



Since the earthquake, 10-year-old Judy is staying with her mother and sister in a temporary shelter located in Aleppo city, Syria. They are receiving essential **cash assistance** from UNICEF to help them cope with the aftermath of the disaster.

Earthquake Response in Syria

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers

 **3,700,000**
children affected

 **8,800,000**
people affected

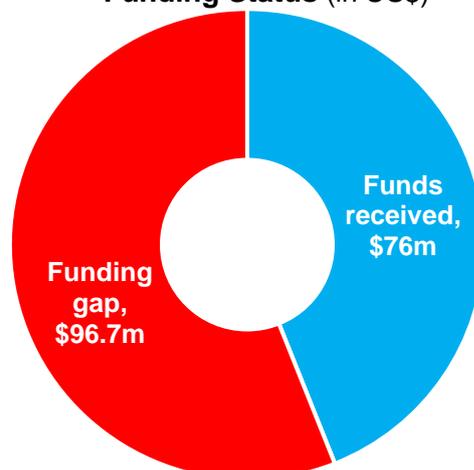
 **2,600,000**
children to be reached

 **5,400,000**
people to be reached

(Source: OCHA Syria Earthquake Flash Appeal, 14 February 2023)

UNICEF Appeal US\$172.7 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



Reporting Period: 15-21 March 2023

Highlights

- Since the earthquake, 97,400 households have been displaced in Syria. Population movements remain highly fluid.
- The Child Protection Area of Responsibility observed an increased risk in separated and unaccompanied children, significantly increased levels of psychological distress and reliance on harmful coping mechanisms (including child labour and early marriage) and increases in other forms of gender-based violence such as domestic violence, exploitation and trafficking.
- UNICEF and partners continue supporting children and caregivers in collective shelters with psychological first aid, mental health and psychosocial support, recreational activities and parenting programmes.
- Over 66,000 highly vulnerable people in Aleppo and Hama received emergency cash assistance. A [survey](#) conducted among beneficiaries revealed how unconditional/unrestricted emergency cash assistance was instrumental in meeting basic needs and mitigating the economic shock created by the earthquake.
- Together with WHO, UNICEF and partners successfully rolled out an oral cholera vaccine campaign, reaching 1,669,298 people over one year old – with a 95 per cent coverage in Idlib and 94 per cent in Aleppo.
- Preliminary findings from the Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA) estimates US\$8.9 billion in damages and losses, and US\$14.8 billion in recovery needs over the next three years.

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](#), 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 44 per cent funded**, with US\$76 million funds received. Emergency cash transfers, nutrition and health remain significantly underfunded – resource constraints are hindering further scale up of the response. There is a need for additional flexible and unearmarked contributions to enable UNICEF and its partners to deliver services for children across Syria, regardless of their location.

Of the funds received, US\$56 million (74 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\$20 million funding received is from public sector partners including the governments of Australia, Japan and Slovakia, 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) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Accelerated Funding Grant.

An additional EUR 5 million contribution from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) was finalized and is expected to be received shortly. Other public and private sector partners also pledged additional support, including the Government of the State of Kuwait, the CERF Underfunded Emergencies grant and UNICEF National Committees. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all private and public sector partners for their critical support to the earthquake response.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

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 February.² More than 8.8 million people in Syria, including 3.7 million children and pregnant and lactating women, have been affected and many are now in urgent need of water, shelter, food, and emergency medical and psychosocial assistance.³ Preliminary findings from the UN Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA) estimate US\$8.9 billion in damages and losses, and US\$14.8 billion in recovery needs over the next three years.

Since the first earthquake on 6 February, 97,400 households have been displaced in Syria.⁴ Movements of affected populations remain highly fluid. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster estimates that there are now over 2.6 million people who are internally displaced in northwest (NW) Syria, which includes those who were displaced prior to the earthquake as well as those who have been newly displaced.⁵

On 17 March, torrential rains and floods hit NW Syria, adding further misery to those who were uprooted and displaced by the earthquakes. The inclement weather is estimated to have impacted thousands of families, with 375 tents completely destroyed and 531 tents partially damaged, making temporary dwellings uninhabitable as people fled to mosques and schools to take shelter.⁶

WASH

The already fragile water and sanitation infrastructure was extensively affected by the earthquakes, with reports of damage to and collapse of water reservoirs, water towers, water stations and sanitation network facilities. This had a significant impact on cholera response operations by affecting overall access to services, reducing partner capacity, diverting already limited funds and, not least, negatively affecting the mental health of the workforce.

