



Five cousins, Naya, 8, Ellen, 9, Sham, 7, Zeina, 7, and Mai, 5 are waiting for their turn to be examined by the paediatrician with a UNICEF-supported mobile health and nutrition team in Assalieh village, rural Jableh, Latakia, Syria.

Earthquake Response in Syria

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 9



Reporting Period: 12 April – 2 May 2023

Highlights

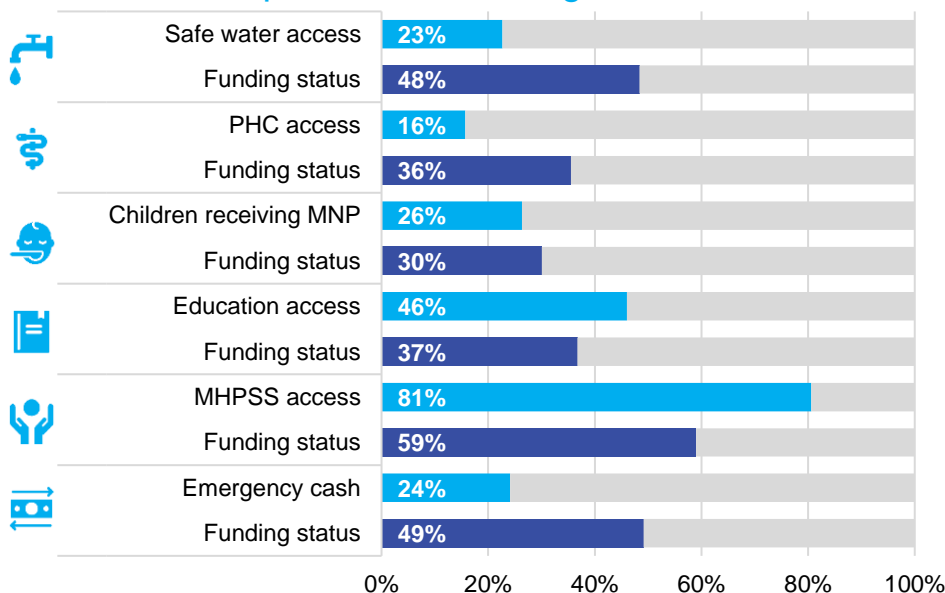
- UNICEF and partners supported 140,286 children (70,272 girls and 70,014 boys) to access **formal or non-formal education** in a safe and gender sensitive environment to date, including early learning, self-learning and remedial classes. Prefabricated classrooms with gender sensitive WASH prefabs have been installed to ensure the continuity of the provision of formal education in areas where schools are unable to reopen due to damages or use as shelters.
- UNICEF continued to provide **life-saving WASH services**, reaching an additional 183,658 people including 51,280 girls, 47,348 boys, 44,755 women and 40,275 men with sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs. This brings the cumulative reach to 765,794 beneficiaries.
- UNICEF implementing partners provided **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services** to a total of 12,639 children and caregivers (6,111 girls, 4,629 boys, 1,622 women and 277 men). These interventions included psychological first aid, recreational activities, structured psychosocial support interventions that support children in getting a sense of stability and routine, after getting displaced and, having to leave the comfort of their homes.
- The Immediate Response Plan is **45 per cent funded**, with US\$78.1 million received. Nutrition, health and education remain significantly underfunded.

Situation in Numbers

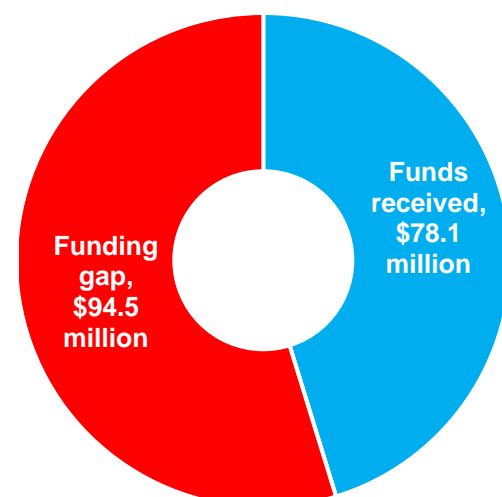


UNICEF Appeal US\$172.7 million

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status***



Funding Status (in US\$)



*UNICEF, Earthquake Response for the Children of the Syrian Arab Republic, Immediate Response Plan, February-May 2023

**OCHA, Syria Earthquake Needs and Response Overview, 15 March 2023

***The funding status reflects funding for the entire sector, while the results towards the selected indicator per sector represents only the results towards a key sector specific indicator.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

To meet the life-saving needs of nearly 3 million earthquake-affected children in Syria, UNICEF is appealing for **US\$172.7 million** to implement its [Immediate Response Plan for the Earthquake](#), which is part of the [Inter-Agency Flash Appeal](#) and will inform the revision of the 2023 Syria Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC).¹

The **Immediate Response Plan is 45 per cent funded**, with US\$78.1 million received.² Nutrition, health and education remain significantly underfunded.

Of the funds received, US\$50.7 million (65 per cent) are from UNICEF core resources, UNICEF National Committees, UNICEF country offices with structured private sector fundraising activities and UNICEF's global giving online platform. The remaining US\$27.4 million from public sector partners including the governments of Australia, Japan, Slovakia and New Zealand, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Rapid Response, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Accelerated Funding Grant and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The governments of the State of Kuwait and France, the CERF Underfunded Emergencies, Syria Humanitarian Fund and UNICEF National Committees have also pledged additional support. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all private and public sector partners for their critical support to the earthquake response.

