

UNRWA Syria earthquake response

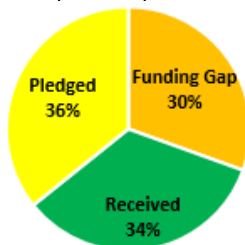
Situation report #26 – 11 May 2023

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)
- 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 Lattakia (including Jableh) and Hama.

Situation Overview

Three months after a series of devastating earthquakes rocked Northern parts of Syria and Turkey, affected Palestine refugees forge ahead with their lives amid uncertainties. Although UNRWA and partners continue to provide emergency assistance month on month with funding support from a wide range of funders, the assistance remain targeted to critical vulnerable families, damaged houses remain largely unrepaired and the trauma of the disaster will take time to heal. To date UNRWA have received about 34% of the required funding, while another 36% was pledged. More funding is required to repair damaged houses and installations so that affected refugees live in dignified conditions.

UNRWA staff held a one-day workshop on 3 May to review progress of the earthquake response, identify priorities and plan forward as the 6 months long flash appeal reached its midpoint. A virtual meeting was also held with donors on 9 May to brief them of the situation and share needs. In addition, UNRWA have launched a real time review of the earthquake response to reflect on our response to the devastating earthquake and provide real time feedback to inform the next phase of the response. A 3-member review team comprising members from UNRWA's Headquarters in Amman, Lebanon Field Office and Syria's Programme Support Office will conduct the review. Initial review findings are expected in early June 2023.

UNRWA Response overview

In-kind Food Assistance

172 Palestine refugee families received emergency food baskets, benefiting 585 individuals in Lattakia and Aleppo during the past 2 weeks (499 in Lattakia and 86 in Aleppo). UNRWA is distributing emergency food baskets aimed at helping affected households meet their food needs and alleviate the impact of earthquake.

WASH/Non-Food Items

UNRWA distributed 346 diapers to older persons with chronic medical conditions, 22 diapers to children with disabilities and 12 baby kits to vulnerable mothers during the reporting period. The distributed NFIs were critical in ensuring dignity of vulnerable refugees affected by the crisis. UNRWA continue to target critical cases with vital NFIs as part of the earthquake response.

Emergency health

UNRWA delivered 5,059 primary care consultations (60% females) and 161 telemedicine consultations (61% females) through UNRWA health centers in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama during the past two weeks. UNRWA also delivered MHPSS sessions to 104 patients, 68% of which were females during the same period. UNRWA continue to emphasize the integration of MHPSS in all its interventions to address mental health needs for refugees that were aggravated by the earthquake.

Education in Emergencies

4,459 Palestine refugee children attended UNRWA schools during the past two weeks (49% girls). An additional 2,100 students benefited from supplementary materials as part of preparations for end of academic year examinations. As part of examinations preparations, 9th grade students also attended extra supportive lessons including mock examinations as part of efforts to ensure that students are ready for examinations. UNRWA's psychosocial support team from Damascus also visited Hama and provided psychosocial support to students as part of efforts to address earthquake related trauma and ensure that students are ready for examinations free of psychological stress.

Protection and Social services

School based psychosocial support activities were delivered to 3,806 students during the past two weeks as efforts continue to reduce the psychological effects of the earthquake on children. 96 out of school children and 115 adults were also reached with psychosocial support interventions in camps during the past two weeks. In addition, selective cash assistance was also distributed to 7 vulnerable Palestine refugee families as part of case management. UNRWA and UNDP held a joint meeting with families affected by the earthquake in Lattakia to create awareness on interventions supported under the UNDP funded project that include vocational training and linkages with job market, reaching 17 families.

Needs and gaps

Cash Assistance

UNRWA only managed to distribute one full round of emergency cash assistance to families affected by earthquake. Due to lack of funds, UNRWA was unable to continue the distributions. More funds are required to provide emergency cash assistance for the planned 3 months.

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. Support is also required to capacitate Hama clinic to provide gynecological services to enhance access to quality maternal health services.

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 to support the diversification of psychosocial support play activities for children in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia. There are also calls to support school meals given the deteriorating economic situation coupled with the devastating effects of the earthquake.

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 have received about US\$ 5.1 million (34%) while about US\$ 5.4 million (36%) was pledged. UNRWA still require increased support to fund the response and provide adequate support to earthquake affected refugees. Currently, UNRWA is targeting essential response items mainly to critical cases like 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. The agency requests donors who have pledged support to finalize the contributions at the earliest and other donors to fund the flash appeal.

Pictures of interventions implemented



Recreational activities for children in Aleppo, 1 May 2023



Joint UNRWA-UNDP meeting with earthquake affected families to explain UNDP supported services



Students PSS activities in Samakh school



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