

## UNRWA Syria earthquake response

### Situation report #19 - 9 march 2023

#### Situation in numbers

**46,534** Palestine refugees affected

**18** Palestine refugees have died and **11** injured

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

**423** Palestine refugees in emergency shelters (241 females, 182 males, including 17 persons with disabilities)

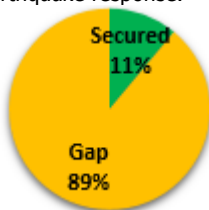
#### Infrastructure damage

**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 Lattakia (including Jableh) and Hama.

#### Situation Overview

UNRWA is assessing earthquake-related damage to its facilities and the homes of Palestinian refugees. So far, 562 Palestine refugee homes and 9 UNRWA facilities were found to have suffered varying degrees of damage from the earthquake: 13% were severely damaged, 40% partially damaged and 47% had minor damage, mainly cracks. UNRWA had to close its health centre in Aleppo due to earthquake-related damage, leaving almost 2,500 families who were using the centre's services without access to care. 2,355 refugees (58% women), including 41 people with disabilities, were displaced by the earthquake, while 423 people are living in emergency shelters (including 17 people with disabilities).

#### UNRWA Response overview

##### Assessments and of damaged UNRWA installations:

The government's Engineering Syndicate assessment team is leading damage assessment and certifying damage status. The Syndicate confirmed that UNRWA facilities in Homs are safe and can be used. UNRWA is awaiting the results of the government's survey of the affected buildings in Latakia. In Neirab and Hama, the assessment is still ongoing. At Jaba'a Atleet School, in Latakia, UNRWA has started repairs to enable students to attend school.

##### Emergency Cash and In-kind food Assistance to earthquake affected Palestine refugees

In immediate response to the crisis, UNRWA began distributing multi-purpose cash assistance to Palestine refugees affected by the earthquake. During the week, 14,995 Palestine refugees in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama received multi-purpose cash assistance worth SYP 441,600 per household (approximately US\$ 64) to help them cope with the debilitating effects of the earthquake. UNRWA intends to support these vulnerable households for three months, subject to the availability of funds.

##### In-kind Food Assistance

Five newly displaced refugees in Aleppo city received food rations to help in meeting their immediate food needs. In addition, 234 displaced refugees received milk in Lattakia during the week. UNRWA is distributing food to newly displaced critical cases using existing stocks due to lack of funding.

##### Non-Food Items

40 Palestine refugees in Lattakia and Hama benefited from NFIs during the reporting period, including 11 persons with disabilities (34 adult diapers, 4 core relief items and 2 hygiene kits). As with food, UNRWA draws from existing NFI stocks to provide for critical cases.

##### Emergency health

1,539 health facility based primary care consultations and 176 telemedicine consultations were delivered in Aleppo City, Neirab, Ein el Tal, Lattakia and Hama during the week. An additional 71 refugees received MHPSS services during the week. High levels of anxiety and trauma associated with post-earthquake situations will likely spike the demand for MHPSS services.

##### Education in Emergencies

Following the disruption of classes due to the earthquake, UNRWA developed additional materials to help students catch up. 2,527 students received additional materials in Neirab camp and Aleppo city. After schools resumed in the affected areas, 3,987 students attended regular classes this week. In terms of TVET, the earthquake occurred at a time when students were preparing for exams, disrupting the exam schedule. UNRWA provided psychosocial support to 52 affected vocational students during the week.

##### Protection

UNRWA is implementing psychosocial support interventions targeting both in school and out of schoolchildren to respond to high levels of stress associated with the disaster. During the week, 3,278 in-school children and 12 out of school children benefited from psychosocial interventions. An additional 38 adults also received psychosocial support during the week.

**Distribution of Assistive devices to persons with disabilities**

People with disabilities are often at heightened vulnerability during disasters. UNRWA responded by distribution assistive devices to 153 persons with disabilities, including wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, air mattresses and bathroom chairs during the reporting period. The devices will enable persons with disabilities to participate in activities of daily life and increase their comfort during these critical times.

**UNRWA Staff care**

UNRWA is providing staff in affected areas with counselling and psychosocial support to respond to traumatic events associated with the earthquake and their experience as they respond to the disaster. During the week, 55 UNRWA staff (84% female) received group counseling in Aleppo while 80 staff (60% female) benefited from the same in Latakia and Hama.

**Needs and gaps**

UNRWA continues to assess the effects and impact of the earthquake on Palestine refugees with a view to understand needs and gaps as the response evolves through various initiatives such as supporting damage assessments led by the government's Engineering Syndicate, participation in Inter-Agency assessments and UNRWA led assessments and engagements with communities. During cash distributions, UNRWA volunteers are administering a short questionnaire tailored as an exit interview to collect more information on needs and gaps. The report will be shared in the coming weeks. Sub-sections below highlights existing needs based on Area staff analysis and engagements.

**Latakia:**

There is an ongoing need for NFIs (including diapers for females and the elderly), cash assistance and food items (including water, food baskets and RTE meals), as well as cleaning materials. Baby kits for new mothers are a priority. UNRWA is distributing these items on an ongoing basis using existing stocks.

**Neirab and Ein el-Tal Camps:**

There is a need to scale up aid to provide PSS, repair of damaged homes, food assistance, blankets and other NFIs. In Ein el-Tal, an alternative location is needed for the mobile clinic to operate due to damaged buildings nearby.

**Health center in Aleppo**

The health center in Aleppo was closed due to earthquake related damages. There is a need for mobile health services to reach an estimated 2,500 households that were dependent on this health facility as well as to reach other earthquake-affected area.



united nations relief and works agency  
for palestine refugees in the near east