earthquake \(February - May 2023\)](#).

DONATE NOW

To donate now, visit giving.unhcr.org/en/sy/

CONTACT: UNHCR Syria
Email: SYRDAREPORTING@unhcr.org

LINKS: [UNHCR Global Focus](#) | [UNHCR Syria Data Portal](#) | [UNHCR Syria Website](#) | [UNHCR Syria Twitter \(@UNHCRinSYRIA\)](#) | [UNHCR Syria Facebook](#)