UNICEF urges all partners to the earthquake response to ensure flexible, sustained and predictable resources are provided to the ongoing humanitarian response, promote a child-focused recovery and ensure children's needs are prioritized within funding allocations, recognizing that children are among those most vulnerable. There must be investment in a long-term recovery and building back better, more resilient, and more inclusive of the most marginalized. Neither humanitarian exemptions nor funding should be time-bound or earthquake specific.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Three months following the first earthquake, the longstanding crisis affecting children and women in Syria continues to worsen. The situation is exacerbated by the ongoing conflict and the spread of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera. According to local and government sources, approximately 6,000 people have reportedly been killed and more than 12,000 injured across Syria as a result of the multiple earthquakes that hit parts of Syria and Türkiye on 6 February³. Over 8.8 million people in Syria, including 3.7 million children and pregnant and lactating women, have been affected and continue to be in need of water, shelter, food and emergency medical and psychosocial assistance⁴. Due to pre-existing gender inequalities, women and girls face additional risks which require specific attention in the humanitarian response.

Following the earthquake, UNICEF has focused on scaling up immediate lifesaving assistance to the affected communities. However, UNICEF has made a strategic shift in the response, building on its immediate lifesaving needs and moving towards supporting people recover through the rehabilitation/reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and restoration of basic services. Since the earthquake the UNICEF Northwest (NW) Syria team has undertaken 27 missions inside Northern Aleppo and Idlib for programme monitoring and needs and operational environment assessment. As a result of the missions, UNICEF has been able to work closely with partners to assess the impacts of the earthquake, engage with the affected population and support the scaling up of the UNICEF earthquake response. The increased access has meant that UNICEF staff are able to increase the monitoring of the UNICEF response as well as to identify areas for capacity development and technical support.

The Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA), carried out following the earthquakes, was a UN led exercise that aimed to provide a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the February 2023 earthquakes on communities across five of Syria's most affected governorates, namely Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Latakia and Tartous. It covers 26 districts across all governorates in the Whole of Syria affected by the earthquakes. The assessment spans social, infrastructure and productive sectors of the economy as well as cross cutting areas such as employment and livelihoods and disaster risk reduction (DRR). The SERNA is based on the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) methodology jointly developed by the European Union, the World Bank and the UN System. Sector teams conducted the assessment through field visits, satellite imagery and short surveys in various locations. Preliminary findings have been released, pending finalisation at the beginning of May.

Humanitarian needs across all affected areas were exacerbated by the earthquake. This is particularly disconcerting considering that the affected governorates held 48 per cent of the total people in need of humanitarian assistance prior to the earthquakes and that two of the most affected governorates, Aleppo and Idlib, already had some of the highest levels of humanitarian need in the country⁵.

¹ Prior to the earthquake, UNICEF appealed for US\$328.5 million for its 2023 Syria Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), which includes response activities for Northwest Syria. The severity of humanitarian needs in Syria was further exacerbated by the earthquakes, especially since people across the country were already suffering from a deteriorating socio-economic condition, a recent cholera outbreak, shortages of electricity, water and fuel and 12 years of protracted crisis.

² In addition to the funds received from partners, UNICEF made available an Emergency Programme Funds (EPF) loan of US\$17.4 million to immediately scale up the earthquake response in Syria. In previous sitreps this was included in the total funding received but has been removed in this sitrep in order to reflect accurately the level of funding received for this response.

³ OCHA Syrian Arab Republic: Earthquakes, Whole of Syria Situation Updates, 1 March 2023

⁴ OCHA Syria Earthquake Flash Appeal, 14 February

⁵ Syria earthquake recovery needs assessment (SERNA) April 2023

According to the preliminary findings of SERNA, the earthquake and subsequent aftershocks have caused severe damages to water and sewage infrastructure which has exacerbated the already strained and damaged water and sewage systems. This greatly increased the risk of cholera, with 6.5 million people at elevated cholera risk. The findings also indicate that 27 health facilities have been totally destroyed, whilst 214 health facilities have been partially destroyed, creating additional burden on the already strained health sector. Furthermore, the impact of the earthquake coupled with heightened food insecurity worsened the nutrition status of children and women, with the assessment finding that the number of children under five years of age and PLWs at risk of malnutrition, has increased by 10 per cent in the affected areas. The assessment findings also indicate that 37,000 children are estimated to have moderate acute malnutrition and 14,000 children severe acute malnutrition while 76,000 pregnant and lactating women need treatment for acute malnutrition

The SERNA also assessed the infrastructural damage on education facilities with different degree of damage observed across 2,149 schools (12 per cent heavy damage, 28 per cent partial damage, and 60 per cent minor damage). This further decreases the capacity and safety of school buildings that had been already dilapidated due to damages and lack of maintenance since 2011. The damage on schools has caused the disruption of the education of around 1.9 million children (one million girls). In addition, reports from education actors and the Ministry of Education (MoE) show that as of date 109 schools remain used as shelter. Furthermore, in NW Syria, over one million out of school children need education support⁶ and are at risk of falling out of education longer term, as well as being exposed to increased protection and GBV risks due to the compounding impact of the earthquakes on the already fragile education system. In addition, children and their caregivers are still living in stressful situations, and this has been heightened by the additional uncertainty regarding the closing of temporary shelters and the moving of families to mid-term shelters. Children continue to bear the brunt of the impact with reports from implementing partners indicating that approximately 80 per cent of the separated and unaccompanied children (and that more boys than girls) are involved in child labour.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF's Immediate Response Plan for the earthquake aims to reach 5.4 million people, including 2.6 million children, in the first three-months of the response (February to May 2023). UNICEF is meeting the humanitarian needs of girls, boys, adolescents, and families through an integrated and gender-responsive approach, prioritizing highly affected areas and areas of large displacement.