Initial assessments by partners in earthquake-affected areas in Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Tartous and parts of southern Idlib indicate restoration of WASH sector status to pre-earthquake levels will require an estimated US\$75-80 million. Meanwhile, in NW Syria, the impact of the earthquakes has resulted in an additional service delivery requirement in new locations. This will increase the existing target (1.1 million people) by an estimated 500,000 people, bringing the population in need of WASH services to 1.6 million.

Health

At least 116 health facilities reported damages (including at least seven hospitals) in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia and Tartous.⁷ In NW Syria, at least 55 health facilities have been damaged, with 15 health facilities suspending services.⁸

Suspected cholera cases continue to increase, particularly in NW Syria. According to WHO, between 25 August 2022 and 4 March 2023, 100,598 suspected cases (7,949 new suspected cases in the past month) have been reported from

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 NW Syria. The severity of humanitarian needs in Syria was further exacerbated by the earthquake, 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 OCHA Syrian Arab Republic: Earthquakes, Whole of Syria Situation Updates, 1 March 2023

³ OCHA Syria Earthquake Flash Appeal, 14 February

⁴ OCHA Earthquake Needs and Response Overview, Syrian Arab Republic, 15 March 2023

⁵ CCCM Cluster, Earthquake Displacement Update published 20 March 2023

⁶ Syria – Flash Floods (DG ECHO partners) (ECHO Daily Flash as of 20 March 2023)

⁷ WHO Syria Earthquake Situation Report, 15 February

⁸ NW Syria Health Cluster, 26 February

all 14 governorates across Syria, including 104 associated deaths at a case fatality rate of 0.1 per cent. The most affected governorates are: Idlib (31,422 cases, 31.2 per cent), Aleppo (24,839 cases, 24.7 per cent), Deir Ez-Zor (20,673 cases, 20.6 per cent), and Raqqa (18,955 cases, 18.8 per cent).⁹

There are also reports of an increasing number of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) cases within shelters in earthquake affected governorates. As of 13 March, UNICEF partners operating in shelters in Hama and Lattakia reported 1,156 AWD cases, 4,643 influenza cases, 4,123 lice cases, 703 cases of scabies and confirmed 28 Hepatitis A cases. One case of chicken box (Varicella) was reported in addition to one case of impetigo (streptococcal disease) and one case of cutaneous Leishmaniasis.

In Aleppo, out of 55 highly suspected measles cases, 34 cases were confirmed to be measles. The cases are located across Aleppo city and in the rural areas, including two cases in collective shelters. In general, routine vaccination coverage among children, which was already alarmingly low pre-earthquake, remains a key concern, particularly considering the country's large number of over 150,000 'zero dose children'.¹⁰

Nutrition

The earthquakes impacted 3.7 million children and pregnant and lactating women and may exacerbate the nutrition situation of vulnerable children and women that was already alarming. A trend analysis from the Joint Food Security and Nutrition Assessment 2022 shows that the level of acute malnutrition among children and women has been steadily rising in the country since 2019. Stunting, micro-nutrient deficiencies and uptake of infant and young child feeding, and care practices remain concerning.¹¹ It is too early to see a significant increase in acute malnutrition following the earthquakes. However, the nutrition cluster in Syria is anticipating an increased severe acute malnourished caseload of just over 14,000 cases associated with the earthquake. Furthermore, the admission trends of malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women in February 2023 reflected an almost double admission trend in comparison with the same time period over the past three years.¹²

Education

The earthquakes damaged a total of 2,947 schools, including 2,513 schools in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs and Idlib as well as 434 schools in NW Syria. Of these, 2,294 lightly damaged schools have reopened in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs and Idlib. The Ministry of Education and education partners report that a total of 110 schools (including 20 in NW Syria) are currently being used as shelters – a reduction from 171 as some families have left shelters and authorities merged a few shelters together in order to free schools to resume education.

