updated UNRWA flash appeal

emergency and early recovery response in support of Palestinian refugees in Syria and in Lebanon affected by the earthquakes and aftershocks

February - August 2023
The development of the updated UNRWA flash appeal was facilitated by the Department of Planning, UNRWA.

About UNRWA

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 with a mandate to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to registered Palestine refugees in the Agency’s area of operations, namely the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. Thousands of Palestine refugees who lost both their homes and livelihood because of the 1948 conflict have remained displaced and in need of significant support for over seventy years. UNRWA helps them achieve their full potential in human development through quality services it provides in education, health care, relief and social services, protection, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.

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Cover photo: Damaged buildings in Latakia camp after the earthquake. Latakia, Syria. © February 2023 UNRWA
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Introduction

On Monday 6 February 2023, two earthquakes of 7.8 and 7.5 magnitude hit southern Türkiye and northwest Syria causing significant destruction and loss of life (almost 50,000 deaths have been reported as of 27 February)\(^1\). The epicentre was located about 30 kilometres from Gaziantep, causing extensive damage also in the north and northwest of Syria. Strong aftershocks, including a large earthquake on 20 February of 6.4 magnitude in Hatay, continue to place tens of thousands of people at risk and threaten further damage to buildings and public infrastructure. As of 28 February, in the northwest of Syria, more than 4,500 deaths have been reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Palestine refugees located in the north of Syria, in particular in Aleppo, Latakia and Hama, have also been badly affected by the earthquake and subsequent aftershocks, with 18 Palestine refugees dead and 11 injured, and many more directly and indirectly impacted by the crisis and destruction. The earthquake and aftershocks has also impacted Palestine refugees in Lebanon, where already substandard shelters have been damaged in the camps in the north and in Beirut, in addition to many of UNRWA installations there.
Syria

An estimated 8.8 million people live in areas most affected by the earthquakes in Syria and have been impacted by the events. This includes approximately 46,534 Palestine refugees in and around the following four camps: Latakia Camp, Neirab Camp, Ein el-Tal Camp and Hama Camp. Palestine refugees living in Aleppo city, many of whom have been displaced from Ein el-Tal camp, due to the conflict, have also been affected. The population in the aforementioned areas was already very vulnerable before the earthquake, due to years of instability and the far-reaching economic meltdown, twelve years into the protracted Syrian crisis.

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, UNRWA opened its Al Khairiyeh school in Latakia to provide hundreds of Palestine refugees (together with several hundred Syrians) with safe shelter. Over the course of a week, more than 1,000 Palestine refugees and Syrians affected by the earthquake were provided with breakfast and hot meals on a daily basis at the school. At the beginning of the second week, all remaining families were relocated to government-owned schools in the vicinity where they are set to remain until they can return safely to their homes.

Following the initial earthquakes, UNRWA immediately mobilized its response, providing Non-Food Items (NFIs) from available stocks, food assistance (with help from local NGOs) to displaced families across the affected areas, together with medical and relief services from those installations which could still operate normally. Psychosocial support (PSS) and other paramedical support are also being offered, together with recreational and PSS activities for children and young people where possible. In the collective shelters, UNRWA has provided blankets, mattresses, mats, cleaning tools as well as ready-to-eat (RTE) meals. Temporary accommodation was also made available in an UNRWA school in Neirab where families (mainly women and children) have sheltered on an ongoing basis for fear of their homes collapsing during the night.

UNRWA’s health team continued delivering its services, including through telemedicine, contacting vulnerable patients by phone, such as individuals with pre-existing psychiatric conditions, patients with non-communicable diseases and pregnant women. UNRWA staff contacted students through WhatsApp groups and also made sure to support the displaced and manage schools that were used as temporary shelters. Staff working with the emergencies and relief programmes helped in the management of temporary shelters and participated in various assessments inside camps.