As part of UNICEF's **Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)**, UNICEF is ensuring affected persons are reached through messaging on prevention and access to services, and existing complaints and feedback mechanisms (including sexual exploitation and abuse) will be scaled up with special attention to gender elements across all programmes and interventions. An agreement has been reached with UN Agencies on how to refer and manage cases to address the diverse needs of the affected population, in the areas of, including but not limited to, shelter, non-food items, health, gender-based violence, legal documentation, and reunification with families. At the same time, agencies have agreed to share their respective services in the affected areas so callers can be immediately referred and provided with necessary support. Since the earthquakes, the UNICEF service line has responded to more than 974 cases from the affected governorates of Aleppo, Hama and Latakia, including 884 of which (91 per cent) are directly related to the earthquake including enquiring about the earthquake cash transfer scheme and seeking additional services in shelters. However, it is anticipated that the number of calls received from IDPs in shelters to decline as many people have move back to their homes or have rented a safe home. Since mid-March 2023, and as part of monitoring the earthquake response, UNICEF Syria has carried out 1,037 surveys in four affected governorates. Over 82 per cent of the beneficiaries responded that both the supplies and services provided met their current needs. Eighty-eight per cent of the respondents were satisfied with the quality of the supplies provided, while almost half of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality of the services. Seventy-three per cent responded that the items were delivered immediately, and 89 per cent of the beneficiaries who said they received the services at an appropriate time. Almost all the respondents were satisfied with the behaviour of the aid workers that provided the assistance. The monitoring findings show that 79 per cent of the beneficiaries do not know how to make a complaint, give feedback, or provide a suggestion about the assistance they have received. UNICEF is exploring how best to move forward and solve the latter issue. On the inter-agency level, providing support for AAP interventions during the earthquake response has been prioritised in the 2023 interagency action plan.

UNICEF and partners are providing **protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)** awareness raising sessions, targeting all communities where UNICEF delivers programmes in either dedicated sessions or as part of other sessions structured by partners where other related topics are also discussed. PSEA key messages, including messages specifically tailored for children, have been disseminated through the UNICEF and UNHCR led interagency PSEA network in the earthquake-affected areas. Since the beginning of the earthquake response, 49,998 children and adults have participated in PSEA awareness sessions (17,596 girls, 17,849 boys, 10,001 women and 4,552 men). On behalf of the PSEA in-country network (ICN), UNICEF and UNHCR have developed an SEA risk mitigation framework and SOPs to ensure confidential, timely handling of SEA allegations when received.

⁶ OCHA Northwest Syria Situation Update 07 April 2023

WASH

In the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide **life-saving WASH services**, reaching an additional 183,658 people in NW Syria including 51,280 girls, 47,348 boys, 44,755 women and 40,275 men with sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs. This brings the cumulative reach across the whole of Syria to 765,794 beneficiaries. An additional 133,931 people (39,700 girls, 37,369 boys, 29,733 women and 27,129 men) have been reached with appropriate **sanitation services** during the reporting period, bringing the overall reach to 470,113 to date.

UNICEF has distributed hygiene supplies to 284,162 internally displaced people (IDP) (83,925 girls, 77,948 boys, 63,884 women and 58,405 men). These supplies, including family hygiene kits, soaps, jerry cans, menstrual hygiene supplies, aqua tabs, and baby diapers, are essential for promoting cleanliness, good health, and well-being in crisis situations. UNICEF also works to provide increased support to disabled children affected by the earthquakes, ensuring that they receive the necessary aid and care, as a result UNICEF distributed 682 diapers to 283 babies with disabilities (126 girls and 157 boys) in Aleppo.

With the upcoming summer season, AWD/Cholera outbreak is a growing concern, as such, UNICEF has launched an awareness campaign to prevent the spread of AWD/Cholera especially among displaced people in Aleppo. Additionally, UNICEF is distributing aqua-tabs in Lattakia to families in temporary shelters to guarantee the safety of their water supply and prevent any potential health threats.

In NW Syria, vulnerable people residing in reception centers, informal settlements and camps continue to be reached with WASH activities. Furthermore, to ensure sustainable access to WASH services, UNICEF and partners are working on rehabilitation of damaged water systems and sewage networks. This specific intervention will cover the need for the host communities alongside camps and informal settlements. In addition, UNICEF is also working on the rehabilitation of WASH facilities in primary health care facilities and schools to ensure improved access to WASH facilities and services in the schools and health care centers.

UNICEF has developed a two-phase plan to address water and sanitation issues in the sector. In the first phase of the plan, UNICEF aims to repair critical water and sewerage networks, treatment and pumping facilities, and power supplies to restore basic services for communities in need. The second phase of the plan seeks to fully restore the capacity of the existing WASH services to meet the demand for clean water, adequate sanitation, and equitable hygiene practices. This comprehensive plan is designed to tackle the water and sanitation crisis in a systematic manner, prioritizing critical infrastructure repair and expansion to ensure the availability of safe water for all. In this regard, UNICEF has started to repair the damaged water and sewage networks within the city of Aleppo. This approach has been chosen as the most appropriate way to provide safe drinking water and adequate sanitation services that not only reduce the time required for water collection but also mitigate any gender risks associated with the process of water collection. However, several challenges are hindering the implementation of water and sewage infrastructure rehabilitation, including delays in obtaining necessary approvals, limited availability of quality spare parts and maintenance equipment in the local market, and the ongoing reduction in the number of shelters and movement of IDPs between shelters. The lack of power supply and fuel is also a significant constraint in operating water supply systems.