Attendance rates in schools that have reopened have increased to over 95 per cent average, but some families are still worried about the safety of their children due to the conditions of schools.¹³ Fear for children's safety and continued tremors have led to some caregivers not sending their children back to school, even if schools are being re-opened. In Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs and Idlib, an estimated 141,000 students are still lacking access to schools because these are out of service or being used as shelter. The situation in NW Syria also remains challenging, with the education cluster estimating an additional 200,000 children may be out of school due to the earthquakes, bringing the total number of school aged children out of school in NW Syria to 1 million.

Child Protection

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility observed an increased risk in separated and unaccompanied children, significantly increased levels of psychological distress (both for the affected populations and humanitarian actors) as well as reliance on harmful coping mechanisms (child labour and early marriage) and increases in other forms of gender-based violence such as domestic violence, exploitation and trafficking.¹⁴ Some of the most affected groups include women (pregnant and lactating, single women and/or heads of household), unaccompanied and separated children, older persons, people with chronic illnesses, persons (including children) with disabilities, especially those with intersectional vulnerabilities, child and youngster-headed households, single parent headed households, homeless persons and those without civil documentation. In NW Syria in particular, destitute older persons have been identified as one of the most affected and vulnerable groups.¹⁵

Living conditions within collective shelters continue to place girls and boys at risk, with an increase in reported cases of gender-based violence and harassment against girls. This is mainly due to overcrowded rooms, lack of privacy, absence of adequate WASH facilities and lack of proper reporting mechanisms that ensure accountability towards perpetrators. The lack of adequate lighting in several collective shelters has also been highlighted as a priority concern, especially by girls and women. UNICEF partners report that both children and parents in collective shelters continue to show signs of severe panic attacks, distress, insomnia and disorientation. Children are still showing symptoms of fear and stuttering six weeks after the earthquakes, highlighting the continued need for long-term psychosocial support. In a recent child protection rapid assessment in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama, seven per cent of respondents reported that they were aware of children who were separated from their parents or usual caregivers, reiterating the need for family tracing and reunification as well as appropriate alternative care support.

⁹ WHO, Whole of Syria, Cholera Outbreak Situation Report No.14

¹⁰ As per 2022 Ministry of Health data, the number of unimmunized children in Syria is 152,515

¹¹ Joint Food Security and Nutrition Assessment 2022

¹² Syria Nutrition Cluster Bulletin (GZT-Türkiye XB Nutrition Cluster), March 2023 #1

¹³ Ministry of Education data

¹⁴ Syria Earthquake Protection Briefing Note for Donors, Humanitarian Leadership and Humanitarian Actors 16 March 2023

¹⁵ Ibid

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF's Immediate Response Plan 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 immediate life-saving and urgent humanitarian needs of girls, boys, adolescents, and families through an integrated and gender-responsive approach, prioritizing highly affected areas and areas of large displacement. UNICEF will leverage the established system for accountability to affected populations (AAP) and the prevention of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in close collaboration with UNHCR, UNFPA and other partners. In line with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in humanitarian action, priority will be given to restoring essential health and WASH, psychosocial support, family separations, protection case management, provision of cash and winter items where possible.

WASH

UNICEF continues providing **life-saving WASH services**, reaching 400,006 people to date (110,084 girls, 100,170 boys, 97,715 women, 92,037 men). This includes water trucking to 136,812 internally displaced persons (IDP) in shelters in Aleppo city and Hama, as well as 244,632 IDPs in NW Syria. In Lattakia and Jableh, UNICEF also installed water tanks in 27 schools which suffered damage from the earthquakes. The provision of these water tanks ensured that 18,562 school children have access to **clean and sustained drinking water**. Together with local water authorities, UNICEF continued monitoring the quality of drinking water in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, and Lattakia. This will continue until regular service can be resumed following repairs to the water networks.

