

UNRWA Syria earthquake response Situation report #24 – 13 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

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)

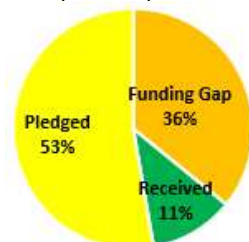
Infrastructure damage

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

Updated findings of a damage assessment conducted by the Engineering Syndicate, a body mandated by the Syrian government to assess earthquake damage working closely with UNRWA shows that 1,076 Palestine refugee homes were affected by the earthquake in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama governorates, of which 15% (166) were severely, 29% (309) partially and 56% (601) had minor damage. The majority of damaged buildings were in Aleppo governorate (75%), 23% in Latakia and 2% in Hama. The updated statistics reflect the findings of ongoing assessments in the three governorates. In addition to refugee homes, the earthquake also damaged 11 UNRWA installations, including health centres and schools.

Rehabilitation of Palestine refugee shelters and UNRWA installations constitutes 44% of the Syria portion of UNRWA's earthquake response flash appeal, of which only 6% of this portion is funded to date. UNRWA in Syria requires urgent funding support to repair and rehabilitate refugee shelters and installations damaged by the earthquake, in addition to providing critical cash assistance, education, health, mental health and psychosocial support services to affected refugees. Working with the Humanitarian Country Team and thematic sectors in Syria, UNRWA is contributing to a process to update the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan to include post-earthquake response needs as part of countrywide efforts to fundraise for the disaster. UNRWA is also contributing to the Syria Early Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA), as part of the UN wide initiative.

UNRWA Response overview

In-kind Food Assistance

During this week, UNRWA distributed emergency food rations to 191 vulnerable Palestine refugee families (649 individuals) who live in collective shelters, tents or with relatives after their homes were destroyed during the earthquake in Latakia and Hama. In addition, 138 families from the same caseload (469 individuals) also received ready-to-eat rations targeting very vulnerable cases living in collective shelters and tents to help them meet their food needs. UNRWA continue to target critical cases with food assistance due to limited funding. In addition to food assistance, two vulnerable mothers received baby kits in Latakia to meet the basic needs of their newborn babies.

Emergency health

1,939 primary care consultations (59% females) and 39 telemedicine consultations (54% females) were delivered to Palestine refugees through UNRWA health centres in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama during the week. Investments in the capacity of existing temporary clinics in Ein el-Tal Camp and in Aleppo and securing funds for the rehabilitation of damaged installations will enhance UNRWA's ability to deliver its mandate.

Education in Emergencies

5,277 students attended UNRWA schools during the week (49% girls), about the same number compared to the past 3 weeks. The attendance statistics show a gradual stabilization of education services in UNRWA schools in earthquake-affected governorates. UNRWA continues to provide recreational activities in schools as an important means of addressing trauma and stress related to the earthquake, in addition to cultivating the idea of schools as safe spaces for children.

As part of the marking of World Health Day, 22 female students toured an UNRWA health centre in Hama where their right to health during crises was highlighted. In Latakia, focus group discussions (FGDs) were held with students to collect feedback on existing psychosocial support activities and to identify new needs. Students identified in-kind gifts or competition prizes for sporting activities and refreshments as some of the needs during the FGDs.

Protection and Social services

4,386 students were provided with psychosocial support activities, focusing mainly on group play and educational sessions in UNRWA schools (50% girls). An additional 26 out of school children and 72 adults also accessed PSS during the same time. UNRWA ensures that no child is left out of psychosocial support interventions in earthquake-affected areas by targeting both children in and out of schools. In Aleppo, UNRWA also conducted awareness sessions on explosive remnants of war (ERW) for 47 children in Ein el-Tal Camp using practical sessions and competitions to facilitate understanding of the concepts.

Needs and gaps

Emergency Cash assistance

UNRWA is seeking additional funds to continue its 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.

Health

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

Education

Support is required with funding for additional PSS Counsellors to manage the increased needs due to the earthquake. Additional materials and refreshments are also required to support the diversification of psychosocial support and recreational activities being offered 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 (including the provision of selective cash assistance).

Damage assessment and certification

A number of houses that suffered damage remain uncertified by the Government's Engineering Syndicate discussions are ongoing to expedite the processes so that the families can be supported with repairs, subject to availability of funding.

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\$ 1.7 million (11%) whilst about US\$ 8 million (53%) has been pledged to date (including in-kind donations totaling USD 358,032 which will be received over the coming two month period). 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 including newly displaced refugees due to low levels of received funding. 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



Students on their tour of UNRWA health clinic in Hama on World Health day



An elderly person receiving emergency food rations in Hama

