



NORTH-WEST SYRIA FLASH UPDATE #3 Emergency Response to Earthquake

23 February 2022

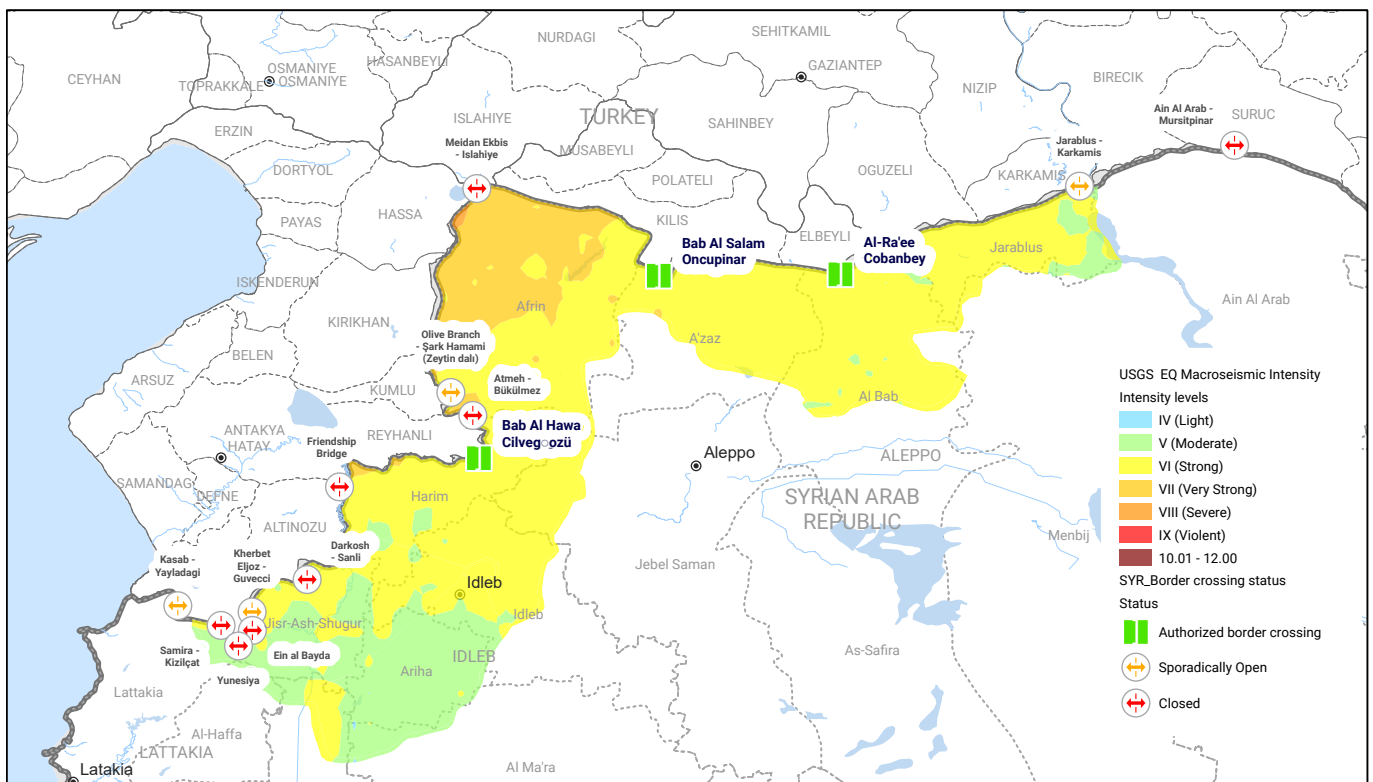
Overview of Developments

The earthquake that struck Türkiye and Syria on 6 February 2023 heavily impacted north-west Syria (NWS), a region where **4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance**, the majority of whom are women and children. **Over 4,500 deaths and 8,500 injuries** have been reported according to the Health cluster, mainly in the districts of Harim, Afrin and Jebel Saman, with numbers expected to rise. The earthquakes have affected at least 96 communities and 35 sub-districts in NWS; **more than 10,000 buildings have been partially or completely destroyed, leaving over 11,000 people homeless**¹.

