



WHOLE OF SYRIA
Earthquake Emergency Response - Update #6
22 March 2023

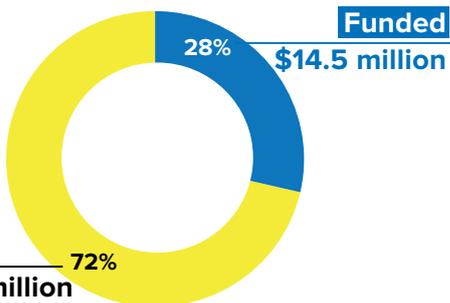


Protection Cluster partners in north-west Syria visit displaced sites in Idleb to identify protection needs and gaps in newly established reception centres and safe spaces for women and girls. Photo © SHAFAK



\$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



452,000
protection interventions carried out



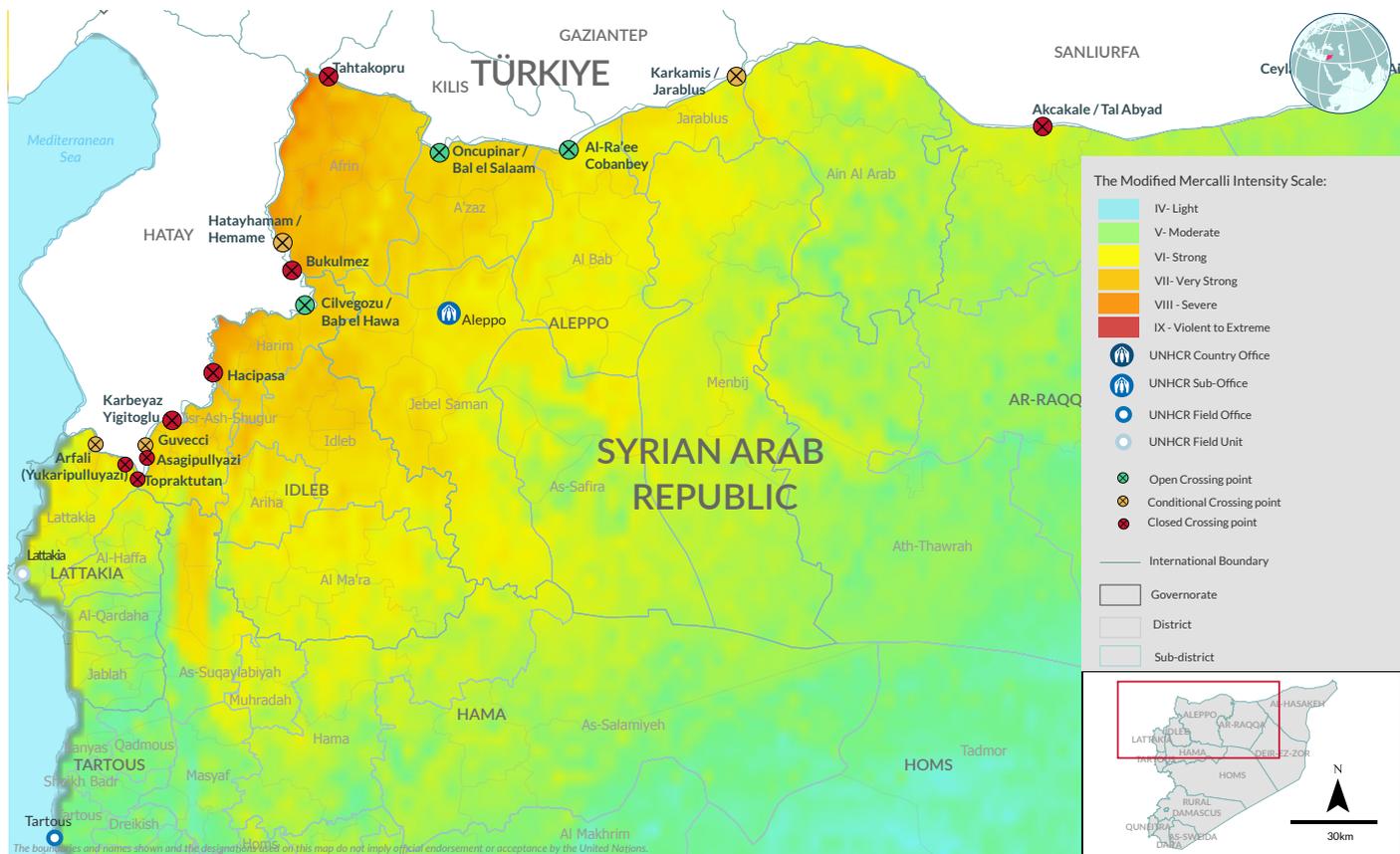
201,700
people reached with core relief items (CRI) kits¹



