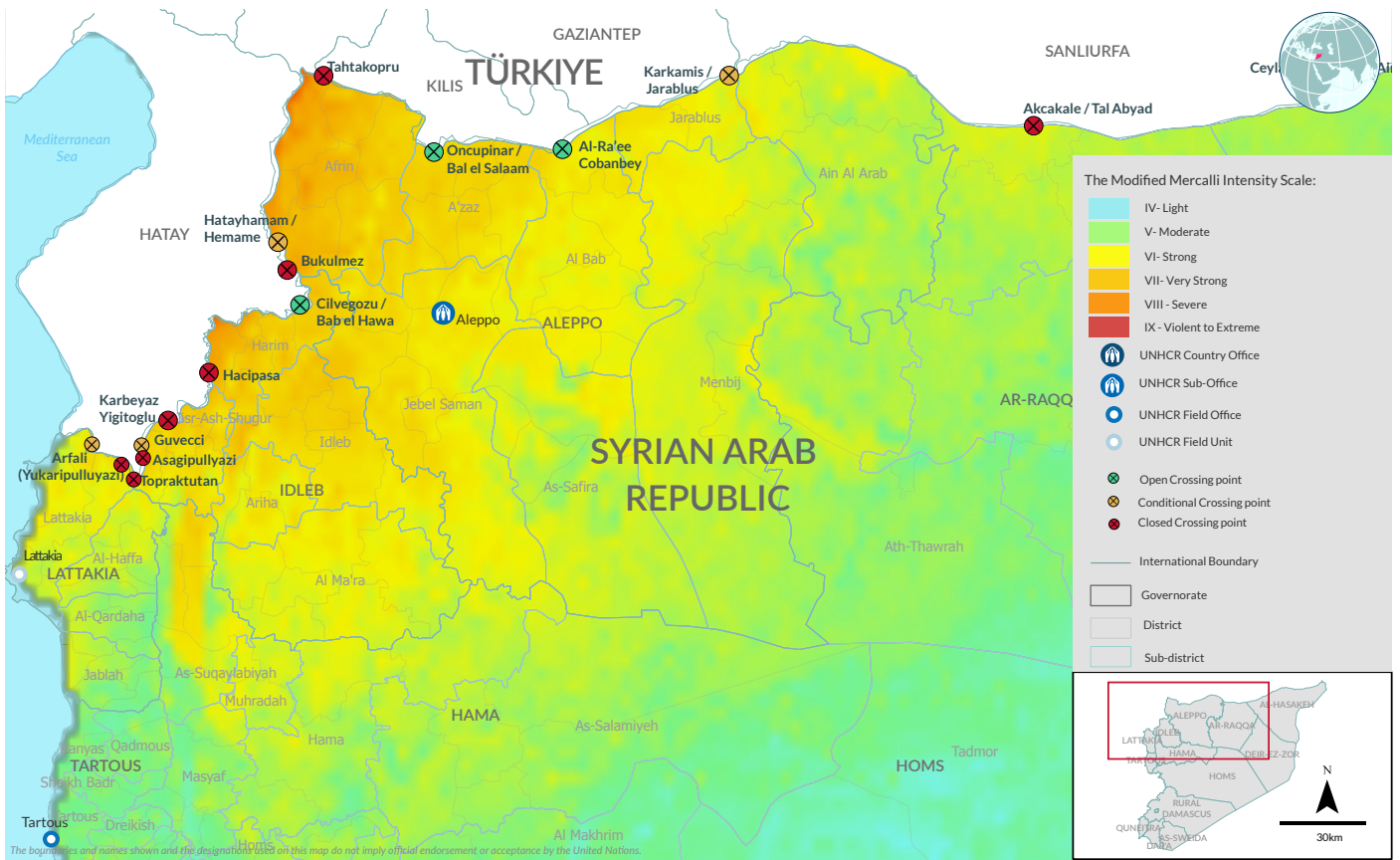




WHOLE OF SYRIA
Emergency Response to the Earthquake
27 February 2023

Earthquake affected areas

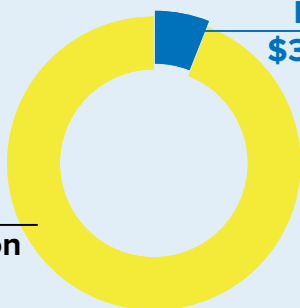


\$51.3 million

UNHCR's financial requirements for the [earthquake emergency response](#) in Syria, **targeting 385,000 individuals**

Funded:
\$3 million
6%

Gap:
\$48.3 million
94%



8.8 million

people are **affected** by the earthquake in Syria



20,256 CRI kits¹

distributed in the whole of Syria, reaching **101,280** people



131,227

people reached with protection services in the whole of Syria



3,382 tents

distributed in north-west Syria, reaching **16,910** people

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

Overview of Developments

In Syria, UNHCR is leading the coordination of Shelter, Non-Food Item and Protection sectors and working in close coordination with other sectors. An estimated 15.3 million people were already in need of humanitarian assistance across the country prior to the earthquake. Over 1,400 deaths and 2,350 injuries were reported by the Syrian Ministry of Health. The UN estimates that at least 50,000 families have been displaced in Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Latakia. Extensive infrastructure damage has been recorded in the areas affected by the earthquake, with many buildings already damaged during the last 12 years of crisis.

Since the onset of the emergency, UNHCR and its partners have been providing support to the people affected by the earthquakes, particularly those most vulnerable such as female-headed households, elderly people and people with disabilities. As part of its emergency response, UNHCR has been continuously releasing core relief items from its warehouses for distribution, conducting need assessments and providing psychological first aid and case management services in collaboration with sector members, partners and authorities. In addition, UNHCR's existing community-based structures, including UNHCR-supported community centres and outreach volunteers, are supporting needs assessments and assistance delivery both inside and outside of collective shelters.