In recognition of the increased GBV and protection risks, UNICEF is taking concrete actions in WASH interventions including **considerations of age and gender** in design, implementation and monitoring. Whilst reports of insufficient quality and quantity of gender segregated, well-lit and lockable toilet facilities continue in collective shelters, UNICEF has made strong progress in NW Syria through providing user friendly facilities, reducing walking distances to water points and designing facilities that address the specific needs of girls, boys, women and men.

Health

Since the beginning of the response, UNICEF and partners have provided 188,846 children and women (84,358 girls, 80,916 boys and 23,572 women) with **access to primary healthcare** through medical consultations in UNICEF supported facilities. In partnership with local NGOs, including women led organizations, UNICEF is also providing maternal and child health services in the affected areas through mobile medical teams that include paediatricians, midwives, and nurses. To ensure a gender sensitive approach, all mobile medical teams have female nurses and most of them have female doctors.

Furthermore, partners are continuing to provide health services, reaching 167,698 (79,253 girls, 75,140 boys and 13,305 women) individuals with medical consultations and essential health services. **Routine vaccination** is ongoing with the tracking of zero dose children, reaching 6,113 children to date. UNICEF is working with local partners and youth volunteers, including adolescent girls and young women, to engage communities to ensure vaccination coverage of all children. To ensure accountability towards affected population, UNICEF supported NGOs are obliged to install complaint boxes in all fixed clinics, in addition to a hotline for any misconduct or complaints the beneficiaries may need to report on. UNICEF has also trained all implementing partners on PSEA, and they are informed about UNICEF's zero tolerance policy for all forms of SEA. In NW Syria,

One of the main obstacles to implementing programmes has been the limited storage capacity at the level of governorates and the limited distribution channels for health and nutrition supplies. This is in addition to the shortage of

workforce for the supply distribution at the lowest level. Long processes for clearance of supplies at the level of the Ministry of Health was also an additional challenge.

In NW Syria, the integrated **polio and measles campaign** was completed on 30 April targeting 819,527 children for polio between 0-59 months and 758,057 for measles 6-59 months. The results from the campaign achieved were 768,785 for oral polio (94 per cent) and 668,056 for measles (88 per cent). Discussions are ongoing to do a second measles campaign to reach a higher caseload. The cholera outbreak in NW Syria is ongoing with a cumulative 71,960 suspected cases with 23 deaths since September 2022.

Nutrition

Since the beginning of the response, 159,649 children (79,771 girls and 79,878 boys) aged 6-59 months were **screened for acute malnutrition**, including 103,015 children in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous as well as 56,634 children in NW Syria. Out of the total children screened, since the beginning of the response, 209 children (100 girls and 109 boys) in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated, in addition 652 children (377 girls and 275 boys) identified with malnutrition in NW Syria have been treated. In addition, 28,527 pregnant and lactating women were also screened for acute malnutrition in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous.

In collaboration with WFP, UNICEF and partners to date have reached 97,769 children under-five with **micro-nutrient powder (MNP)** to date, including 77,806 children under-five (39,155 girls and 38,651 boys) in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous, and 19,963 children under-five (9,767 girls and 10,196 boys) in NW Syria. In addition, to date 23,276 pregnant and lactating women received micronutrients in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous. UNICEF also provided **high-energy biscuits** to 1,699 children (844 girls and 855 boys) in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia, and Tartous as well as 2,408 children in NW Syria.

Meanwhile, UNICEF and partners provided messages on appropriate **infant and young child feeding** practices in emergencies, reaching an additional 11,839 primary caregivers during the reporting period and 120,166 primary caregivers to date (100,743 primary caregivers in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous as well as 19,423 in NW Syria).

Mothers' support groups have been a key platform for disseminating key IYCF messages within the community. The main challenge was to engage men in child nutrition and care practices through responsive parenting. Men also rarely participate in practices to improve women's health at household level. Similarly, engagement with women's groups on women's nutrition (before, during and after conception) is also not practiced. This may open a strategic area of engagement as UNICEF moves in for build back better especially after the severe earthquake.

In NW Syria, UNICEF continued working closely with its partners to provide **integrated nutrition services** of preventative and curative nutrition services in reception centres through the established 25 mobile clinics and through fixed health facilities. As cluster lead, UNICEF is also providing nutrition supplies to 36 cluster partners, including ready to use therapeutic food and preventative nutrition interventions. In addition, the cash plus nutrition programme in NW Syria is ongoing, to date there has been a consistent reach of 1,700 pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under two years old to improve access and knowledge on consumption of adequate and nutritionally balanced diets alongside social behaviour change activities. This caseload of 1,700 PLWs has a further household reach of 8,623 people (2,598 girls, 2,643 boys, 1,705 women and 1,677 men).

Education

UNICEF and partners supported 140,286 (70,272 girls and 70,014 boys) to access **formal or non-formal education** in a safe and gender sensitive environment to date, including early learning, self-learning and remedial classes.

