

UNRWA Syria earthquake response Situation report #22 - 30 march 2023

Situation in numbers

48,520 Palestine refugees living in 4 affected governorates (Aleppo, Hama, Latakia and Tartous)

46,534 Palestine refugees targeted

20 Palestine refugees have died with **11** injured

2,355 Palestine refugees currently displaced (1,359 females, 996 males, including 41 persons with disabilities)

173 Palestine refugees in emergency shelters (92 females, 81 males, including 8 persons with disabilities)

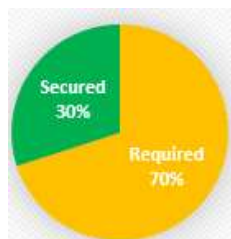
Infrastructure damage

562 Palestine refugee houses damaged (76 severely, 223 partially & 263 minor)

9 UNRWA installations damaged (3 partially and 6 will require minor repairs)

Funding Requirements

US\$ 15,149,291 required for UNRWA Syria earthquake response.



Response Geographical Areas

Northern and Central Areas – Aleppo (including Neirab & Ein el-Tal Camps) and Latakia (including Jableh) and Hama.

Situation Overview

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini visited Aleppo and Latakia between 26-30 March to express solidarity with those affected by the powerful earthquakes that struck Syria on 6 February and to thank the Agency's staff in Aleppo and Latakia who responded immediately to provide relief services and much-needed support to Palestine refugees. In his speech to staff, the Commissioner General said "I would like to express my deep gratitude to staff and the Agency's senior management's for their quick response to the tragic event. You were keen to support the local community at this devastating moment. Against all odds, you have been delivering assistance. Your commitment and professionalism are commendable in the face of adversity".

The Commissioner General visited Neirab, Ein el-Tal camps in Aleppo as well as Latakia Camp where he met with affected refugees. One refugee gave an account of their experience, saying "We are suffering after losing everything from our loved ones to our homes, jobs and the belongings we owned. Our children are too scared to sleep indoors after the devastating earthquake. They are still in shock". This account demonstrates the levels of psychological trauma in both adults and children that will take considerable time to heal. A total of 2,355 refugees remain displaced as of now as their homes suffered varied levels of damage. Notwithstanding this, the number of Palestine refugees in collective shelters in Aleppo and Latakia reduced from 423 to 173 over the last week. UNRWA continues to respond to the needs of beneficiaries in the affected locations providing vital services covering social protection, education, health, protection and social services.

UNRWA Response overview

Emergency Cash assistance to earthquake affected Palestine refugees

UNRWA completed the first distribution round of multi-purpose cash assistance to earthquake affected Palestine refugees during the week. 546 remaining Palestine refugees received cash assistance in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama during the week, bringing the total number of refugees who benefited in this round to 46,534. UNRWA is also distributing the first round of its regular cash assistance to all eligible Palestine refugees in parallel with this round, reaching a total of 5,958 refugees in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama. The regular cash assistance will help to support refugees during this critical time.

Emergency health

2,699 primary care consultations (59% females) and 116 telemedicine consultations (76% females) were supported at UNRWA health centres in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama during the week. UNRWA also delivered MHPSS to 663 refugees (62% females) during week. Following earthquake related damage to an area where UNRWA was providing mobile health services in Ein el-Tal camp in Aleppo, a one-room prefab was secured to use as a clinic in the camp. Though inadequate, the prefab will provide necessary shelter for the mobile health team to deliver much needed services.

Education in Emergencies

5,296 students attended classes in UNRWA schools during the week (50% girls), about the same number as compared with the previous week. A further 2,590 students received supplementary materials in Aleppo to help with recovering lost learning time due to the earthquake (50% girls).

Protection and Social services

3,769 children were provided with psychosocial support in UNRWA schools during the week (49% girls). An additional 10 out-of-school children, 45 TVET students and 89 adults also accessed PSS during the week. Two Psychosocial counsellors attended a training workshop on dealing with grief and loss and the knowledge gained is expected to help in supporting beneficiaries as part of their case load.

Needs and gaps

Health

UNRWA's Health Centre in Aleppo city is currently operating in a temporary location. In Ein el-Tal, the mobile health clinic is also operating in a one-room prefab. Support is required to increase the capacity so that patients can be afforded greater privacy.

Education

Support is required to fund additional Psychosocial Counsellors to manage the increased needs due to the earthquake. Additional resources also required to provide psychosocial support activities to children in Aleppo, Hama and Latakia.

Protection and Social services.

Aleppo city and Ein-el Tal camp do not have adequate space to conduct community based activities. Additional funds are also required for case management (selective cash assistance as part of case management).

Damage assessment and certification

A number of damaged houses that were still need to be certified by the Government's Engineering Syndicate in order to expedite repairs.

Funding requirements

UNRWA requires US\$ 15.1 million to meet the humanitarian and early recovery needs of Palestine refugees effected by the earthquake in Syria. Thus far, UNRWA has received pledges amounting to about 30% of the overall requirements. UNRWA still requires additional support to fund the response to enable it to provide adequate support to earthquake affected refugees. Currently, UNRWA is prioritizing essential response items only to critical cases such as newly displaced refugees. Without urgent additional funding, UNRWA will be forced to cut some of its essential humanitarian assistance to the detriment of close to 50,000 Palestine refugees who are living in earthquake-affected areas.

Pictures of interventions implemented



Psychosocial support and activities in Acre school, Aleppo



Psychosocial support activities in Jineen School, Aleppo



Nuzha Tarawiyyeh shows the destruction in her neighbourhood to the UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini during his visit to Latakia Palestine refugee camp in March 2023.