The earthquake heavily impacted north-west Syria (NWS), a region where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance, the majority of whom are women and children. Over 4,500 deaths and 8,700 injuries have been reported according to the Health cluster, mainly in the districts of Harim, Afrin and Jebel Saman, with numbers expected to rise. The earthquakes have affected at least 96 communities and 35 sub-districts in NWS; more than 10,000 buildings have been partially or completely destroyed, leaving over 11,000 people homeless². Following the earthquakes with epicentre in Türkiye on 20 February, almost 150 additional injuries have been reported in NWS.

UNHCR Emergency Response

Response in Syria

In Syria, UNHCR is leading the coordination of Shelter, Non-Food Item and Protection sectors and working in close coordination with other sectors. Since the onset of the emergency, UNHCR and its partners have been providing support to the people affected by the earthquakes, particularly those most vulnerable such as female-headed households, elderly people and people with disabilities.

Protection

The UNHCR-led Protection Sector conducted a [rapid protection assessment](#) from 9 to 15 February and reported overcrowding as the most common issue in collective shelters. In many shelters, several families are sharing the same space without the necessary arrangements to guarantee sufficient levels of privacy and safety, which increases risks of harassment and violence. Protection Sector partners reported the same risks at food/core relief item distribution points. Older people, people with disabilities, and women and girls face more significant challenges under such circumstances.

The Protection Sector [reported](#) that psychological distress in adults has translated into signs of excessive worrying and fear, nightmares, insomnia, and disorientation, while children are exhibiting unusual crying, having nightmares, afraid of loud noises and scared to return to their homes. In Aleppo, 300 people reportedly approached hospitals with signs of panic attacks following the 20 February aftershock.



UNHCR and partners continue to provide protection services, including awareness sessions on child protection and gender-based violence, referral of people in need to case management services, psychosocial support and psychological first aid. In total, UNHCR has reached **102,000 individuals** in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Homs, Hama and southern Governorates with protection services since the earthquake on 6 February.