In coordination with the Directorates of Education in Lattakia, Aleppo, Hama and Homs 18 **prefabricated classrooms** (prefabs) have been installed to ensure the continuity of the provision of formal education in areas where schools are unable to reopen due to damages or use as shelters. In Lattakia, six prefabs were established in the Sports City shelter constituting a full school that was named "Hope School" - a signal of hope for affected children and families. Nine more prefabs are in the process of being installed and 10 single-sex WASH prefabs that were designed and installed taking girls' privacy into consideration. Priority for the provision of prefabs is given to areas near damaged schools where 54 per cent of students are girls. In Aleppo, 20 prefabricated classrooms and five WASH prefabs have been installed, taking girls' privacy into consideration as well. In Hama, Homs and Tartous 29 more prefabricated classrooms are being installed along with single-sex WASH prefabs. UNICEF also installed 30 **temporary learning spaces** in collective shelters in Aleppo and started providing learning and recreational activities to over 1,200 children (50 per cent girls).

To date, UNICEF established eight **digital learning centres** ("Learning Cinemas") in shelter locations in Aleppo and Lattakia and trained 53 facilitators and teachers on digital learning. Laptops and tablets pre-loaded with digital learning materials and interactive educational games along with projectors and batteries were provided to each centre; 2,040 children are benefitting from the Learning Cinemas.

In NW Syria, UNICEF remained committed to improving access to quality education for Syrian children. Efforts continued to be focused on ensuring that children had access to basic education and providing children with the opportunity to learn and grow. In Aleppo and Idlib governorates, 82,101 (40,923 girls, 41,178 boys) children were reached in 21 subdistricts and 88 communities. UNICEF continued supporting **formal and non-formal education activities**, including **self-learning and remedial** classes, reaching 71,043 children (35,682 girls and 35,361 boys) in NW Syria. During the reporting period, UNICEF partners also reached 18,608 children (8,363 girls and 10,245 boys) with **back-to-learning** interventions through numerous means, including awareness raising activities and community mobilization.

Meanwhile, debris removal, minor repairs and **light rehabilitation** is ongoing in 42 schools in Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama and Homs during reporting period. In all UNICEF-supported rehabilitation work, measures are taken to ensure the privacy of WASH facilities for girls. Preparations are ongoing to rehabilitate more than 388 schools and is closely coordinated with the WASH sector to ensure children can return and resume their education in a safe environment with adequate gender and disability sensitive WASH facilities. In Lattakia, eight schools requiring light rehabilitation (two in remote and rural areas) have been completed and 1,500 students can now benefit from formal education. The rehabilitation included schools in Hafeh, where most of the schools had been damaged. In order for increased numbers of children to resume education, classes have resumed in two shifts in the rehabilitated schools – hosting children from other schools that are still closed due to damage. UNICEF is also coordinating with respective Departments of Education to prioritize schools in remote and rural areas where there is no alternative for children to go to school.

To promote resilience and psychosocial well-being of children in NW Syria, UNICEF partners reached 7,990 children (4,403 girls and 3,587 boys) with **school-based psychosocial support** programmes in non-formal settings. During the same period, life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal and non-formal settings were conducted with UNICEF support, reaching 10,474 children (4,948 girls and 5,526 boys).

Child Protection

Collective shelters continue to be closed leading to increased numbers of families moving back to communities. As a result, UNICEF and implementing partners are increasingly using **community-based approaches** to prevent/mitigate and respond to child protection risks and continue to provide critical **child protection interventions** for girls, boys, and adults to reduce the impacts of the earthquake and to improve their overall sense of wellbeing. This includes using mobile teams to provide mental health and psychosocial support services, providing case management services, family tracing and reunification services for separated and unaccompanied minors and raising awareness to prevent all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse of children. Mothers and fathers who have completed the parenting support sessions are also being connected to existing community structures including child protection committees. Some of those adolescents and adults who have benefitted from structured mental health and psychosocial support sessions are also becoming volunteers in the community.

During the reporting period, UNICEF implementing partners **provided MHPSS services** to a total of 7,229 children and caregivers (4,023 girls, 2,918 boys, 258 women and 30 men). These interventions included psychological first aid, recreational activities, structured psychosocial support interventions that support children in getting a sense of stability and routine, after getting displaced and, having to leave the comfort of their homes. Feedback from the caregivers whose children are participating in the MHPSS interventions report that the children are now less frightened at night and can sleep better. In NW Syria, MHPSS reached 5,410 children and parents/caregivers (2,088 girls, 1,711 boys, 1,364 women, 247 men) in the reporting period.

Furthermore, UNICEF has reached 46,916 parents and caregiver (29,985 women and 16,931 men) with **parenting sessions** organized by UNICEF partners in- and outside of shelters to ensure that caregivers have a safe space where they can share their experiences with other parents, learn from each other and to relax. These parents particularly the mothers report that they are gaining valuable skills and tools that they are using to ensure better communication with their children and to better respond to the signs of distress that their children are showing. They are also better able to deal with grief themselves and support their children who experienced loss. UNICEF and implementing partners have made great efforts in mobilizing men/fathers to join the parenting sessions, however, some partners have reported that number of women/mothers participating in the parenting sessions is higher than men and the women/mothers are more committed and engaged in the sessions.

UNICEF and implementing partners continue to provide risk education to prevent incidents and accidents related to explosive remnants of war. During this reporting period, 1,067 children (633 girls and 434 boys) were reached with **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)**. In NW Syria, EORE interventions were delivered in displaced communities in health centres, camps, markets. During the reporting period the intervention reached 2,255 children (1,149 girls and 1,106 boys). Furthermore, UNICEF implementing partners provided PSEA awareness raising sessions, targeting all communities in NW Syria where UNICEF delivers programmes. PSEA awareness raising sessions take place in either dedicated sessions or as part of other sessions structured by partners where other related topics are also discussed. During the reporting period, at least 7,432 children and adults received this intervention (2,679 girls, 2,825 boys, 1,326 women and 602 men).

