

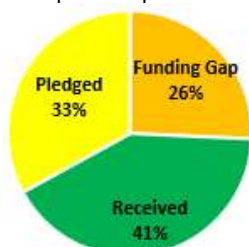
## UNRWA Syria earthquake response Situation report #27 – 25 May 2023

### 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**  
**1,076** Palestine refugee houses damaged (166 severely, 309 partially & 601 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

As we approach the fourth month since the earthquake disaster struck Northern Syria and Turkey, the earthquake response in Syria is slowly evolving to focus more on recovery and rehabilitation of damaged shelters, installations and livelihoods, while maintaining social protection of the affected population. All this is happening in an extremely difficult economic situation punctuated by a consistently depreciating local currency, making delivery of interventions challenging.

UNRWA continues to provide targeted emergency support to vulnerable affected refugees while preparing the ground for the rehabilitation of damaged refugee shelters and installations. A huge challenge still remains in terms of the access by affected refugees to official government documentation certifying eligibility for rehabilitation. UNRWA and partners are engaging in various levels of advocacy to expedite the issuance of earthquake damage certification to facilitate this process.

To inform UNRWA's evolving approach, the Agency recently completed fieldwork for a real-time review of the earthquake response which will provide valuable feedback to inform the next phase which will focus on recovery. Findings are expected in early June 2023.

### UNRWA Response overview

#### In-kind Food Assistance

UNRWA distributed powdered milk to 250 persons with chronic diseases and persons with disabilities (62% males) in Latakia and Hama during the past two weeks. Food rations were also distributed to 17 pregnant women and 2 vulnerable families as part of protection case management, benefiting a total of 64 persons in the two governorates. UNRWA is prioritizing its food aid interventions for key vulnerable groups due to limited food stocks and funding availability.

#### WASH/Non-Food Items

250 vulnerable persons (same as those referred to above) received diapers during the past two weeks to help maintain their hygiene and dignity in Latakia and Hama (224 chronically sick patients and 26 persons with disabilities). In addition, 23 families affected by the earthquake received NFIs consisting of blankets, mats and mattresses in Hama and a further 210 families received mattresses and blankets in Aleppo, benefiting a total of 792 individuals in these two locations. Three newborn children also benefited from baby kits in Hama as part of UNRWA's NFI response targeting vulnerable families.

#### Emergency health

5,087 primary care consultations (62% females) and 116 telemedicine consultations (60% females) were delivered through UNRWA health centres in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama during the past two weeks (1,349 in Latakia & Hama and 3,738 in Aleppo). UNRWA also delivered MHPSS sessions to 205 patients, 59% of whom were females during the same period. Specialized MHPSS sessions are provided through contracted Psychiatrists who visit UNRWA clinics twice each week. UNRWA has observed a general increase of MHPSS patients in earthquake affected areas, an intervention that used to be negatively affected by stigma, indicative of the high levels of trauma due to the impact of the earthquake.

#### Education in Emergencies

5,466 Palestine refugee children (50% girls) attended UNRWA schools during the past two weeks, 3,470 in Aleppo and 1,996 in Latakia and Hama. A total of 4,884 students also sat for their end of year examinations in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama, except for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who will sit for their examinations in June. UNRWA tried to ensure that earthquake related trauma does not significantly impact students' examinations by consistently providing psychosocial support to students in and out of school in addition to extra supportive lessons.

During the past 2 weeks, 4,791 students received psychosocial support in schools. For 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, UNRWA has launched a 15-day period of intensive support classes to prepare them for oncoming examinations, which will take place in early June. A total of 582 students are scheduled to sit for 9<sup>th</sup> grade examinations in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama this year. As part of efforts to prepare parents to support children in school, 24 caregivers of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students received awareness-raising sessions on how to assist their children during exams and how to provide them with a positive and supportive environment.

## Protection and Social services

4,791 students received psychosocial support sessions in schools while a further 400 received the same service in camps during the past two weeks. In addition, 153 adults were also provided with psychosocial support interventions in camps during the same period.

### Needs and gaps

#### Cash Assistance

UNRWA has to date managed to distribute only one full round of emergency cash assistance to families affected by the earthquake. Due to the lack of funds, UNRWA was unable to continue these distributions, initially planned to take place over 3 months. Additional funds are required to provide emergency cash assistance for these families.

#### Health

UNRWA's Health Centre in Aleppo city is currently operating in a temporary location following damage due to the earthquakes. In Ein el-Tal Camp, the mobile health clinic is also operating from a one-room prefab. Support is required to increase capacity so that patients are afforded greater levels of privacy. Support is also required to expand services provided in Hama clinic to include gynaecology which will improve access to quality maternal health services.

#### Education

Support is required with funding for additional Psychosocial Counsellors to manage the increased needs due to the earthquakes. Additional materials and refreshments are also required to support the diversification of psychosocial support play activities for children in Aleppo, Hama and Latakia. There are also calls to support school meals given the deteriorating economic situation, coupled with the devastating effects of the earthquakes.

#### 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).

#### Transitional Shelter Assistance

The biggest impediment for affected households to access transitional shelter assistance (cash for rent) remains the delayed issuance of damage certification by the Engineering Syndicate. As a result many affected households continued to live in damaged households. Support is required to expedite the documentation process and also funding for transitional shelter assistance.

### 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\$ 6.3 million (41%) while about US\$ 5 million (33%) was pledged, leaving a funding gap of 26%. UNRWA still requires support to fund the response as it evolves from immediate support needs to recovery and rehabilitation. Currently, UNRWA is providing targeted essential response items mainly to vulnerable families. The Agency also requests donors who have pledged support to finalize their contributions at the earliest opportunity and for other donors to fund UNRWA's flash appeal.

### Pictures of interventions implemented



Recreational activities for children in Central Area



Caregivers of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in sessions to help them support their children during exams