² OCHA Türkiye – Daily Update – 27 February 2023



Core relief items

Core relief items (CRIs) are being released by UNHCR to partners for distribution. As of 24 February, UNHCR had released **31,700 CRI kits**² for distribution to affected families in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama and south Idlib Governorates. Distribution of these CRIs is ongoing.

UNHCR has also released **37,800 winter jackets** and **17,400 winter clothing kits** from its warehouses in Aleppo, Tartous and Homs for distribution to affected families. In addition, almost **251,200 adult diapers**, critical for thousands of elderly persons and persons with disabilities, were released for distribution.



Shelter

As of 21 February, a total of **147 collective shelters** were operational in **Aleppo**, including 77 schools and 16 mosques. This number is changing as several collective shelters have been closed and then re-opened in other locations based on needs. Following the 6.4 magnitude aftershock on 20 February, additional mosques and schools were temporarily reopened for newly displaced people.

There are **12 collective shelters in Hama** to date, where approximately 400 families (1,440 individuals) sought shelter after the earthquake. An additional 1,150 individuals affected by the earthquake are staying outside collective shelters in Hama, being hosted by local communities or relatives.

The Shelter and Non-Food Item Sector reported that nearly 1,470 families (an estimated 7,350 individuals) are taking shelter in 29 collective shelters in **Latakia and Tartous**.

Following reports from the Shelter and Non-Food Item Sector, among a total of 22,100 buildings assessed in Latakia and Tartous, almost 14,000 need reinforcement or moderate maintenance.

Cross-border response in north-west Syria

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

Since the Government of Syria accepted that UN staff can cross into NWS from Gaziantep, four interagency missions have been organized to meet with local officials, NGOs and the community. UNHCR has so far joined all missions.

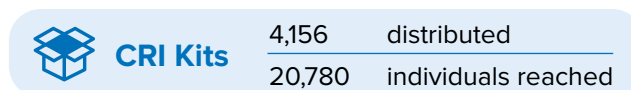
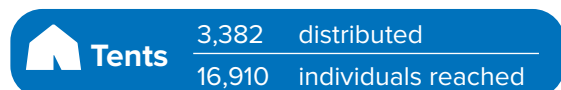
Shelter and Core relief items

385 trucks loaded with aid provided by six UN agencies have crossed the Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salam and Al-Ra'ee border-crossings since the earthquake. UNHCR has participated in seven convoys to date:

Date	Crossing point	UNHCR trucks	CRI Kits	Tents	Rubb halls*
11 February	Bab Al-Hawa	12	2,000		
14 February	Bab Al-Hawa	18	2,500	1,000	
16 February	Bab Al-Hawa	2		600	
16 February	Bab Al-Salam	2		600	
21 February	Bab Al-Salam	6	1,000		
22 February	Bab Al-Hawa	3		300	4
23 February	Bab Al-Salam	6	1,000		
Delivered since earthquake		49	6,500	2,500	4

*temporary warehouses

Assistance distribution as of 26 February:



Core relief items shipped from UNHCR's warehouse in Zarqa, Jordan.
 Photo: ©UNHCR

Thanks to stock already prepositioned in NWS, within 48 hours of the first earthquake, UNHCR through partner WATAN, distributed 882 tents in Aleppo and Idleb Governorates, reaching 4,410 individuals. Following the resumption of trans-shipments, on 11 February, UNHCR expanded its delivery of humanitarian assistance to NWS. Between 23 and 26 February, UNHCR's partner WATAN continued to support communities across Aleppo and Idleb with CRI kits and tents; 1,229 CRI kits and 692 tents were distributed. Since 6 February, **3,382 tents** have been installed for 16,910 earthquake-affected persons.³ At the same time, **4,156 CRI kits** have been distributed to 20,780 earthquake-affected persons.⁴

UNHCR through partner WATAN has established **four reception centers** run by local authorities in Ariha (Ariha park), Atarab (Al Snaa school), Atarib (Asl Shamal schools) and Maaret Tamsrin (open area).

