

# UNHCR Syria Flash Update #11

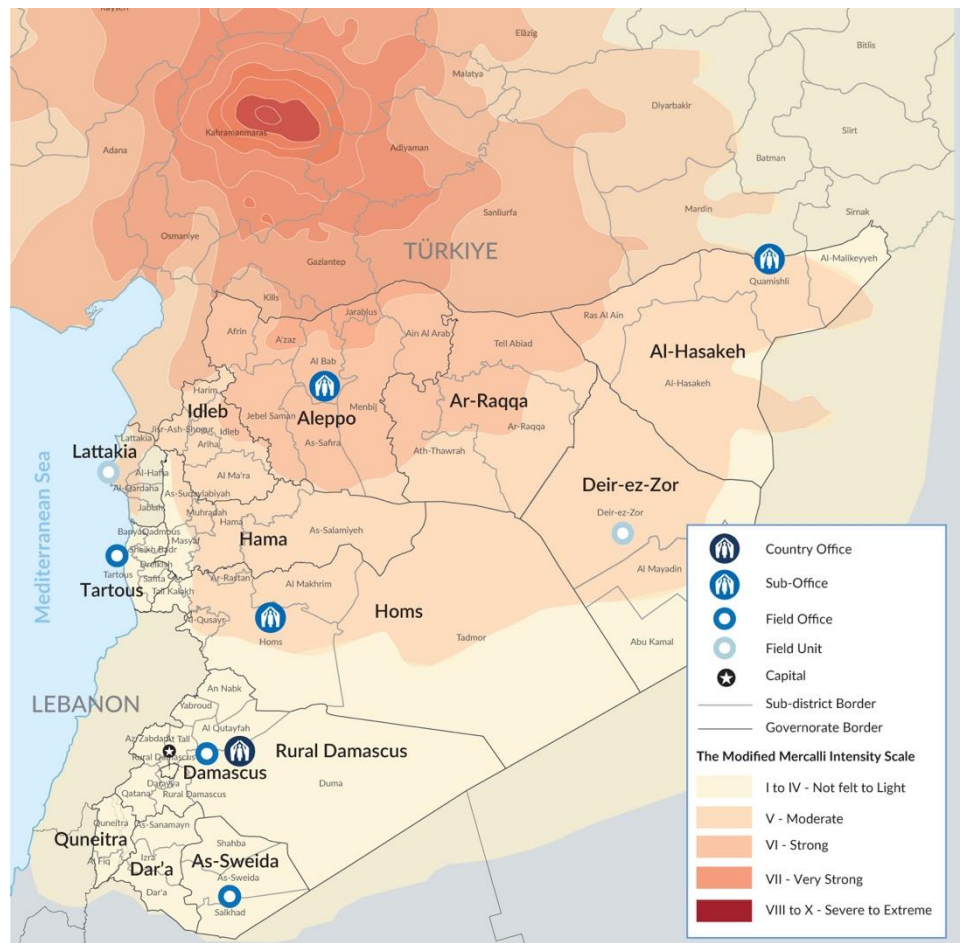
Emergency Response to the Earthquake  
18 February 2023 / Updated as of 16:00 hrs



**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

- The [search and rescue phase](#) of the response is almost reaching an end, and most urban search and rescue (USAR) teams have now left the affected sites. In the meantime, those still on-site are assisting the authorities with rubble removal and assessing heavily damaged buildings.
- To better coordinate the response, the local authorities have established [operations rooms](#) in main affected Governorates bringing together authorities, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), national NGOs and UN partners.

## UNHCR Emergency Response



### Core relief items

- Core relief items (CRIs) are being released by UNHCR to partners for distribution. As of 18 February, UNHCR has released 30,200 CRI kits<sup>1</sup> for distribution to affected families in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama and south Idlib Governorates. Distribution of these CRIs is ongoing.
- UNHCR has also released 26,800 winter jackets and 11,900 winter clothing kits from its warehouses in Aleppo, Tartous and Homs for distribution to affected families. In addition, some 163,850 adult diapers, critical for thousands of elderly persons and persons with disabilities, were released for distribution.



### Protection

- The [protection sector](#) continues to prioritize psychological first aid and mental health and psychosocial services. There is a need to expand case management services while ensuring confidentiality, safety, and easy access to services.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to provide protection services to families affected by the earthquake. In response to the high risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in collective shelters and in the local communities, the national Protection from

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network developed key messages (PSEA General Key Messages and PSEA Key Messages for Children), which are ready to be used by the protection partners. There are dedicated key messages for use inside the UN and partners' centres, as well as others for collective shelters.

## Situation Updates

### Aleppo

- As of 18 February, UNHCR and its partners have provided protection services, such as information on feedback and complaint mechanisms, psychosocial support, and case management, to over 83,000 people in Aleppo.
- UNHCR and child protection partners are implementing child protection activities inside the collective shelters. Those activities include recreational activities, child protection counselling, psychological first aid for children, identification of needs, and referral to the available services.

### Homs/Hama Governorates

- As of 18 February, a total of 450 families (approximately 1,840 people) have been displaced by the earthquake in Hama. Approximately 1,020 individuals are currently staying at 11 designated collective shelters in Hama, while the remaining 820

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

are being hosted by relatives and local communities.

- UNHCR and its legal protection partner continued the legal needs assessments among 280 individuals staying at the collective shelters in rural Hama. To date, UNHCR's partner provided legal counselling sessions to 60 individuals, including topics such as civil documentation, and housing, land, and property rights.
- In Hama, a UNHCR partner has provided approximately 50 children with case management services in Salhab collective shelter, rural Hama, and psychological first aid sessions to 60 families in Suqaylabiyah collective shelter, rural Hama.
- In Homs, the number of displaced families remained at 280 (approximately 1,090 people), with their majority – around 1,000 individuals – being hosted by relatives or local communities.
- UNHCR and a partner conducted awareness sessions on gender-based violence and sexual harassment to 90 women staying out of collective shelters and hosted by local communities, particularly in Bayada, Bab Sibaii, Baba Amr, Deir Baalbeh and Hassya (Homs).

#### **Tartous/Latakia Governorates:**

- On 17 February, UNHCR conducted a mission to Jableh, in Latakia, where staff visited a UNHCR-supported community centre, and eight collective shelters in rural areas. These shelters are currently hosting around 170 displaced families (approximately 850 individuals), while around 430 displaced families (approximately 2,150 individuals) are being hosted by relatives. The number of collective shelters in Latakia remains at 29.
- A UNHCR partner is implementing child protection activities for some 200 children at Sixth Tishreen school in Latakia, which is being used as a collective shelter. The activities - mainly recreational - aim at helping children express their feelings and release stress. The partner is referring children in need of case management to child protection case managers.

#### **Southern Governorates**

- UNHCR and its partners reported the arrival of six families (approximately 30 individuals) in Quneitra Governorate, for the first time since the earthquake. During vulnerability assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners, seven individuals who had lost civil documentation were referred to the legal aid programme for the issuance of family booklets and national identity cards.
- In Sweida Governorate, three new families (approximately 15 individuals) who had been displaced from Aleppo joined their families in the city of Sweida. Among the families there were persons with disability and in urgent need of medical support. UNHCR, together with case managers in the community centres, are providing counselling and referring them to the available services.

For additional information on the situation, please refer to: [Syrian Arab Republic - Humanitarian Country Team \(HCT\) Coordinated Response Flash Update #12 - Earthquake \(As of 17 February 2023\)](#); [Syria HCT: Protection Sector Earthquake Update: February 19, 2023](#) and [Flash Appeal: Syrian Arab Republic Earthquake \(February - May 2023\)](#).

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