UNICEF delivered **WASH supplies** to around 100 collective shelters in Aleppo city, Lattakia, Tartous, and Homs. These supplies include items such as family hygiene kits, soaps, aqua tabs, jerry cans, women's sanitary napkins, and baby diapers, reaching 24,713 IDPs. In NW Syria, UNICEF and partners distributed over 45,000 family hygiene kits, reaching 216,314 people, while social, and behavioural change **hygiene promotion** sessions were delivered to 351,861 people.

Health

UNICEF and partners, including WHO, provided 130,555 people (56,903 girls, 54,406 boys, 16,484 women, 2,762 men) with **access to primary healthcare** through medical consultations in UNICEF supported facilities. This includes 115,845 people reached through 28 UNICEF supported health centres and 48 mobile health teams in Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia, Idlib and Tartous, as well as 14,710 children and women in NW Syria. UNICEF also provided **lifesaving supplies** for 225,000 people in Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia, Idlib, and Tartous.

Meanwhile, UNICEF is supporting the Aleppo Department of Health's multiantigen **National Immunization Days** (NIDs), which will also help in containing the measles outbreak, concentrating the campaign on the most affected neighbourhoods. A **measles-rubella - oral polio vaccine (MR-OPV) campaign** will begin in NW Syria on 8 April. The MR vaccine will target more than 700,000 children (aged 6-59 months), while the OPV will target more than 800,000 children (0-59 months).

Together with WHO, UNICEF and partners rolled out an **oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign** in NW Syria. Around 1,470 vaccination teams were deployed for the campaign using a door-to-door vaccination strategy, reaching 1,669,298 people over one year old, representing an overall coverage of 95 per cent (95 per cent in Idlib and 94 per cent in Aleppo).

A total of 4,518 children were vaccinated with **routine immunization**, while 886 women were vaccinated with tetanus and diphtheria vaccine in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Idlib and Lattakia. In addition, UNICEF is working with local partners and youth volunteers and engage communities to ensure coverage of all children with vaccination.

Nutrition

To date, 117,197 children (58,905 girls, 58,292 boys) aged 6-59 months were **screened for acute malnutrition**. In Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Lattakia and Tartous 63,791 children were screened. Of these 338 moderately malnourished children (cumulative) and 107 severely malnourished children were detected and admitted for treatment. In NW Syria, 53,406 children were screened, out of which 1,454 children were identified and admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition.

In addition, 18,602 pregnant and lactating women were also screened for acute malnutrition in Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Lattakia and Tartous, of which 695 were admitted for treatment. In NW Syria, 24,731 pregnant and lactating women were reached with consultation and screening for malnutrition services since the start of the earthquake response.

In collaboration with WFP, during the reporting period UNICEF and partners have reached 37,122 children under-five and 13,935 pregnant and lactating women with **micro-nutrient tablets and powder**, including 3,875 children (38,589 cumulative) and 1,330 pregnant and lactating women (10,469 cumulative) in Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Lattakia and Tartous, as well as 2,408 children and 4,796 pregnant and lactating women in NW Syria. In addition, UNICEF provided **high-energy biscuits** to 2,153 children in Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Lattakia, and Tartous as well as 2,408 children in NW Syria.

UNICEF and partners provided messages on appropriate **infant and young child feeding** practices in emergencies for 6,889 caregivers (68,637 cumulative) in Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Lattakia and Tartous. In NW Syria, 1,882 caregivers including pregnant and lactating women counselled and reached during the reporting period with awareness on appropriate infant and young child feeding and 1,736 pregnant and lactating women who received micronutrients including iron folate.

Education

During the reporting period, UNICEF significantly scaled up the coordination and implementation of **rapid assessments** of schools in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Tartous and Lattakia. To date, a total of 3,696 schools have been assessed in these governorates. **Debris removal, minor repairs** and **light rehabilitation** started in 42 schools in Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama and Homs while preparations are ongoing to rehabilitate more than 388 schools. Preparations for school rehabilitation is closely coordinated with WASH sector to ensure that children can return to schools and resume their education in a safe environment with adequate gender and disability sensitive WASH facilities.