Provision of non-food items also continues, and 1,121 children (584 boy and 537 girls) received clothes from UNICEF during the reported period, bringing the total number of children reached with clothing to 14,182. In addition, a total of

5,286 children and caregivers (1,967 boys, 2,133 girls, 586 men, 600 women) received blankets which brings the total number of those received blankets to 20,068 since the earthquake response began.

Case management services also continued to be provided during the reporting period with UNICEF and partners reaching 215 children (114 girls and 101 boys) facing protection risks with referrals and specialized services. This includes 56 children (32 boys and 24 girls) who were separated or unaccompanied (UASC). These children were mainly referred to health services and cash assistance. In NW Syria, child protection and GBV case management play a central role in facilitating individual child protection assessments, monitoring of cases and referral to specialized services, following a survivor centred approach and the best interests of the child. In the reporting period partners have opened 554 new cases of which 253 are girls, 254 boys and seven are women.

UNICEF continued to develop the capacities of key frontline staff, including from relevant authorities and sector partners to ensure that minimum service package was delivered to the affected children, adolescents, and caregivers. 161 frontline staff (103 female and 58 male) were provided with various trainings, bringing the total number of frontline workers reached with UNICEF training to 679.

Cash Relief Response

UNICEF continues delivering **emergency cash assistance** to the most marginalised earthquake-affected families, reaching 80,226 people to date, including 69,851 highly vulnerable people (17,476 girls, 18,179 boys, 17,126 women and 17,070 men) in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia as well as 10,375 people (2,598 girls, 2,643 boys, 3,457 women and 1,677 men) in NW Syria.

In Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia, cash assistance is delivered through the vertical and horizontal expansion of two Humanitarian Cash Transfer (HCT) programmes:

- [Cash for Basic Needs Support Programme](#) (CBNSP): The programme provides unconditional and unrestricted cash assistance to help vulnerable families cover their basic needs during winter. The programme targets highly vulnerable families in urban and peri-urban slums, including those (i) headed by females and (ii) with persons with disabilities, chronic illnesses and/or orphans.
- [Integrated Social Protection Programme for Children with Disabilities](#) (ISPP-CWD): The programme provides unconditional and unrestricted cash assistance to families caring for children with severe mental and/or physical disabilities.

Findings from the [rapid Post-Distribution Monitoring in Hama Governorate](#) which was issued during the reporting period, indicate that **almost half of the cash was used by families for home repairs and rent**. This indicates that the cash was used to address **new** humanitarian needs directly resulting from the earthquake. At the same time, one-quarter of the cash assistance was used by families for health-related expenditures. The significant amount of cash used for health highlights the high level of pre-existing vulnerabilities among beneficiaries and indicate that **the earthquake has further aggravated poverty and vulnerability of families caring for children with disabilities**.

During the reporting, the Central Bank of Syria issued a decree requesting banks and financial service providers that any list of beneficiaries in relation to the earthquake humanitarian cash transfer response should be first stamped by the Crisis Room in each governorate prior to payment to beneficiaries. As a result, in the reporting period UNICEF, focused on finding ways to facilitate payment to beneficiaries, while complying to the new Decree and UNICEF commitments to protection of personal information. As such, no payments have been processed for beneficiaries in the reporting period. UNICEF continues to actively engage with the Government and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to identify solutions and resume payment to beneficiaries.

Adolescents Development and Participation (ADAP)

UNICEF is working with young people for young people. UNICEF and partner's emergency response is being strengthened through harnessing the invaluable support of 5,381 young volunteers, including 2,712 adolescent girls and young women, who despite themselves being affected by the earthquakes are eager to get involved as strategic partners in helping other earthquakes affected children, peers and families. These young people are bringing young and innovative perspectives to UNICEF's response. UNICEF and partners are providing additional training for these young people and equipping them to **engage in and lead social and civic engagement activities**, including developing youth-led initiatives, leading recreational activities, disseminating SBC messages, distributing humanitarian aid and conducting assessments.

During the reporting period, 162 young people (103 girls and 95 boys) in Aleppo, 81 young people (47 girls and 34 boys) in Lattakia, and 99 young people (79 girls and 70 boys) in Hama, benefited from skill-building activities, including interactive sessions on the topic of self-awareness, stress management, teamwork, and living together. The activities helped adolescents understand their own strengths and weaknesses and provided an opportunity for them to discuss their interests, hobbies and hopes as they work through and beyond the difficult challenges they faced during and following the earthquake. Seventy-five young girls benefited from awareness sessions on topics related to self-protection, GBV, and positive hygiene practices in Aleppo.

In order to build the capacity of young service providers, UNICEF conducted workshops on 'stress and emotions management' and 'conducting evaluations' targeting 41 young people (23 girls and 18 boys) in affected communities in Aleppo, and built the capacity of a volunteer team (32 girls and 18 boys) in Hama to enable them to respond to disasters and crises.

In order to strengthen social, civic and digital engagement of adolescents and youth and fostering of volunteerism, UNICEF built the capacity of 77 young people (41 girls and 36 boys) on digital engagement in Aleppo. Meanwhile, 34 adolescent boys participated in sports for development activities through the "Football League" initiative organized and led by the UNICEF-supported young teams in Lattakia. In addition, 173 Youth volunteers participated in activities for children in collective shelters in Aleppo.

