

TÜRKIYE / SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

WHOLE OF SYRIA SITUATIONAL REPORT #2

13 February, 2023

THE SITUATION

One week has passed following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Syria and Türkiye on 6 February impacting the governorates of Idlib, Aleppo, Latakia, and Hama. Prior to the earthquake, 15.3 million people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance throughout Syria.

While casualty figures are increasing every day, **more than 5,800 fatalities** have been reported across Syria as of February 12, most of which (more than 4,400) have been registered in the country's north-west. **Over 10,000 injuries** have been reported.

In north-west Syria

- Partners in north-west Syria have described catastrophic damage with thousands of homes destroyed, leaving people homeless. Despite the devastating impacts on some health facilities, UNFPA-supported facilities in north-west Syria, immediately resumed following the quake, although many partners and responders suffered significant losses among their frontline workforce.
- According to preliminary results from a UNFPA assessment, the capacity of healthcare facilities to receive patients has decreased by approximately 60 percent while demand for services has significantly increased. Emergency medical services have been overwhelmed with trauma patients, reducing the focus on reproductive health and services to mitigate/respond to gender-based violence. Two health facilities had to be completely evacuated. Some essential medical supplies have been destroyed. Meanwhile, a capacity assessment of the 14 Safe Spaces supported by UNFPA in the area found that five were damaged. Of those, two are non-functional with one being used as a temporary morgue.



In this photo, quadruplets born on 12 February at Al Fardous Hospital in Aleppo — one of the facilities supported by UNFPA in north-west Syria. The mother, a 25 years old single mother, lost her parents years ago and was abandoned by the husband right after she got pregnant. During the earthquake, she was displaced to her aunt's home and was brought at the facility to deliver during her 32nd week of pregnancy. The babies were born after a C-section performed by Dr. Bursa, previously trained by UNFPA.

In government controlled areas

- Most health facilities in government-controlled areas are functioning but with limited resources, medicines, and fuel. Initial WHO assessments found that 172 health facilities in the four affected governorates were damaged or impacted by the quake. Maternal health hospitals in the affected areas in Hama, Latakia, and Aleppo are functioning, albeit with some sustained damage. Of the five hospitals supported in Hama, only two in the main city are fully functioning and only one of them is a gynaecology hospital and requires support to be able to provide services. Even prior to the earthquake, there were shortages of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) medicines.
- Thousands of people have lost their homes and belongings, leaving women, girls, newborns, and other vulnerable groups without essential supplies to survive the extreme cold. In Aleppo, 126 temporary shelters are hosting approximately 13,000 people, of whom 55 to 65 percent are women. These shelters are mainly schools, mosques, and indoor basketball courts and lack most basic facilities including gender-segregated latrines. The shelters have limited resources, are not heated, and often overcrowded, increasing women's and girls' risk of gender-based violence (GBV).

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- The earthquake has further amplified the challenges of an already weak and fragile health system. Maintaining access to life-saving SRH assistance, integrated SRH/GBV services, and other essential health services is a critical response priority.
- Immediate needs include SRH medical supplies, menstrual hygiene materials, winterised female dignity kits, blankets, newborn items, winter clothing, tents and/or prefabricated structures to provide life-saving SRH and GBV services.
- There is an immediate need for psychological first aid (PFA) both for affected populations and front-line service providers and there will be ongoing needs for the provision of psychosocial support (PSS).
- Fuel is urgently needed to ensure continuation of critical emergency obstetric care and surgical interventions as well as for emergency transportation to health facilities. There are also challenges securing fuel for transportation for integrated mobile teams to implement their outreach services, including the distribution of supplies such as female dignity kits, sanitary pads, winterised kits, and blankets for pregnant and lactating women.
- As more collective shelters and informal settlements are being established, there is a need for all humanitarian actors to mitigate the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and GBV. Protection and GBV referral pathways should be activated as soon as possible in any transit and reception areas that will receive displaced persons.

UNFPA'S RESPONSE ACROSS SYRIA

Provision of essential life-saving sexual and reproductive health services

Across Syria, UNFPA and its partners are working to meet basic SRH needs and ensure that the [minimum initial service package \(MISP\) for sexual and reproductive health in crisis](#) services is available. UNFPA staff are in the field with partners to ensure timely and quality implementation of emergency response as well as assess the current situation and needs.

In north-west Syria

- As the lead of the SRH Thematic group, UNFPA is working with partners to distribute 402 inter-agency RH (IARH) kits that were pre positioned in the north-west to provide life-saving SRH services including emergency obstetric care. Information is being collected from all partners to prepare a comprehensive response plan, including the procurement of additional IARH kits and responding to the most urgent needs.
- On 11 February, UNFPA sent two additional trucks containing 330 inter-agency RH kits. In total, the supplies currently in the north-west will be distributed to 170

facilities and will be sufficient to serve 150,299 people in need. This includes 840 C-sections; 31,900 normal deliveries; and, clean individual delivery kits for 95 midwives

- UNFPA is supporting nine health facilities to provide essential SRH services. The facilities are currently functional and experiencing a significant increase in work-load due to the closure of other facilities across north-west Syria. In order to maximise reach, UNFPA, through its partners, has intensified outreach and mobile clinic activities to provide life-saving SRH services and necessary referrals in the most affected communities.

