

UNRWA Syria earthquake response

Situation report #23 – 06 April 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)

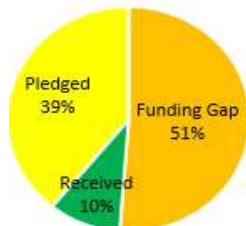
Infrastructure damage

954 Palestine refugee houses damaged (139 severely, 283 partially & 532 minor)

11 UNRWA installations damaged (3 partially and 8 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

Two months after the February 6 earthquake struck parts of northern Syria, the extent of damage to Palestine refugee homes and UNRWA installations is much clearer following ongoing assessments. Updated data from the damage assessment by the Syrian government's Engineering Syndicate, working closely with UNRWA indicates that 954 Palestine refugee homes were affected in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama governorates: 139 were severely damaged, 283 partially and 532 had minor damages, mainly cracks. The majority of damaged homes were reported in Aleppo governorate (72%), with 26% in Latakia and 2% in Hama. Assessments in Latakia and Hama are still ongoing, however, and figures will be updated once the assessments are complete. In addition to refugee homes that were damaged, 11 UNRWA installations were also damaged by the earthquake including health centres and schools. As a result of these damaged homes, 2,355 refugees remain displaced, with 173 of them staying in collective shelters in Aleppo and Latakia.

UNRWA Response overview

Emergency Cash assistance

UNRWA distributed the first round of its regular cash assistance to 19,486 refugees (6,156 families) in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama during the week using a two-tier targeting approach that prioritizes the most vulnerable refugees with a higher cash value. Each refugee in the most vulnerable category received a regular cash assistance amount of SYP 202,500 while the remaining eligible refugees received SYP 148,500 to help in meeting their food and non-food needs for 3 months. This cash distribution is part of a regular distribution round to all eligible refugees in the country, but came at a critical time for households affected by the earthquake, helping them to meet critical needs. UNRWA is looking for additional funding to continue its special emergency cash distribution for earthquake affected refugees for a further two months, in addition to the completed first round to help them cope with the impact of the earthquake.

In-kind Food Assistance

UNRWA distributed food baskets to 49 refugees living in three collective shelters in Aleppo during the week to meet their immediate food needs. UNRWA continues to target critical cases with food assistance due to limited funding. In addition to food assistance, 4 critical cases also received non-food items during the week in Latakia.

Emergency health

UNRWA health centres in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama delivered 2,290 primary care consultations (61% females) and 74 telemedicine consultations during the week. In addition, 32 refugees (59% females) received MHPSS services during this time. Provision of healthcare in a temporary prefab continued in Ein el-Tal camp in Aleppo during the week, while efforts are underway to secure additional space for the clinic. In Aleppo town, UNRWA continues to operate from a temporary clinic following earthquake-related damage to its health facility.

Education in Emergencies

All UNRWA schools in affected governorates are operating normally, with most students back in school, though some schools still have sustained damage that will require repair. During the week, 5,314 students attended classes (52% girls), about the same number compared with the previous two weeks. In addition, 542 students received supplementary materials in Aleppo to help in recovering lost learning time due to the earthquake.

Protection and Social services

The recently completed Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment identified psychosocial support as one of the key needs for the earthquake-affected population due to significant trauma suffered by both children and adults. UNRWA is responding by providing psychosocial support to children in all schools as well as in camps in the affected governorates. During the week, 4,426 children were reached with psychosocial support in UNRWA schools (48% girls). An additional 17 out of school children, 10 TVET students and 34 adults also accessed PSS during the same time. Psychosocial support sessions with children include group play activities mixed with educational sessions on self-control, confidence-building and nurturing children's talents. The protection team also provided legal assistance to 19 refugees in Latakia and Hama during the reporting period.

Needs and gaps

Health

UNRWA's Health Centre in Aleppo city is currently operating in a temporary location after damages due to the Earthquake. In Ein el-Tal, the mobile health clinic is also operating in a one-room prefab. Support is required to increase the capacity of a one-room prefab so that patients are served with more privacy.

Education

Support is required with funding for additional Psychosocial Counsellors to manage the increased needs due to the earthquake. More materials and refreshments are also required for psychosocial support activities for 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 houses that sustained damage remain uncertified by the Government's Engineering Syndicate and support is required to expedite this processes so that repairs can be arranged.

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 about US\$ 1.5 million (10%) while an additional US\$ 5.9 million (39%) has been pledged. UNRWA still requires increased support to fund the response and provide adequate support to earthquake affected refugees. Currently, UNRWA is prioritizing essential response items only to critical cases like 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



Children celebrating International day for human rights in Aleppo



Recreational activities for children in Hama



Girls participating in psychosocial support play activities in Hama