

UNHCR Syria Flash Update #9

Emergency Response to the Earthquake

15 February 2023 / Updated as of 16:00 hrs

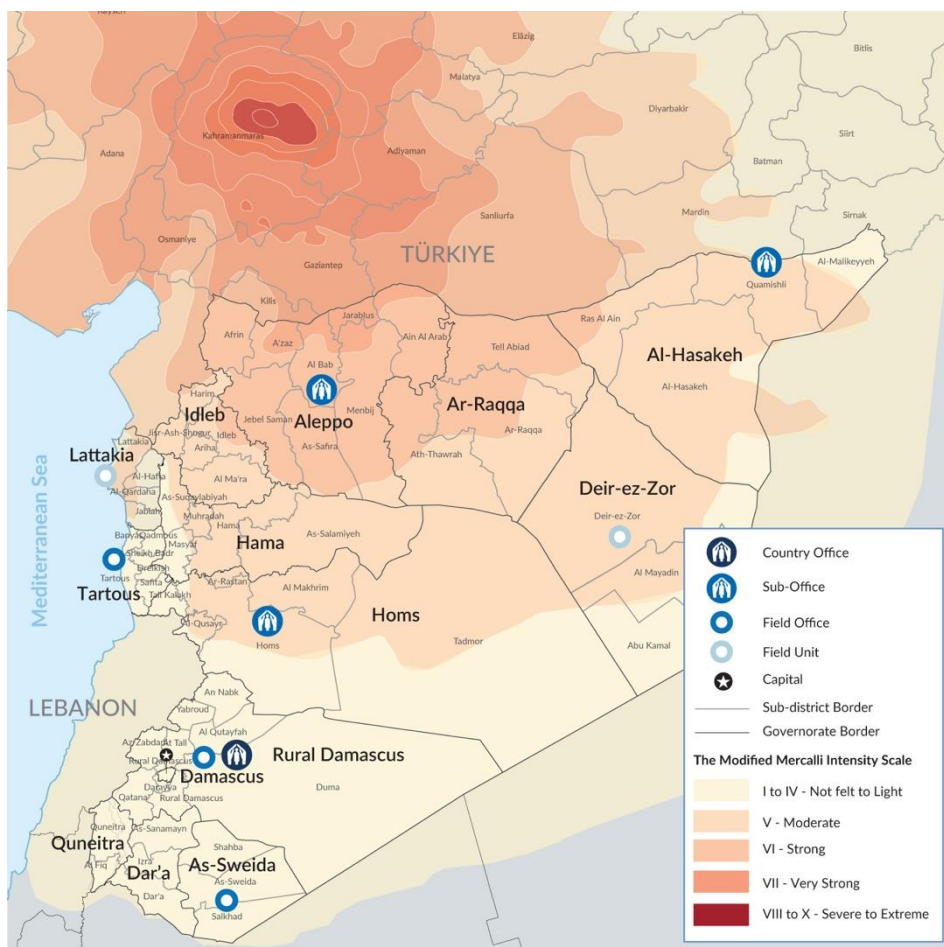


UNHCR and partner visiting people affected by the earthquake in Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib. ©UNHCR/S. Sawas

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

67,500
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

- There is [reportedly](#) significant displacement from and within areas affected by the earthquake, but not all displaced families are going to collective shelters. Many are residing with host communities.
- Partner assessments continue to highlight high levels of distress among the affected population. The vast majority exhibit signs of anxiety, while some report panic attacks, sleep disorders, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and post-earthquake syndrome.

UNHCR Emergency Response



Core relief items

- Core relief items (CRIs) are being released by UNHCR to partners for distribution. As of 15 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 20,800 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.

Situation Updates

Aleppo Governorate

- As of 15 February, UNHCR and partners have provided protection services to over 67,500 people in Aleppo. UNHCR is also providing information on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and feedback and complaint mechanisms.
- Partners have resumed in-person case management for gender-based violence in active community centers and continued remote case management for those in collective shelters. An increasing number of cases of sexual harassment are being

reported in collective shelters as people are sharing limited spaces and WASH facilities. Gender-based violence and psychosocial support focal points are giving awareness sessions on how to mitigate domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence in shelters.

- An additional 188 newly displaced people have been identified in rural areas of Aleppo. As of now, the total number of affected people in rural areas is around 4,000. Mobile teams and staff in community centers are supporting them with protection services and referrals to food and CRI assistance.
- 14 boxes containing clothes, baby milk, and diapers privately donated by UNHCR staff were handed over to NGOs managing 37 collective shelters in Aleppo for further distribution.

Homs/Hama Governorates

- UNHCR is planning to provide [legal assistance](#) to Maktoum (stateless) individuals, including children, affected by the earthquake.
- UNHCR's partner delivered 33 psychosocial and counselling sessions and four sessions on PSEA to individuals residing in Sum and Bukm and Yehya Fraji (Hama) collective shelters.

Damascus

- UNHCR and partners operate a total of 27 community/satellite centres in Damascus

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

and rural Damascus Governorates and are currently conducting a community centre safety assessment to verify damages caused by the earthquake. As of 15 February, a total of 19 community and satellite centres have been assessed with four of them presenting needs of minor repairs.

Southern Governorates:

- UNHCR-supported community centres have identified at least 68 families (296 individuals, including 61 children) from northern Syria that have been displaced to Dar'a Governorate as a result of the earthquake, and are being hosted by relatives.
- UNHCR and partners conducted a needs assessment and identified urgent needs among the newly displaced families such as in-kind support (kitchen sets, diapers, soap, sanitary napkins, blankets mattresses, clothes); adequate shelter/accommodation; and legal support for documentation among others. UNHCR provided psychosocial support services and psychological first aid to the 68 displaced families. Child protection teams are providing case management to children at risk.

Tartous/Latakia Governorates:

- In Tartous and Latakia, the number of people staying in collective shelters is estimated around [6,000 households](#) (approximately 30,000 individuals).
- Lack of privacy and overcrowding inside of the collective shelter remain key issues, as each room hosts more than six families and there are no separated rooms for males and females.
- As of 15 February, a total of 1,070 displaced families in Latakia and Tartous are being hosted by local communities.
- UNHCR's partner conducted assessment of 80 households in Safita and Drikish. Among other issues, housing, land and property rights were identified as a main concern.
- The hotline number set up jointly by UNHCR, partners and other humanitarian

agencies, offers support to women who experienced gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, with referral to qualified professionals for psychosocial, medical, or legal support. The free helpline is open 24/7.

For additional information on the situation, please refer to: [Syrian Arab Republic - Humanitarian Country Team \(HCT\) Coordinated Response Flash Update #10 - Earthquake \(As of 15 February 2023\)](#) and [Syria HCT: Protection Sector Earthquake Update: February 15, 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](#)