28,900
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

- As the Syria crisis enters its 12th year, the scale, severity, and complexity of needs across the country remain overwhelming. More than 15 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and an estimated 8.8 million people have been affected by the February earthquakes.
- Intense rainfall from 17-20 March resulted in further damage to earthquake-affected areas. In Syria, at least 42 IDP sites are affected, with floods destroying or damaging more than 1,600 tents sheltering some 7,500 internally displaced people (IDPs). The most urgent needs include replacing destroyed tents and basic items, and providing food assistance. To date, response partners have replaced close to 200 tents and distributed 1,400 CRI kits, 325 plastic sheets and some 1,150 kitchen sets to flood-affected families. Protection partners are increasing services provision and needs assessments are ongoing.
- On 20 March, the international community pledged €7 billion at the [International Donors' Conference for Türkiye and Syria](#), co-hosted by the European Commission and Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. At the conference, UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi alerted to the level of desperation and deprivation faced by the Syrian people and appealed to the international community to continue supporting the earthquake response and help alleviating the immense human suffering in the country. UNHCR is grateful for the ongoing support of its donors to the Syria situation and its earthquake emergency response.

UNHCR Emergency Response

Syrian Arab Republic

UNHCR is leading the Protection and SNFI Sectors and works 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, particularly the most vulnerable such as female-headed households, elderly people and people with disabilities.

Protection

Protection concerns exacerbated by the earthquake include psychological distress, child labour, intra-family violence against women and children, limited availability of protection services and scarcity of specialised services for people with disabilities and older people, as well as documentation and housing, land and property (HLP) issues.

In Aleppo collective shelters, UNHCR and partners are conducting awareness sessions on children's rights, child neglect, and psychological first aid for children and caregivers, as well as recreational activities for children. Awareness sessions were organized for around 2,800 children and caregivers during the reporting period, bringing the total number of children reached since the beginning of the emergency to 19,300 and caregivers reached to 200.

Six weeks after the earthquakes, people in collective shelters continue to show signs of psychological distress, highlighting the need for longer-term psychosocial support interventions. UNHCR and protection partners provided psychosocial support and psychological first aid in 47 prioritised locations within the inter-sectoral minimum package of services launched in collective shelters. Among these shelters, at least nine include high protection concerns such as sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence. Following UNHCR and partner assessments, outreach volunteers are distributing donated items including food parcels, wheelchairs, milk for children, diapers, clothing, shoes, mattresses, and blankets to families in need.

In Latakia, during the reporting period, a UNHCR partner organized nine legal awareness sessions reaching 130 individuals in several collective shelters hosting families affected by the earthquakes. The sessions addressed authentication of marriage and birth certificates and civil documentation, as well as HLP-related issues. The team assisted affected families with the issuance of 250 replacements of deeds of ownership to facilitate their access to HLP rights. UNHCR and legal partners will continue to offer legal support to several families that have reported lack of civil and HLP documentation.

Since the beginning of the earthquake emergency response, the UNHCR-led **Protection Sector** and its partners have carried out around 383,000 protection [interventions](#), mainly in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous and Hama. Out of these emergency interventions, 44% were related to gender-based violence activities; 34% to child protection activities, and 21% to general protection activities including legal support, mental health and psychosocial support, monitoring, referral and case management, and individual protection assistance to people with disabilities and older people.

Additional information is available in the Protection Sector's latest [update](#). The Whole of Syria Protection sector also issued a [Protection Briefing Note](#) to support informed decision-making that prioritizes the protection of those affected by the earthquakes and the ongoing crisis in the country.



Ibtisam moved to one of the partitions installed at Sports city collective shelter, Latakia, with her seven children and husband, "The hall is overcrowded, and now that we are in the partition, at least we have privacy", she tells UNHCR staff. Photo © UNHCR / E. Kabbas



Shelter and core relief items

As of 21 March, UNHCR has distributed approximately **32,900 core relief item kits** reaching a total of **157,000 affected individuals** in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama and south Idlib Governorates. UNHCR has also distributed some 120,000 additional relief items to affected families, including winter clothing, rubber boots and adult diapers.

In Latakia Governorate, 26 collective shelters are currently operational, with adaptation works completed in 9 and ongoing in 5 shelters. Local authorities continue to plan the consolidation of the 26 collective shelters into 7 shelters. During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted several monitoring missions to the Sports city collective shelter in Latakia, where partitions have been installed to promote the privacy and safety of vulnerable families.

The UNHCR-led **SNFI Sector** is facilitating the design of a training module aimed at building capacity of partners identified to manage the collective shelters. The module focuses on identifying shelter and protection needs and proceeding with referrals to the service providers available. In Aleppo, more than 18,000 buildings have been assessed as part of the rapid structural assessment. Preliminary analysis indicates that at least 30% of these buildings are either in need of minor structural repairs or have severe structural damage. Meanwhile, local authorities plan to consolidate the current 100 collective shelters in Aleppo into 30.

Additional information on the UNHCR-led SNFI Sector response is available [online](#).