UNICEF provided **education supplies** and recreational kits for schools and shelters, covering the immediate needs of approximately 65,000 children (including 19,720 children in shelters) in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous and Hama. Additional supplies have been procured, including school kits, stationery, tents, prefabricated classrooms, school furniture and cleaning kits and materials aiming to serve the needs of over 255,000 students.

Non-formal education services, including self-learning and remedial classes provided for 63,167 children (31,313 girls, 31,854 boys) by UNICEF partners in earthquake-affected locations, including 51,774 children (25,065 girls, 26,709 boys) from 94 schools and learning spaces in NW Syria. UNICEF also installed 11 **temporary learning spaces** in four collective shelters in Aleppo and started providing learning and recreational activities to over 440 children. An additional 24 temporary learning spaces have been installed in Hama and Homs, serving an average of 1,680 children through double shifts. 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.

Child Protection

UNICEF and partners continue supporting children and caregivers in collective shelters with **psychological first aid, mental health and psychosocial support**, recreational activities and parenting programmes. Where it is safe, community-based centres/child friendly spaces also resumed their activities in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama. These sessions and interventions aim at decreasing levels of stress and provide children and caregivers with tools and skills that can enable them to better cope with the challenges that they are facing. Parents report that children attending UNICEF supported activities are showing signs of improvement in their psychosocial wellbeing, including being more social and having increased appetite.

In NW Syria, to empower children and enhance their psychosocial wellbeing, 185 children (90 girls, 95 boys) were newly registered and participated in both structured and non-structured psychosocial support activities. An additional 19 women also participated in the face-to-face psychosocial support sessions for caregivers, while 25 women and five men took part in parenting sessions to support and strengthen existing parenting skills. To reduce stress and support a healthy recovery for communities, 1,297 individuals (344 girls, 344 boys, 331 women, 278 men) were reached during psychological first aid sessions. To address individual protection needs for children, case management services were delivered to 35 girls and 37 boys, while 19 girls and 13 boys were also referred to various services that included education, health and social protection.

In Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama, UNICEF and partners continue to reach girls and boys severely affected by the earthquakes with case management – through which 2,256 children have been referred to services. Out of these, 171 unaccompanied and separated children have been supported with **family tracing, family reunification** and **alternative care arrangements** with extended family in most cases, as well as referral to specialized services.

In addition, UNICEF reached 19,344 children in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama with much needed winter clothing, blankets, and recreational material to ensure that children have access to play material throughout their stay in the collective shelters. Key messages on how to cope during emergencies were also provided to 30,020 of children and caregivers.

Meanwhile, mobile teams in NW Syria provided **explosive ordnance risk education** for individuals in camps, markets, health centres and other public places though provided information sessions on types of war remnants, fire safety, mine awareness, warning signs and what actions to take when children/communities come across strange objects. A total of 2,000 people were reached, including 909 girls, 934 boys, 82 women and 75 men.

Also in NW Syria, a total of 702 individuals (219 girls, 224 boys, 186 women, 73 men) participated in risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities on child protection and gender-based violence issues. These sessions raise awareness of caregivers/parents on recognizing and reporting child abuse, where and how to report cases of child separation, how to promote safety and reduce harm to children creating a safer environment. Furthermore, 1,617 individuals (782 girls, 732 boys, 59 women, 44 men) received awareness on prevention of PSEA.

Cash Relief Response

UNICEF continues to deliver emergency cash assistance to earthquake-affected families 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.

As of 21 March, 66,611 highly vulnerable people (13,011 families) in affected areas of Aleppo and Hama received emergency cash assistance to support their basic needs and mitigate the economic shock created by the earthquakes.