Social and Behavioural Change (SBC) / Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Efforts are ongoing to provide SBC interventions to families and children who are most affected by earthquakes in Lattakia, Aleppo, Hama, and Idlib through partnerships with NGOs, partners, and volunteers. A total of 15,361 individuals (9,914 women and 5,447 men) have been engaged through **awareness sessions** conducted in collective shelters and at the community level. These sessions covered various topics such as earthquake lifesaving messages, cholera prevention, routine immunization, and hygiene promotion. Moreover, to engage with children more efficiently, **edutainment activities** such as mobile theatres and songs have been implemented. A total of 6,230 children (3,343 girls and 2,887 boys) have attended these activities at shelters to learn about earthquake preparedness and prevention from waterborne diseases. Furthermore, SBC volunteers have conducted door-to-door visits in affected areas, engaging 9,461 individuals (and 5,221 women and 4,240 men). In addition, over 7,717 print materials were distributed, reaching 5,449 women and 2,268 men.

One of the challenges in implementing SBC interventions in Aleppo is the repeated suspension of the soft component and awareness-raising activities at shelters by the Aleppo operation room, due to the closure of temporary shelters and the need to move families to different shelters.

Meanwhile in NW Syria, UNICEF continues to lead RCCE, along with WHO for the cholera outbreak response which was quickly expanded to include the earthquake response. During the reporting period, 7,786 students were reached with **preventive messages on cholera** and safe keeping from the earthquake aftermath in 31 subdistricts in NW Syria. Forty teachers, 28 religious leaders, 24 community leaders, eight camp managers, 42 health workers, and 55 other influencers participated in engagement activities for positive health seeking behavioural change in different locations in NW Syria.

Since February 2023, **SBC communication** focusing on prevention of family separation, violence and negative coping mechanisms reached at least 13,687 children and parents and caregivers, of which 4,668 are girls, 3,961 are boys, 2,841 are women and 2,217 are men.

An estimated total of 937,000 people (271,000 in the reporting period) were reached through various community engagement and social mobilization sessions including disseminating cholera and safe keeping from earthquake aftermath messages by using vehicles with megaphones in 201 communities in NW Syria since the onset of the response.

UNICEF provides technical guidance to the RCCE working group that comprises of 43 partner organizations. Overall, 11 RCCE partners, during the last two weeks, covered 27 subdistricts in NW Syria through 837 Community Health Workers / Social mobilizers (CHWs/ SM) and other mobile teams focusing on face-to-face awareness sessions and community engagement. Through RCCE activities, a total of 155,027 people were reached which resulted in referring 698 suspected cholera cases for further care and 3,611 other cases (Sexual Reproductive Health - child health- internal medicine- nutrition) to respective facilities or services in the targeted communities.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of the humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster/sector coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters/sectors and the child protection area of responsibility at national and sub-national levels across the whole of Syria.⁷

In close coordination with OCHA, work is underway to update the Humanitarian Response Plan to integrate the earthquake response, which will include UNICEF in parallel updating its HAC for up until end of 2023. These updates are planned for before mid-year. In close coordination with local partners and as part of the UN Humanitarian Country Team, UNICEF is **shifting towards early recovery, focusing more on resilience and system building in essential services**, while maintaining service delivery in the areas where there are critical gaps.

In line with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in humanitarian action, priority is given to restoring essential health and WASH, psychosocial support, family separations, protection case management, provision of cash and non-

⁷ All cluster coordinators costs are included into sectoral programme budgets

food items where needed. UNICEF is also leveraging its established systems for AAP, PSEA and GBV in close collaboration with UNHCR, UNFPA and other partners. UNICEF has also been engaged in a few assessments since the earthquakes, including the SERNA, a UN led exercise that aimed to provide a comprehensive assessment of the impact of earthquakes on communities across the five affected governorates and, the OCHA-led Governorate-level Syria Needs Assessment Tool (SYNAT) whereby UNICEF mobilised community volunteers as enumerators to capture needs of the affected population outside shelters. Results of the latter assessment are currently being finalised in coordination with Sector Coordinators.

External Media

To mark the World [Immunization](#) Week new content for web and social media was produced and disseminated to showcase how UNICEF is procuring and distributing vaccines, [helping to keep supplies safe and effective](#), and making sure children even in earthquake affected communities and the hardest-to-reach areas – including those in displacement camps or collective shelters - are reached and vaccinated at fixed health centres or by mobile teams . More content was disseminated across the platforms to showcase UNICEF’s work [on the ground](#) across the affected areas and to thank [donors](#) for their generous support. New content sought to bolster efforts to mobilise resources to respond to the need of vulnerable children particularly in the earthquake affected areas across the country.