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 organizes recreational activities for children displaced the earthquakes in Idlib.
Photo © SHAFK



Protection

UNHCR partners continue to conduct outreach activities and work in community centres, communal shelters and through mobile teams. During the reporting period, 471 individuals were reached with community-based protection services and 9,219 individuals were reached with protection interventions. Since 9 February, UNHCR and partners have carried out more than **69,000 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 HLP.

UNHCR partners continue to report overcrowding and limited availability of safe spaces to conduct protection activities. Seismophobia has been reported as affecting attendance of affected populations in protection activities. To overcome this challenge, UNHCR and its partners are strengthening outreach through mobile teams.

The **Protection Cluster** has been analysing the initial findings of its [rapid needs assessment](#), which found that around 27% of key informants interviewed faced HLP-related issues, including homelessness and evictions. To address this concern, the HLP Working Group under the Protection Cluster has developed an eviction monitoring tool which will identify trends and patterns, including possible rights violations, identify most affected and exposed population groups and monitor access to multisectoral services. The tool will aim at strengthening community-based mechanisms for evictions mitigation and guarantee safeguards of existing legal documents.

Moreover, based on the assessments led by Protection Cluster partners in 34 of the reception centres established after the earthquake and which are still active, the Protection Cluster was able to prioritize 10 sites² in which protection response and risks mitigations are most needed, particularly in relation to freedom of movement, forced recruitment and trafficking, and evictions.



Shelter and core relief items

Over 900 trucks loaded with aid provided by six UN agencies have crossed the Bab Al-Hawa, Bab Al-Salam and Al-Ra'ee border crossing points since the earthquake.

UNHCR has participated in 18 convoys with 120 trucks to date, delivering more than 13,000 CRI kits, close to 7,000 tents and 500 Refugee Housing Units to assist at least 45,000 people in need.

Delivered


13,000
 CRI Kits


6,900
 tents


4
 Rubb halls


500
 RHU*

*Refugee Housing Unit

Status	Crossing point	CRI Kits	Tents	Rubb halls	RHUs
Delivered	Al Ra'ee	1,250			
Delivered	Bab Al-Hawa	7,750	4,700	4	500
Delivered	Bab Al-Salam	4,000	2,200		
Upcoming 23-Mar	Bab Al-Hawa		900	4	150
Upcoming 29-Mar	Bab Al-Hawa		900		200
Upcoming 30-Mar	Bab Al-Salam		1,000		150

² The 10 sites are located in Al Bab, Azaz and Jandairis communities in Aleppo and Idleb, Kelly and Maaret Tamsrin in Idleb.

Thanks to prepositioned stock and the expansion of its delivery assistance following the earthquake, UNHCR managed to quickly distribute CRI kits and tents to people in need. During the reporting period, UNHCR partners distributed 1,140 tents and 95 CRI kits across Aleppo and Idlib. Since 6 February, UNHCR partners have installed **5,774 tents**, and distributed **8,941 CRI kits**. The distribution of assistance is fully coordinated with the Shelter/NFI Cluster.

Shelter/NFI Cluster members, led by UNHCR, are responding with emergency shelter and CRIs in affected communities, reception centres, existing camps and collective centres. As of 21 March, Shelter/NFI Cluster members have distributed CRI kits to over 187,850 individuals and tents to over 90,460 individuals. Around 16,770 individuals have been reached with the provision of emergency shelter kits.

On 16 March, the Shelter Cluster Strategic Advisory Group met to review the post-earthquake strategy and operationalize the response for the short, medium and long-term. While a comprehensive coordinated damage assessment is needed, a gap analysis focusing on remaining emergency needs for temporary shelter and relief items showed that 54,000 individuals are still in need of emergency shelter and CRIs, at least 15,000 individuals need repair assistance to be able to return to their minor damaged homes, and at least 50,000 households displaced by the earthquake need a dignified shelter.



Camp coordination and camp management

The **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster** has tracked more than **108,900 displacements**³ between 6 February and 13 March after the earthquake⁴, compared to 126,000 displacements tracked in all of 2022. Many of the displaced families report fears of returning home, even when damage to their homes have been cleared. During the same period, the CCCM Cluster tracked more than 17,500 IDPs returning to their place of origin within north-west Syria.

CCCM Cluster members continue to collect and verify the data about the newly established reception and collective centres to respond to the earthquake. As of 21 March, there were 69 active reception and collective centres. Since 6 February, 35 centres have closed due to the relocation of families back to their homes, to relatives or to other preexisting displacement sites. The rapid establishment and closure of reception and collective centres is challenging data collection.

³ 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.

⁴ Most displacements originated from Jandairis and Afrin in Aleppo governorate (58%) and Salqin and Harim sub-districts in Idlib governorate (24%). The top sub-districts of arrival were Salqin and Dana (24%) in Idlib governorate and Afrin and Idlib (14%) in Idlib 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.



DONATE NOW

For more information, please contact the UNHCR MENA Regional Bureau in Amman, Jordan, at: MENAreporting@unhcr.org