On 20 February, the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) **launched** the first phase of its Reserve Allocation, valued at \$30 million, to address immediate life-saving needs. Once this allocation is completed, a second phase, valued at least \$20 million, will be launched to address life-sustaining needs in the medium term.

On 22 February, artillery shelling affected Tuffahiyeh, Kansafra and Bara communities in Idleb; Kafr Amma and Tadaf communities in Aleppo; Kherbet Elnaqus community in western Hama; Lower Barzah community in northern Lattakia. Two men were reportedly killed as a result of the shelling on Lower Barzah community in northern Lattakia.²

Earthquake Affected Areas and Border Crossings³



¹ OCHA NWS Flash Update No. 13 – 22 February

² OCHA Türkiye – Daily Update – 23 February 2023

³ USGS, OCHA – 15 February

UNHCR Emergency Response

UNHCR is leading the coordination of three clusters – Shelter/NFI, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Protection – in close partnership with the Humanitarian Liaison Group, local and international NGOs, and the Whole of Syria coordination structure, and providing direct assistance through its partners.

[UNHCR’s emergency supplementary appeal for Türkiye and Syria seeks US\\$ 51.3 million](#) for Syria, including **NWS, to assist 385,000 individuals** with protection and access to social services; psychosocial support and counselling; relief items; emergency shelter; cash and in-kind assistance.

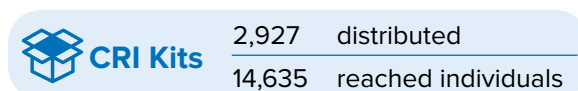
On 21 February, UNHCR staff joined the fourth inter-agency mission into NWS from Gaziantep. UNHCR staff had previously joined inter-agency missions on 14, 15, and 18 February and met with local officials, NGOs and the community.

Shelter and Core relief items

Over 280 trucks loaded with aid provided by six UN agencies have crossed the Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al-Salam border-crossing since the earthquakes. UNHCR has participated in seven convoys to date:

Date	Crossing point	UNHCR trucks	CRI Kits ⁴	Tents	Rubb halls
11 February	Bab Al-Hawa	12	2,000		
14 February	Bab Al-Hawa	18	2,500	1,000	
16 February	Bab Al-Hawa	2		600	
16 February	Bab Al-Salam	2		600	
21 February	Bab Al-Salam	6	1,000		
22 February	Bab Al-Hawa	3		300	4
23 February	Bab Al-Salam	6	1,000		
Delivered since earthquake			6,500	2,500	4

Assistance distribution as of 22 February:



⁴ A core relief item kit contains High Thermal Blankets, Plastic tarpaulins, Foam Mattresses, Hygiene kit, Sleeping mats, Carpet-Kitchen set, Jerry cans, Solar lamp.

Thanks to stock already prepositioned in NWS, within 48 hours of the earthquakes, UNHCR through partner WATAN, distributed 882 tents in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates, reaching 4,410 individuals. Following the resumption of trans-shipments, on 11 February, UNHCR expanded its delivery of humanitarian assistance to NWS. Between 6 and 22 February, 2,927 CRI kits were distributed to 14,635 earthquake-affected persons⁵. At the same time, 2,690 tents were distributed to 13,450 earthquake-affected persons⁶. Moreover, 528 Refugee Housing Units have been delivered to Gaziantep on 22 February. They will be transported to NWS and serve as temporary accommodation centers and emergency housing for earthquake-affected persons.

UNHCR through partner WATAN has established four reception centers run by local authorities in Ariha (Ariha park), Atarab (Al Snaa school), Atarib (Asl Shamal schools) and Maaret Tamsrin (open area) and expanded existing camps including new sites establishment.

Shelter/NFI Cluster members, led by UNHCR are responding with emergency shelter and CRIs in affected communities, reception centres, existing camps, and collective centres. Fuel and single relief items especially providing protection against cold weather conditions like blankets, mattresses and tarpaulins have been distributed. Tents were installed in existing IDP sites to temporarily shelter the affected population⁷. According to the latest available Rapid Needs Assessment from REACH, 50,000 individuals are in need of emergency shelter, and 440,000 individuals are in need of lifesaving CRI items.