The [findings](#) of the **rapid Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey**, which was conducted among earthquake-affected families who benefitted from UNICEF's emergency cash assistance in Aleppo governorate, has shown that the earthquakes exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities and poverty of families caring for children with disabilities. The survey shows that families have used the cash to address their specific needs, which varied based on their unique vulnerabilities, confirming the importance and relevance of providing earthquake-affected families with unconditional and unrestricted cash assistance. Key highlights are:

- Over 40 per cent of the cash was used to repair homes and pay rent. Other use of the cash was for food (22 per cent), health (15 per cent), clothes (10 per cent), and WASH (6 per cent).
- About 20 per cent of families used the entirety of the cash top-up for house repairs.
- While house repairs and rent were the top expenditures in the aftermath of the earthquakes, basic consumption patterns of families caring for children with disabilities have not changed. Families still prioritize food, health, and non-food items, underlining the importance of unconditional and unrestricted cash assistance.
- On average, families spent the cash in 7.2 days.
- There was high level of satisfaction with the cash response, with 81 per cent of beneficiaries reporting that they were "satisfied" with the cash response. In contrast, 11 per cent reported they were satisfied to "some extent" while 8 per cent reported they were not satisfied.

In NW Syria, the first round of distribution for the **cash support programme** was completed in February.¹⁶ Preliminary results shows that pregnant and lactating women have benefitted with improved access and knowledge on consumption of adequate and nutritionally balanced diets alongside social behaviour change activities through cash and voucher assistance for 6 months. The second round of cash distribution is scheduled for 22 March with a one-off cash grant of US\$150 with the aim to support 1,700 pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under two years old in the camps located in Dana Sub-district. Moreover, an additional 6,134 households have been identified as having vulnerable members who will receive immediate relief in the form of a one-time cash grant of US\$150 in Harim District and Jandairis subdistricts.

Adolescents Development and Participation (ADAP)

Emergency life skills and **technical and vocational education and training** sessions continued for youth and adolescents in collective shelters, reaching 267 young people in Aleppo and 27 in Hama during the reporting period.

In addition, UNICEF is supporting **youth volunteers** to engage in assessment and response efforts. UNICEF and partners, including OCHA and UNHCR, created a pool of 240 volunteers to support the Syria Need Assessment Tool (SYNAT) assessment. In Aleppo, a training on building assessments is being provided to around 90 young people. One youth-led initiative in Hama was designed and led by 19 youth in shelters with the aim to teach young people how to produce local soap and cleaning materials as part of vocational courses, while at the same time raising awareness of personal hygiene issues. Following these sessions, the young people distributed the products to their peers within the shelters and raised awareness among their peers about personal hygiene management, including menstrual hygiene management, under the supervision of their mentors.

Meanwhile, 72 young volunteers were trained and participated in activities, such as sports activities, awareness raising sessions on to behave in emergency situations, adaptation techniques and hygiene practices for young girls, reaching 450 children and caregivers in collective shelters. In Hama, UNICEF and partners strengthened the capacity of 25 young volunteers (15 females, 10 males) to support their peers with outreach activities during the reporting period.

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

To ensure an effective and coordinated SBC/RCCE response at the subnational level, sub-national coordination groups were activated in affected governorates. In Latakia, Hama and Aleppo, UNICEF and partners continue to **promote protective practices**, particularly in relation to health risks in shelters as well as hygiene promotion to prevent possible spread of diseases such as cholera. More than 5,090 parents and caregivers were reached through community dialogues, door-to-door visits and group sessions with earthquake lifesaving messages, hygiene guidelines, as well as infant and young children feeding basics. In addition, 1,233 children (670 girls, 557 boys) were engaged in 120 **edutainment activities** and 1,261 people benefitted from the distribution of **educational print material**.

Meanwhile, in NW Syria, RCCE activities continues with integrated educational messages on earthquakes, cholera, COVID-19, and the risks of other diseases in the context of the earthquakes. During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners reached 465 neighbourhoods in Idlib and Aleppo (631 neighbourhoods since the beginning of the response).

¹⁶ Complete results will be available and reported in the next sitrep

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

As part of UN Humanitarian Country Team, UNICEF is scaling up its presence across the earthquake-affected governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous. UNICEF is expanding service delivery in the areas where there are critical gaps, in close coordination with local partners by strengthening their capacities. Furthermore, UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of 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**.¹⁷

Currently, 61 staff with managerial, technical and senior cluster/sector coordination and information management capacity are being surged both into Damascus/ field office locations and into Gaziantep. In addition, around 40 staff are providing support to earthquake-affected areas through support missions. As part of this scale-up, UNICEF has also significantly increased capacity for cluster/sector coordination at national and sub-national levels across the whole of Syria, including additional international surge capacity for national and sub-national level WASH, education, nutrition and child protection cluster/sector coordination in UNICEF field offices in Aleppo, Lattakia, Homs and dedicated high-level cluster coordination for NW Syria.