Shelter/NFI Cluster members, led by UNHCR, are responding with emergency shelter and NFIs in affected communities, reception centres, existing camps, and collective centres. As of 27 February, Shelter/NFI Cluster members have distributed NFI kits to over 80,000 individuals and tents to over 30,000 individuals. Around 4,700 individuals have been reached with the provision of emergency shelter kits. The main targeted locations were Dana, Maaret Tamsrin and Salqin in Idleb and Jandairis, Atareb, Suran and Azaz sub-districts (in descending order) in Aleppo. Partners have reported an increase in prices for shelter rehabilitation as well as challenges in responding to the huge needs for shelter components, winter items and fuel.

The Shelter/NFI Cluster in collaboration with RedR UK is conducting two online training sessions on Shelter Structural Damage Assessments on 24 and 27 February. The training is a condensed session designed for engineers and technical staff. 24 participants attended the first session that covered how to assess technical parts and components as well as structural damages to ensure safety of buildings.

³ Tents were distributed in Ariha, Armanaz, Atma, Harim, Hassaniyeh – Hatya, Kelly, Maland, Sarmada and Yaqubiyeh communities in Idleb and Afrin, Atareb, Bulbul, Dowaibeq, Fadrah, Jandairis, Kafrantin, Qatoura, Ra'el, Sijraz camp, Suran, and Tuwama communities in Aleppo.

⁴ CRI kits were distributed in Bulbul, Fadrah, Jandairis, Kafrantin and Qatoura in Aleppo, and Armanaz, Armanaz Biret, Azar, Batenta, Darkosh, Foz - Zuf, Idleb, Jdidet Eljlsr, Jlsr-Ash-Shugur, Kherbet Eljoz, Mudiah - Luxin, Qanniyeh, and Salqin communities in Idleb.

 **Protection**

UNHCR's protection partners, Syrian Relief and Development (SRD) and SHAFAK, continue to conduct outreach activities and work inside their community centres, shelter centres and through mobile teams. From 22 to 26 February, a total of **3,951 individuals** have been reached through protection services, such as psychological first aid, psychosocial support, awareness-raising activities on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention by using tools developed by GBV Sub-Cluster, case management and referrals to basic and specialized services, child protection activities, legal counseling on civil status documentation.

From 9 February to 26 February, a total of **29,227 individuals** have been reached. The emergency response efforts have taken place in Al Bab, Atareb, Azaz, Bazagh, Qabasim and Salama in Aleppo, as well as in Atma, Dana, Ehsem, Haranbush, Kafr, Maaret Tamsrin, Takharim and Sarmada, in Idlib.

UNHCR's partners report that targeted areas are overcrowded, limiting the availability of safe spaces where to conduct protection activities. Moreover, the current situation has further impacted the mental wellbeing of the population in NWS; at times, anger and frustration has caused delays in the implementation of activities.

 **Camp Coordination and Camp Management**

The **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster** has [tracked](#) more than 86,500 displacements between 6 and 17 February after the earthquake.⁵ Departures principally occurred from Jandar, followed by Salqin and Harim. The main locations where displaced people arrived included Dana, Salqin and Idlib sub-districts. Displacements are ongoing and the figure is expected to rise dramatically. Establishing reception centres for IDPs and safe spaces for women and girls are priorities. The Cluster continued to receive reports of incidents in IDP sites. Between 23 and 26 February, 27 IDP sites suffered from fire incidents that caused one death and 14 injuries. Tents and IDPs' belongings were destroyed or damaged.

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.

**DONATE NOW**

⁵ This figure reflects the number of movements in February 2023 due to the earthquake, noting that individuals may have been exposed to multiple displacement, and that the reasons for moving may vary.