

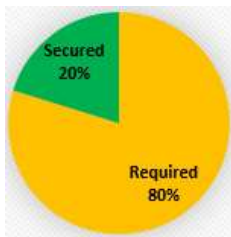
## UNRWA Syria earthquake response Situation report #21 - 23 march 2023

### Situation in numbers

- 48,520** Palestine refugees living in 4 affected governorates (Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia 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)
- 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

Palestine refugees in four earthquake-affected governorates continue to grapple with displacement, one month after the earthquake. 2,355 Palestine refugees continue to be displaced, 423 of these currently live in collective shelters in Aleppo and Lattakia. Needs for core relief items like mattresses and food remain high in the collective shelters. Psychological trauma from the earthquake and multiple aftershocks have also had a significant impact on refugees' emotional wellbeing, especially children. UNRWA continue to respond to the earthquake, albeit on a very limited budget. The donor conference, held on 20 March 2023 in Brussels has raised a glimmer of hope for affected communities with new pledges anticipated from a few donors. As part of shaping the humanitarian and recovery efforts, UNRWA is participating in a wider UN-coordinated Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA).

### UNRWA Response overview

#### Emergency Cash assistance to earthquake affected Palestine refugees

UNRWA distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to 6,070 Palestine refugees (1,991 families) in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama during the week as part of the first round of a 3 month emergency cash distribution. Each family received SYP 441,600 per household (approximately US\$ 64) covering one month to help them cope with the debilitating effects of the earthquake. A total of 45,988 refugees have received their emergency cash entitlements since the distribution started on 26 February, against a targeted 46,534 refugees (99%). UNRWA will finish the first round distribution in the coming week.

#### WASH/Non-Food Items

9 people (comprising 2 families in Latakia and 1 in Aleppo) received core relief and hygiene items consisting of blankets, baby kits, mats, mattresses and kitchen sets, during the week. NFI distributions are targeted to critical cases such as newly displaced and those with medical and other needs. UNRWA requires support with core relief items, especially mattresses for Palestine refugees currently living in shelters in both Aleppo and Lattakia to help them live in dignified conditions.

#### Emergency health

UNRWA health facilities in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama delivered 3,369 primary care consultations (68% females) at its health centres and 131 telemedicine consultations (61% females) during the week. There was a 46% increase in primary consultations this week compared to the previous week due to the opening of a clinic at a temporary location in Aleppo following destruction of a health centre in Aleppo city as well as mobile clinic visits to Ein el-Tal camp. An uptick in MHPSS cases was also observed with 868 refugees (62% females) receiving MHPSS services this week, up from 72 refugees during the last reporting period.

#### Education in Emergencies

More students continue to return to schools following the earthquakes, with 5,322 students attending classes in UNRWA schools during the week, a 23% increase from 4,339 students in the previous week. However, the same level of increase is not observed with regard to those with disabilities, with 65 such students attending classes this week compared to 60 last week, an 8% increase. UNRWA will monitor this closely to ensure that students with disabilities are not excluded from education. Regarding TVET, 13 IT students sat for exams that had been disrupted by the earthquake while another 46 students continued their second semester in Latakia and Hama. 46 TVET students received psychosocial support during the week.

#### Protection and Social services

UNRWA delivered school based psychosocial support (PSS) to 4,243 children during the week (48% girls). An additional 12 school children and 37 adults also accessed PSS during the week. Children receiving PSS in schools increased by 6% from 3,990 the previous week due to a general increase in attendance. UNRWA also delivered psychological first aid sessions to 23 mothers focusing on self-care and child care in Ein el-Tal camp in Aleppo.

### UNRWA Staff care and awareness

137 UNRWA staff (58% females) received PSS from the UNRWA Field Office staff care team with support from a specialist from HQ Amman during the week. In addition, 18 staff in Aleppo received psychological first aid training and an additional 13 received training on unexploded ordinance (UXO) risk in Aleppo. The risk of UXOs remains high in certain areas. Lastly, 17 UNRWA staff also received PSEA awareness raising sessions during the week.

### Needs and gaps

UNRWA's response continues to be informed by the multisectoral assessment undertaken by the agency in Feb as well as continuous information gathering that the staff are doing in the areas. UNRWA is part of a UN-wide Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA) that is assessing the impact and costs of damage, losses as well as recovery needs in Syria's earthquake-affected areas. Preliminary findings of the SERNA were presented during the donor conference in Brussels and the final report is under drafting. The following sub-sections highlight existing needs based on analysis and interviews with area staff.

### Needs in Palestine refugee shelters in Aleppo and Latakia

423 Palestine refugees still live in collective shelters in Aleppo and Latakia. There are gaps in core relief items in collective shelters, mainly mattresses and blankets which are needed to protect refugees against ongoing harsh weather conditions. Food assistance for refugees in collective shelters also remains a key gap. UNRWA is coordinating with various actors to provide support including the Syrian Arab Red Crescent that is supporting through the provision of kitchen equipment and gas for cooking.

### Health Centre in Aleppo

UNRWA's Health Centre in Aleppo city (that used to operate in a rented premises) was closed due to earthquake-related damages. A new temporary location has been identified and limited health services are now being provided, while plans are underway to organize for renovations of the damaged health centre. Mobile health services are also being provided on a weekly basis in Ein el-Tal camp.

### 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. The required funding will cover essential social protection interventions (multi-purpose cash, rental subsidies, non-food items), emergency health, including MHPSS, education in emergencies, including TVET, emergency shelter and UNRWA installation repairs, environmental health and protection interventions. Thus far, UNRWA have secured about US\$ 3.8 million (received plus pledged), about 20% of the overall requirement. Due to inadequate funding 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



Psychological first aid training to UNRWA staff in Aleppo



Psychological first aid session for mothers in Ein el-Tal Camp



Temporary pharmacy in Aleppo, following the destruction of UNRWA Health Centre