UNICEF will ensure 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. **PSEA key messages**, including messages specifically tailored for children, have been disseminated through the UNICEF and UNHCR led interagency PSEA network.

As part of UNICEF's **accountability to affected populations (AAP)**, UNICEF is increasing the operating hours of its service line to accommodate the increased number of calls during the weekends. An agreement has been reached among sister UN Agencies on how to refer and manage cases to address the diverse needs of the affected population, in the areas, 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 the callers can be immediately referred to and provide with necessary support.

In addition to the community engagement and social and behaviour change support mainstreamed across all programmes, UNICEF will lead the coordination across UN and non-UN organizations for a relevant response in this area. Furthermore, UNICEF will lead strategic activities catered to building resilience of children and their families affected by the earthquakes and strengthening partners' emergency preparedness as well as early recovery and resilience building following the humanitarian programme cycle.

External Media

To mark the grim milestone of 12 years of conflict in Syria, new communication content was published to focus on the looming malnutrition crisis resulting from the impact of the conflict, compounded with the devastating impact of the deadly earthquakes. This included a [press release](#), [a web story](#), [videos](#), and wide array of social media content to continue mobilising resources to children's immense needs in Syria.

Next SitRep: 31 March 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

¹⁷ All cluster coordinators costs are included into sectoral programme budgets

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	3,375,000	400,006 ¹⁸	n/a
Number of people accessing appropriate sanitation services	2,650,000	137,505	n/a
Health			
Number of children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	1,200,000	127,793 ¹⁹	n/a
Nutrition			
Number of children aged 6-59 months screened for wasting	433,000	117,197	n/a
Education			
Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	305,000	83,830	n/a
Child Protection, GBVIE & PSEA			
Number of children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community based MHPSS	335,000	45,153 ²⁰	n/a
Number of children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions	545,000	13,069	n/a
Number of people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	3,750,000	4,239 ²¹	n/a
Social Protection & Cash Transfers			
Number of people reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	333,000	66,611 ²²	n/a
Adolescents & Youth			
Number of adolescents and young people who participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes	10,000	1,741	n/a
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)			
Number of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change	105,410	49,446	n/a
Number of people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	1,850,000	42,562 ²³	n/a

*Change since last report - figures to be included in the next sitrep.

¹⁸ Figure adjusted from previous sitreps to avoid double counting.

¹⁹ Indicator includes only children and women

²⁰ Figure went down due to data validations and verifications with partners and mitigating double counting of beneficiaries by using the information management system.

²¹ Figures reflect only materials distribution - awareness sessions will be included in the next sitrep.

²² Figure does not include results from NW Syria – results from NW Syria will be included in the next sitrep.

²³ Figure does not include results from NW Syria – results from NW Syria will be included in the next sitrep.

Annex B

Funding Status*

Section	Requirements (USD)	Funds received (USD)	Funding gap	
			USD	%
WASH	\$47,800,008	\$22,193,949	\$25,606,059	54%
Health	\$29,265,371	\$10,391,734	\$18,873,637	64%
Nutrition	\$18,361,542	\$5,456,981	\$12,904,561	70%
Education	\$31,300,000	\$13,717,488	\$17,582,512	56%
Child Protection, GBViE & PSEA	\$19,950,000	\$11,213,706	\$8,736,294	44%
Cash transfers and social protection	\$23,623,079	\$4,276,145	\$19,346,934	82%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE, AAP, Evaluation, RO technical support)	\$2,400,000	\$215,410	\$2,184,590	91%
Being allocated		\$8,500,197**		
Total	\$172,700,000	\$75,965,610	\$96,734,390**	56%

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

** Funds still to be allocated to specific sectors but are already considered within the overall funding gap.