UNRWA teams have also been closely involved in damage assessments of refugee houses (working with the Engineering Syndicates, who are authorized by the Government of Syria to carry out assessments), as well as identifying other needs through beneficiary outreach. UNRWA’s response across all programmes has evolved in line with the needs of the refugees. UNRWA also continues to coordinate its assessments and planning with other humanitarian organisations, including through the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and inter-sector groups.
To underpin this immediate emergency assistance, UNRWA issued an initial Flash Appeal, which was included in the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal released by OCHA on 16 February 2023. Between 7 and 12 February, UNRWA conducted a rapid multisectoral needs assessment in the affected areas where Palestine refugees reside, to identify humanitarian and early recovery needs. One month into the crisis, UNRWA is issuing this revised appeal to address the identified humanitarian and early recovery needs. This updated appeal is based on the rapid multisectoral needs assessment and other assessments of needs and priorities amongst Palestine refugees. It incorporates the immediate emergency response actions implemented by UNRWA in the most affected areas of Latakia, Aleppo and Hama, as well as the early recovery needs of Palestine refugees in the affected areas, until 31 August 2023. UNRWA will continue to monitor the situation and update its assessment of needs accordingly.

The response under this updated Appeal aims at mitigating the effects of humanitarian emergencies on Palestine refugees, with services provided in a dignified and safe manner, in accordance with humanitarian principles. UNRWA continues to coordinate closely with the HCT and cluster system in Syria. This appeal includes interventions on cash assistance, distribution of NFIs, emergency health and education (including vocational training), psychosocial support, shelter repair and protection measures. Provision is also made for the rehabilitation of damaged installations in the affected areas. These interventions were not fully reflected in UNRWA’s initial submission to the inter-agency appeal led by OCHA, which was prepared at the very beginning of the crisis, before a more comprehensive needs assessment had been conducted.

Lebanon

The catastrophic effects of the earthquakes were also felt across Lebanon and impacted the already dilapidated housing stock and other infrastructure in the 12 Palestine camps. Private homes and buildings have been worst hit but essential services such as medical and educational facilities, in addition to water towers, have also sustained significant damages.

An ongoing rapid assessment of damages by UNRWA teams in Lebanon started on 7 February, assessing the situation in 12 camps and adjacent areas. These communities are already living in considerable hardship and face extremely high levels of vulnerability and risk.
Provision is made in this appeal for repairs to damaged refugee shelters and UNRWA infrastructure in camps in Lebanon. This includes UNRWA installations and water towers providing critical services to camp residents.

In total, through this updated flash appeal, UNRWA is seeking US$ 16,194,354 to meet the humanitarian and early recovery needs of Palestine refugees in Syria and Lebanon affected by the February 2023 earthquakes. The timeframe for the appeal is February - August 2023.

UNRWA will integrate protection and humanitarian principles across its interventions, prioritizing persons with disabilities, including by facilitating a delegation system for the collection of assistance for those who are unable to access the Agency’s facilities during distributions. Shelter rehabilitation interventions will be sensitive to the needs of persons with disabilities, including support for the building of ramps, handrails, and disability-friendly WASH facilities, amongst others.

The fuel crisis and daily electricity shortages in Syria and Lebanon have highlighted the urgency attached to transitioning towards more sustainable energy sources. Therefore, where possible, UNRWA will strive to reduce waste consumption and will install solar panels when rehabilitating its installations. Other measures such as proper discharge of waste materials and procuring building materials locally to reduce carbon footprint will also be considered.

Accountability to the Affected Populations will be ensured by organizing regular meetings with the affected communities, sharing with them highlights of the needs assessments and interventions that have been identified by the Agency, subject to availability of funds. Complains raised by the communities will be systematically documented and feedback provided.

UNRWA wishes to emphasise to all our partners that the activities presented in this appeal can only be fully implemented if the Agency’s Programme Budget and the Syria, Lebanon and Jordan Emergency Appeal for 2023 receive contributions in the amount required to sustain service provision, staffing and organizational infrastructure essential to the delivery of relief, health, education, mental health, shelter rehabilitation, environmental health and protection services, as well as the coordination and management components of the response.

Thousands of school children were affected by the earthquake in the north of Syria. Latakia Camp, Latakia, Syria. © February 2023 UNRWA
# Funding requirements (in US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Syria (US$)</th>
<th>Lebanon (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency multi-purpose cash assistance</td>
<td>3,264,479</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non food Items (NFIs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance (TSCA-rental subsidies)</td>
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<td>Emergency Health</td>
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<td>Education in Emergencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)</td>
<td>111,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (incl. staff care)</td>
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<td>Emergency preparedness</td>
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<td>Capacity and Management</td>
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<td><strong>SUB TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>15,149,291</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,194,354</strong></td>
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Humanitarian and early recovery needs

**Syria**

From 7 to 12 February, UNRWA Syria Field Office (SFO) dispatched a multisectoral assessment team to implement a rapid assessment in the earthquake affected areas, starting with Latakia, followed by Aleppo and Hama. The assessment team joined existing UNRWA teams in these areas, who had already started the collection of information. Meetings were arranged with other partners such as the Engineering Syndicates of Aleppo and Latakia, as well as specific groups including women, camp leaderships, and external actors, including the Government and other UN and humanitarian organisations. Information from other sources, mainly assessments and recommendations from the various clusters were also considered. The recommendations from the rapid needs assessment are summarized in Annex 1.