Next SitRep: 19 May 2023

Who to contact for further information: **Angela Kearney**
Representative
UNICEF Syria Country Office
Tel: +963 (0) 989 977 904
Email: akearney@unicef.org

Mioh Nemoto
Deputy Representative
UNICEF Syria Country Office
Tel: +963 (0) 950 044 314
Email: mnemoto@unicef.org

Melinda Young
Senior Emergency Advisor
UNICEF MENA Regional Office
Tel: +962 (0) 7 9513 5290
Email: meyoung@unicef.org

Summary of Programme Results

Sector Indicator		UNICEF and Implementing Partners Response		
		Target	Total Results	Change* ▲ ▼
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene				
Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	girls		212,452	▲ 51,280
	boys		193,665	▲ 47,348
	women		186,661	▲ 44,755
	men		173,016	▲ 40,275
	TOTAL	3,375,000	765,794⁸	▲ 183,658
Number of people accessing appropriate sanitation services	girls		135,571	▲ 39,700
	boys		127,781	▲ 37,369
	women		106,337	▲ 29,733
	men		100,424	▲ 27,129
	TOTAL	2,650,000	470,113⁹	▲ 133,931
Health				
Number of children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	girls		84,358	▲ 17,634
	boys		80,916	▲ 15,862
	women		23,572	▲ 1,121
	TOTAL	1,200,000	188,846¹⁰	▲ 34,617
Nutrition				
Number of children aged 6-59 months screened for wasting	girls		79,771	▲ 12,531
	boys		79,878	▲ 12,268
	TOTAL	433,000	159,649	▲ 24,799
Number of boys and girls (6-59 months) who received MNPs	girls		48,922	▲ 9,156
	boys		48,847	▲ 9,552
	TOTAL	371,250	97,769	▲ 18,708
Number of primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling	women		118,298	▲ 11,839
	men		1,868	▲
	TOTAL	339,000	120,166	▲ 11,839
Education				
Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	girls		70,272	▲ 2,751
	boys		70,014	▲ 2,899
	TOTAL	305,000	140,286	▲ 5,650
Child Protection, GBVIE & PSEA				
Number of children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community based MHPSS	girls		116,361	▲ 6,111
	boys		90,579	▲ 4,629
	women		40,140	▲ 1,622
	men		22,851	▲ 277
	TOTAL	335,000	269,931	▲ 12,639
Number of children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions	girls		10,117	▲ 1,782
	boys		9,783	▲ 1,540
	TOTAL	545,000	19,900¹¹	▲ 3,322
Number of people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	girls		17,596	▲ 2,679
	boys		17,849	▲ 2,825
	women		10,001	▲ 1,326
	men		4,552	▲ 602

⁸ Rehabilitation work is ongoing. Beneficiary figures will increase significantly once this work is complete.

⁹ Rehabilitation work is ongoing. Beneficiary figures will increase significantly once this work is complete.

¹⁰ Data is still being processed and results are expected to increase in the next sitrep

¹¹ This important activity remains critically underfunded, resulting in a low result compared to need that has been targeted

	TOTAL	3,750,000	49,998 ¹²	▲	7,432
Social Protection & Cash Transfers					
Number of people reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	girls		20,074	▲	
	boys		20,822	▲	
	women		20,583	▲	
	men		18,747	▲	
	TOTAL	333,000	80,226 ¹³	▲	
Adolescents & Youth					
Number of adolescents and young people who participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes	girls		1,308	▲	
	boys		1,379	▲	
	women		1,404	▲	7
	men		1,290	▲	4
	TOTAL	10,000	5,381	▲	11
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)					
Number of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change	girls		48,233	▲	1,900
	boys		41,487	▲	1,525
	women		92,894	▲	3,984
	men		45,044	▲	2,482
	TOTAL	105,410	227,658	▲	9,891
Number of people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	girls		10,289	▲	78
	boys		9,592	▲	79
	women		59,435	▲	1,472
	men		42,288	▲	246
	TOTAL	1,850,000	121,604 ¹⁴	▲	1,875
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	TOTAL	1,200 ¹⁵	884 ¹⁶	▲	884

*Change since last report

¹² Current reporting includes those newly and directly reached to share information on safe, accessible reporting channels, but does not include indirect outreach or calculation of the population who already have access.

¹³ The slight decline from the last report in results (88,721 beneficiaries reported in round 8 SitRep) is due to streamlining the data cleaning process.

¹⁴ SBC achievement of the target for engagement is on track with almost 60 per cent achieved. However, for the reach indicator, the underachievement at 22 per cent has been due to only focusing on interpersonal communication inside the shelter – once social and mass media interventions start the reach estimates will double.

¹⁵ The target is estimated based on the assumption of receiving 300 calls per month

¹⁶ The figure includes calls tagged as earthquake as well as calls asking about cash assistance in the affected governorates (Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia) from 6 February until end of current reporting period

Annex B

Funding Status*

Section	Requirements (USD)	Funds received (USD)	Funding gap	
			USD	%
WASH	\$47,800,008	\$23,123,177	\$24,676,831	52%
Health	\$29,265,371	\$10,393,664	\$18,871,707	64%
Nutrition	\$18,361,542	\$5,513,968	\$12,847,574	70%
Education	\$31,300,000	\$11,501,116	\$19,798,884	63%
Child Protection, GBViE & PSEA	\$19,950,000	\$11,774,170	\$8,175,830	41%
Cash transfers and social protection	\$23,623,079	\$11,605,004	\$12,018,075	51%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE, AAP, Evaluation, RO technical support)	\$2,400,000	\$1,028,906	\$1,371,094	57%
Being allocated		\$3,200,916**		
Total	\$172,700,000	\$78,140,921***	\$94,559,079	55%

*As defined in UNICEF Immediate Response Plan for Syria (Earthquake), 16 February 2023, for a period of three months.

** New funds received over the past week which are still to be allocated to specific sectors; these funds are already considered within the overall funding gap.

*** In addition to the funds received from partners, UNICEF made available an Emergency Programme Funds (EPF) loan to immediately scale up the earthquake response in Syria. In previous sitreps this was included in the total funding received but has been removed in order to more accurately reflect the level of funding received for this response.