The Shelter/NFI Cluster in collaboration with RedR UK is conducting two online training sessions on Shelter Structural Damage Assessments on 24 and 27 February. The training is a condensed session designed for engineers and technical staff.

Of the \$30 million already released by the SCHF for the emergency response, mentioned above, \$5 million has been allocated to Emergency Shelter and NFI. Shelter/NFI Cluster members are called to submit proposals on the following priorities:

- Provide lifesaving NFI assistance to families affected by the earthquake;
- Provision of lifesaving shelter assistance to families affected by the earthquake;
- Inclusive Dignified Shelter, and integrated infrastructure improvements and shelter rehabilitation.



Shipment from Bab Al-Salam crossing point on 23 February 2023.
 Photo: ©UNHCR

⁵ CRI kits were distributed in Fadrah, Jandairis, Kafrantin and Qatoura in Aleppo, and Armanaz, Armanaz Biret, Azar, Darkosh, Foz - Zuf, Idlib, Jdidet Eljisir, Jisir-Ash-Shugur, Kherbet Eljiz, Mudiah - Luxin, Qanniyeh, and Salqin communities in Idlib

⁶ Tents were distributed in Ariha, Armanaz, Atma, Harim, Kelly, Maland and Sarmada communities in Idlib and Afrin, Atareb, Bulbul, Dowaibeq, Fadrah, Jandairis, Kafrantin, Qatoura, Ra'el, Sijraz camp, Suran, and Tuwama communities in Aleppo

⁷ As of 20 February, Shelter/NFI Cluster members have distributed CRI kits to over 65,000 individuals and tents to over 16,000 individuals. The main targeted locations were Atareb, Dana, Harim, Idlib, Jandaris, Maaret, Tamsrin, and sub-districts.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster has tracked more than 86,500 displacements between 6 and 17 February after the earthquake. Departures principally occurred from Jandarisi, followed by Salqin and Harim. The main locations where displaced people arrived included Dana, Salqin and Idleb sub-districts. Displacements are ongoing and the figure is expected to rise dramatically. Establishing reception centres for IDPs and safe spaces for women and girls are priorities. Following the strong earthquake of 20 February, Cluster members reported that the population in five IDP sites suffered further damage to their shelters and belongings.

To better capture the needs and monitor the overall situation in the IDP sites in NWS, the CCCM Cluster has launched a Rapid Monitoring Assessment for the IDP sites that have been damaged or have received new IDPs due to the earthquake. The data collection will run through 28 February.

Of the SCHF \$30 million, \$3.5 million has been allocated to CCCM interventions in NWS. CCCM partners are called upon to submit proposals by 26 February in line with CCCM Strategic priorities:

- Management of reception/collective centres,
- Monitoring and tracking of population movements in displacement and return areas;
- Capacity building of community self-management structures to strengthen participation & accountability to affected population (AAP) issues;
- Livelihoods assistance: including through cash assistance to facilitate recovery.

Activities will target Jandarisi and Raju in Aleppo and Dana, Harim, Idleb and Salqin in Idleb.



Protection

UNHCR's protection partners, Syrian Relief and Development (SRD) and SHAFAK, continue to conduct outreach activities and work inside their community centres, shelter centres and through mobile teams. From 9 February to 21 February, a total of 25,276 individuals have been reached through protection services such as psychological first aid, awareness-raising activities on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, case management and referrals to basic services, child protection services, legal counseling on civil status documentation. The emergency response efforts have taken place in Al Bab, Azaz, Bazagh, Qabasim and Salama in Aleppo, as well as in Atma, Haranbush, Kafr, Takharim and Sarmada, in Idleb.

SCHF allocated \$2.5 million for the Protection Cluster and its Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) in Child Protection and GBV. An open call to all partners was launched requesting proposals by 26 February on three main protection priorities:

- Protection- Addressing family separation risks and provision of Individualized Protection Assistance (IPA);
- GBV - Emergency GBV services: Provision of Mobile GBV-Reproductive health and establishment of temporary Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS);
- Child Protection- Prevention and response to needs of children and caregivers, survivors of the earthquake and at risk, including with focus on unaccompanied and separated children.

Deadline for submissions is set to 26 February and the 10 most affected sub-districts will be targeted.

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