As of 21 February, an estimated 13,905 Palestine refugee families (46,534 persons) in Syria have been affected by the earthquake, whether directly (through physical harm and displacement due to material damage to their buildings) or indirectly (caused by loss of livelihood or the need to support affected relatives). Of these, hundreds remain displaced and are staying in collective shelters provided by the Government, or are being hosted by relatives and friends. These families have an ongoing need for basic items such as NFIs and food (including water, food baskets and ready-to-eat meals), as well as cleaning materials and hygiene products. Baby kits for pregnant women are a priority. UNRWA is distributing these items on an ongoing basis. In Aleppo, UNRWA observed that some refugees displaced from Ein el Tal camp during the war, and currently residing in Aleppo, decided to return to the destroyed Ein el Tal camp following the complete loss of their shelters in Aleppo due to the earthquake. Ein el Tal currently lacks basic infrastructure and the provision of UNRWA services is also limited as the Agency’s installations were severely damaged or destroyed during the war.

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes, team members from the UNRWA Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Programme (ICIP) carried out assessments of Agency installations in the affected areas. In total 21 UNRWA installations were assessed in Latakia, Hama and Aleppo, of which 17 were found to have varying levels of damage, ranging from relatively minor non-structural cracks in columns and walls to much more significant damage requiring total reconstruction. While the more recently constructed facilities fared best, given the presence of in-built seismic protection, some of the older buildings sustained heavier levels of damage which, combined with their already deteriorated state, will require significant resources to rehabilitate.

In addition to the installations that were damaged in the northern parts of Syria, a number of UNRWA installations in the central area were also impacted (including Tartous and Homs) as well as in Damascus and the south. The Agency also anticipates that as a result of ongoing aftershocks (including a significant seismic tremor on 20 February and another on 23 February), additional repairs will be needed to many of its installations over the coming months.

In addition to assessing the condition of damaged installations, the UNRWA ICIP team members, along with members of the Engineering Syndicate, also visited hundreds of homes of Palestine refugees in Latakia and Aleppo to assess their structural safety for families wishing to return to their homes. In Latakia Camp three buildings which were occupied by eight families have totally collapsed and a further 20 apartments have had to be evacuated pending rehabilitation works. In Hama, five houses were severely damaged and have been evacuated pending their reconstruction; four others also required evacuation pending the implementation of rehabilitation works. In Aleppo 14 houses had to be evacuated pending their reconstruction, with a further 25 requiring rehabilitation. An additional 158 homes will require minor repairs.

Following the preparation of formal reports by the Government of Syria on each of the damaged buildings (including UNRWA installations), arrangements can be made for repairs and reconstruction works as needed, with works to commence once funding becomes available.

Having witnessed death and injury, damage or loss of property, Palestine refugees – especially children - face trauma and require psychological support, with coping mechanisms already eroded by years of war and violence. Children are in desperate need of stress alleviating activities provided in a safe environment, together with psychosocial assistance and referrals to more specialized mental health services, where needed. Almost immediately following the initial earthquakes, UNRWA started to offer PSS during the day in the collective shelters with up to 171 children aged 6-18 years receiving counselling in Rafe‘t Dahho collective centre in Latakia. Psychological support
has been provided online and in person to students, covering up to 641 students (259 boys, 382 girls) in Jaba Atleet and Al Khairiyeh Schools in Latakia. A psychologist provided support to up to 258 boys in Samakh School and to 489 girls in Bisan School. In addition to this, 41 children aged 5-6 years received PSS in the CBO in Hama. Earthquake awareness guidance was circulated to 900 caregivers of children attending schools in Hama.

Children participate in group recreational activities organized by UNRWA together with the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Latakia, Latakia, Syria. © February 2023 UNRWA
Lebanon

An ongoing rapid assessment following the earthquake was started by UNRWA engineers on 7 February. This assessed damages in 12 camps as well as informal requests for support from families not yet visited by assessment teams. It also covered UNRWA facilities within the camps and adjacent areas.

Various damages have been reported across the camps, including collapse of balconies and walls; fallen ceiling slabs; cracks in walls, ceilings, columns and beams; broken windows; consequent water leakages; and damage to household items.

The refugee shelters that were constructed in the 1950/1960s in the twelve camps in Lebanon were not designed to be permanent and therefore lack the foundations, design and materials necessary for long-term durability and to withstand earthquakes. In addition, many shelters were destroyed or badly damaged during the years of conflict in Lebanon, and then repaired by the refugees themselves, often not up to the necessary health and safety standards. The prevalence of saline ground water (including in the water supply) has further contributed to the corrosion of steel in the reinforced concrete, causing it to weaken over time making it more susceptible to damage during the earthquake and subsequent tremors.
## Intervention summary

### Syria

**Emergency multi-purpose cash assistance**

To support the emergency humanitarian needs of families affected by the earthquake, UNRWA will provide an estimated 13,905 households with three months of cash assistance of US$ 64 per month per family to help cover their most immediate food and non-food needs. The planned amount is in line with the recommendation of the cash working group in Syria.

**Distribution of essential NFIs**

UNRWA will provide emergency NFI kits to 3,477 Palestine refugee families (it is estimated that 25 per cent of the total affected families will require NFIs). Each NFI kit includes a blanket, mattress, kitchen set, jerry can, tarpaulin, mats and a hygiene kit to cover for basic needs. In particular, the hygiene kits will help to provide refugees with basic hygiene products and other personal care items that help restore a sense of normalcy and maintain proper hygiene in the wake of their displacement. The basic kit contains 15 key essential supplies including soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, sanitary napkins, towel, plastic comb and washing powder for laundry. UNRWA will distribute NFIs to needy families (targeted based on UNRWA established criteria for vulnerable groups), including those who have been displaced, and also requires NFIs to replenish buffer pre-crisis stocks as part of the Agency's standard preparedness measures. Some of the NFIs will be provided to persons living in collective shelters, both Palestine refugees and Syrians.

**Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance (TSCA-rental subsidies)**

To alleviate hardship for families whose homes have become uninhabitable and to partially subsidize adequate temporary shelter solutions, UNRWA will provide rental cash subsidies of US$ 100 per month to 500 Palestine refugee families over a period of six months. This is a temporary measure to ensure basic shelter and dignity is maintained within the first months of the crisis and while the repair/rehabilitation of their shelters is supported.

**Emergency Health**

UNRWA will address the immediate health needs of 46,531 Palestine refugees affected by the earthquake through an increase in hospitalization referrals and patients' subsidies as families are struggling to cover medical expenses. UNRWA will ensure that basic health services continue to be provided in the three health centres in the affected areas that are still operational after the earthquake, through the deployment of frontline health staff. In addition, two dedicated mobile health units will be established under this appeal. The mobile units will support the provision of health care to displaced refugees and will provide coverage for one of the UNRWA's health centre in Aleppo, previously serving 2,500 families, which was damaged in the earthquake and is currently closed. Telemedicine continues to be provided especially for outpatient care, Non[1]Communicable Diseases (NCD) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

**Education in Emergencies**

As per the decision of the Syrian Ministry of Education (MoE), all schools in Syria closed from 7–9 February. Another decision followed to close schools in Hama, Lattakia and Aleppo Governorates from 12–16 February. Due to low attendance, with schools empty in the worst affected areas, UNRWA decided to keep schools closed from 22 - 23 February. The situation is being assessed on a day to day basis. Given the learning losses experienced by the children, UNRWA is planning to provide catch-up classes for 6,151 students in four schools in the affected areas. Support classes will be implemented during the summer break.

**Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

UNRWA is planning to conduct short term courses for 120 refugees between 17 and 40 years in the affected areas (Latakia, Homs, Hama and Aleppo) to support the recovery of their livelihoods and their access to employment opportunities. The courses will include electrical works, plumbing, welding and central heating which could be useful skills for repairing and rebuilding of houses following the earthquake. UNRWA will provide transportation to enrolled trainees to enable them to reach the training centres.

**Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support, including staff care**

UNRWA will strengthen the provision of psychosocial support to assist the population under psychological shock and distress, particularly amongst children, as a result of the earthquake. Psychological first aid is being provided by specialized counsellors in UNRWA schools targeting both students and UNRWA staff as well as at Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and in
Girls participate in recreational activities at UNRWA Neirab School, Aleppo, Syria. © February 2023 UNRWA

School book among the debris after the earthquake in Latakia Camp, Latakia, Syria. © February 2023 UNRWA
the collective shelters which are now being operated by the government. Psychological first aid aims to provide safety, stability, and resources to people in the immediate aftermath of a traumatic event to increase survivors’ abilities to cope. Mental health care will also be provided by specialized psychiatrists to be hired under this appeal, who will be available to support families through regular visits.

**Emergency shelter repair**

Under this appeal, UNRWA plans to support the repair of a total 500 refugee shelters that were severely or partially damaged by the earthquakes. The repairs include the replacement of doors and windows, plastering, tiling, electrical works, plumbing, and minor repairs to walls etc. Families will be supported with cash grants depending on the assessed level of damage. The average budget for repair is currently estimated at US$ 8,000 per house.

Agency engineers and social workers will conduct damage assessments to shelters, classifying them into totally demolished requiring severe repair (uninhabitable), major repair and minor repair cases. The self-help approach will be used for the repair of the houses, wherein owners will carry out the repairs themselves and funds will be provided in phases based on the submission and verification of documentation, and depending on progress of repairs and inspection to ensure adherence to specifications and building standards.

**Provision**

UNRWA will seek to create a safe and dignified environment for persons staying in collective shelters provided by the Government by employing mechanisms to prevent, identify and respond to abuse, including and especially Gender Based Violence (GBV). PSS counsellors will work with people and families in the collective centres on an individual and group basis. UNRWA’s Social Work team will follow up on individual cases and look at overall needs as part of a holistic approach, arranging referrals to other services as needed.

The supervision and protection of children will be an area of increased focus. School counsellors providing MHPSS in schools will also sensitize students and the wider population on reporting mechanisms and for all forms of abuse, including Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). These sessions will also be used to refer detected cases of abuse, neglect or any protection or social issue to UNRWA social workers who will lead cross-programmatic case conferences (case management), leading to internal or external referrals as appropriate. UNRWA will also work to mainstream protection and disability inclusion into the programmatic responses as part of protection risk mitigation. This will include training of staff and volunteers on protection mainstreaming and humanitarian principles, and monitoring of protection standards at UNRWA installations and other service delivery points.

Children play with volunteers at the emergency shelter in UNRWA Khairiyeh School in Latakia, Latakia, Syria. © February 2023 UNRWA
Emergency rehabilitation of UNRWA installations

UNRWA engineers are assessing the structural damage to UNRWA premises in the areas affected by the earthquake. The Agency has completed its preliminary assessment of 21 installations, of which 17 have been affected and damaged (including Schools, a Health Centre, a Training Centre, Distribution Centre, CBO building and Microfinance Centre). While the more recently constructed buildings have in-built seismic protection and are therefore not expected to be seriously damaged, UNRWA is seeking support to repair and rehabilitate its damaged buildings in order to reinstate services for the affected population as soon as possible.

Wherever possible, UNRWA will look at opportunities for ‘Building Back Better’, in order to further enhance the rehabilitation of installations. This will mean the use of alternative building materials with higher specifications, the application of energy-saving and environmentally friendly approaches and addressing accessibility issues.

Emergency preparedness

Under this appeal, UNRWA will ensure that its staff is trained on contingency management and emergency response, including through the implementation of simulation exercises. Students will also be sensitized through emergency drills and evacuation plans will be developed and tested as part of the Agency’s overall disaster management planning approach. Furthermore, the earthquake has increased the risk of waterborne diseases, in particular if families and children are forced to use contaminated water or unsafe toilets. In September 2022, the Syrian Ministry of Health (MoH) declared an outbreak of cholera in Aleppo Governorate, with the source of infection believed to be linked to people drinking unsafe water and using contaminated water to irrigate crops, resulting in food contamination. The outbreak is further impacting an already vulnerable population. Between 25 August 2022 and 21 January 2023, 84,607 suspected cases have been reported, including 101 attributed deaths to date. UNRWA is planning to conduct a workshop for its staff on emergency preparedness for disease outbreaks.

Capacity and Management

UNRWA will continue to assist affected families through a team of staff trained in emergency response. Where needed, additional staff and material support will be deployed for information tracking, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance activities, as well as additional back-office and specialized surge support including by UNRWA HQ programmes and support departments.

As part of its response under this appeal, UNRWA will strengthen its efforts to foster the resilience of communities while enhancing Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), ensuring that communities are meaningfully and continuously involved in decisions impacting their lives.

Lebanon

Emergency shelter repair

As part of this appeal, UNRWA plans to repair a total of 402 shelters, comprising 346 in the 12 official refugee camps across the country and a further 56 in the Beqaa located in an old military base. Repairs include repairs to walls, ceilings, columns and beams, reconstruction of collapsed balconies, plastering, tiling, plumbing and electrical works. The average budget for repair is estimated at US$ 1,600 per home, which works to be completed by contractors.

Emergency rehabilitation of UNRWA installations

Ongoing assessments by UNRWA engineers have identified a total of 18 Agency installations that have sustained damages, in central Lebanon and Saida areas. This includes 12 UNRWA schools, two health centres, one sanitation office, one area office, one social services office and the UNRWA LFO compound. A further four water tanks in Nahr El Bared, Mar Elias, Burj Barajneh and Burj Shemali camps have also been damaged, impacting on water supply to affected camps.
Damages caused by the earthquake increased the vulnerability of Palestine refugees in Lebanon, who were already living in deteriorated shelters. Mar Elias Camp, Lebanon. © February 2023 UNRWA

A shelter damaged by the earthquake in Mar Elias Camp, Lebanon. © February 2023 UNRWA
### Recommended Responses from the Rapid Needs Assessment in Latakia, Aleppo and Hama

#### The key priority responses include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repairs to Shelters and UNRWA installations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Assessment of the affected buildings (partially damaged / with cracks etc.) to determine the resources needed for repairs (in coordination with the Engineering Syndicates)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Allocation of cash support (rental subsidies and shelter repair grants) for families to support them to cover rental, repair costs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Detailed assessment of partially damaged UNRWA installations and allocation of resources to expedite their rehabilitation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Health

- Provision of counselling and therapeutic support by health care professionals to individuals and families
- Procurement and (re-)stocking of medications
- Coverage for the cost of hospital referrals and patient subsidies (as needed) to affected individuals
- Hygiene audits and health promotion campaigns to mitigate outbreak risks (especially cholera)

#### Education

- Convening of PTA meetings in all affected schools to engage and share information
- Provision of counselling sessions for children and assessment of children with heightened stress/trauma symptoms for referral for health supports as needed
- Development of printed education materials for dissemination if schools remain closed for a prolonged period
- Development and implementation of strategies to promote learning recovery
- Delivery of hygiene awareness programmes for those living in temporary shelters, in coordination with other agencies

#### RSSP

- Provision of once-off cash assistance of USD 64 per month per family in the affected areas for a period of three months (in line with the recommendation of the Cash Working Group for Syria)
- Expedite distribution of food assistance (as part of the emergency appeal) to families in the affected areas

#### Protection

- Continuous monitoring of protection environment, involving Area Protection Committees and those representing vulnerable groups. Work with other agencies to assess conditions in the temporary shelters
- Internal and external referrals for protection cases between programmes and specialist organisations as needed
- Updating records for families (due to loss of documentation) and ensuring beneficiaries are not denied services owing to lack of documentation
- Focused support to orphaned children
- Promotion of PSEA messages in UNRWA installations being used as emergency shelters
- Risk communication around earthquakes to the communities, including for school children

#### Psychosocial Support for UNRWA Staff

- Activate peer counselling support
- Identify staff counsellors and share their contact details with the staff in the affected areas. These Counsellors will be identified from the education programme
- Facilitate group feedback and therapy sessions for staff in all three locations
endnotes

1 As of 27 February OCHA reported 44,000 deaths in Turkey, while as of 28 February, 4,500 were reported in Syria. See OCHA sitreps: https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-5-27-february-2023?ql=1*1c9qe5* qa*MTEyNjY2NTUwNS4xNjcxMDA3Nzcw* qa_E60ZNX2f68*MTY3NzU3NTk0Mi4xMS4xLjE2Nzc1NzY4OTMuOC4wLjA for Türkiye and https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/syria/ for Syria

2 https://www.unocha.org/story/un-issues-call-1-billion-help-millions-people-t%C3%BCrkiye-affected-devastating-quakes

3 WHO, Cholera Outbreak Situation Report No. 12 Issued 31 January 2023