In government controlled areas

- UNFPA's eight partners are providing essential SRH services in 14 facilities in the affected governorates and through 32 integrated SRH-GBV mobile teams. Quality integrated SRH services include antenatal, postnatal, and neonatal care; referral to emergency obstetric and neonatal (EmONC) services; psychosocial support (PSS) and referral to GBV case management services through mobile teams/clinics and static facilities. The integrated mobile teams are conducting visits to the shelters and affected areas to ensure access to critical SRH services for displaced women and girls.
- From 8-11 February, five of the UNFPA supported partners in Aleppo provided maternal health services to 11,988 women and girls, including 818 pregnant women.
- UNFPA is transporting 1,500 winter clothing kits, 750 blankets, and 25 IARH kits with life-saving medicines and equipment sufficient to support 2,850 women that were pre-positioned to Aleppo. These kits include clinical midwifery equipment and supplies for safe delivery assistance within health facilities, medicines for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections, clean delivery kits for community midwives, and family planning methods. UNFPA is procuring additional kits to meet growing needs.

Provision of essential psychosocial and GBV response services

The priority focus of the response is to ensure the availability and continuation of gender-based violence programmes across all affected areas. As the lead of the Whole of Syria GBV Area of Responsibility, UNFPA is also ensuring close coordination with all response actors to mitigate protection risks for women and girls. To that end, the AoR is developing key GBV messages for communities, a guide for non-GBV actors on how to provide PFA and safe referrals to GBV survivors, and an observation tool to support humanitarian workers to identify risks of GBV in temporary/collective shelters.

In north-west Syria

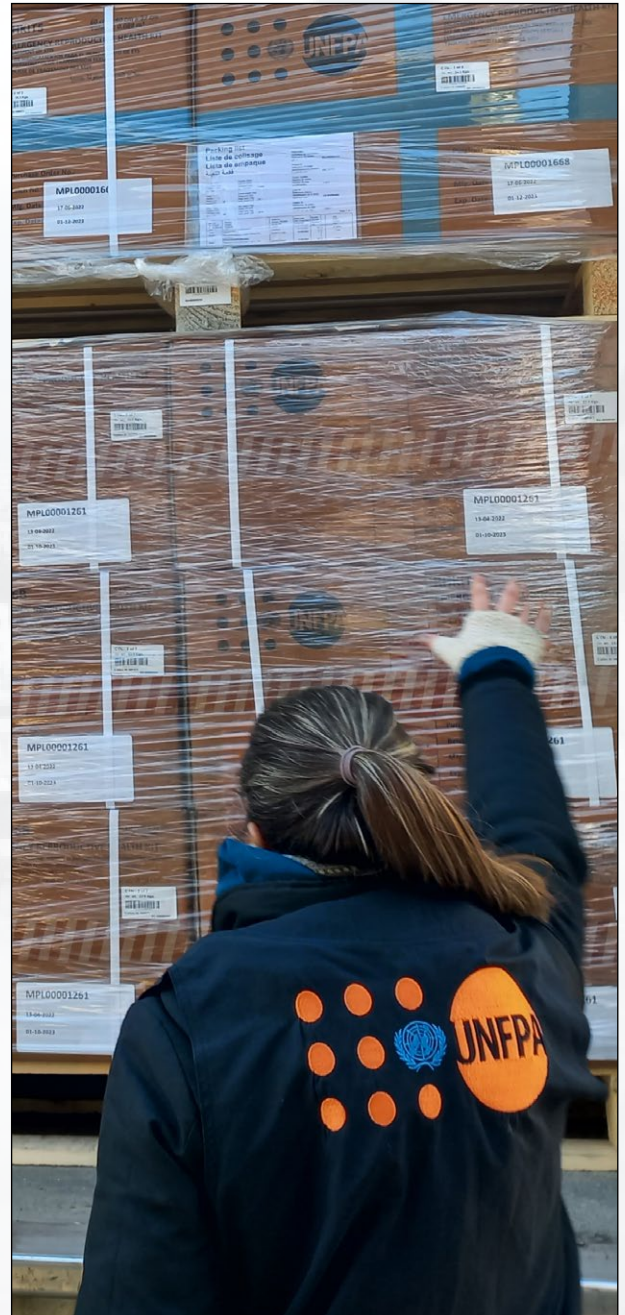
- UNFPA currently supports 14 safe spaces for women and girls at risk of GBV (12 of which are operational). UNFPA had 65,000 female dignity kits available in-stock in north-

west Syria prior to the earthquake and immediately shifted them to the earthquake emergency response under modified distribution criteria. The distribution started on 8 February and 3,440 kits have been delivered to date, including 2,000 kits in Jandaries, 194 kits in Idleb, and 1,246 to other locations. 5,000 more female dignity kits are expected to be distributed in Jandaris and further distributions will continue in the coming days. UNFPA is in the process of securing resources to procure additional supplies.

- UNFPA, through its partners, mobilised mobile out-reach teams to the most affected communities and IDP concentration areas including Jandaris, Jarablus, Armanaz, Kafr Karmin, Atareb, and Qabasin. The mobile teams provided psychological first aid sessions, distributed female dignity kits, meals and clothes, and assisted in installing tents.
- The provision of unconditional cash support is being considered for north-west Syria, pending a careful evaluation of the conditions on the ground and in coordination with the Cash Working Group.

In government controlled areas

- The eight UNFPA-supported Safe Spaces operating in Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia continue to provide comprehensive GBV response services, including psychosocial support. A total of 32 integrated mobile teams (IMTs) are in the affected areas assisting the emergency response, including through the provision of PFA and PSS and supporting women and girls with life-saving essential SRH and GBV services.
- From 8-11 February, UNFPA partners reached 4,007 women and girls in Aleppo, including 290 pregnant women, with GBV services and PSS. These were reached in 27 shelters through 19 IMTs and through one RH clinic.
- UNFPA is working to meet the needs of women and adolescent girls in both Hama and Latakia through 12 IMTs working with four partners. All IMTs are providing essential services including maternal health, PFA, PSS, case management, and the distribution of sanitary napkins.
- UNFPA Syria has so far sent 39,409 female dignity kits and 4,500 blankets to support women and girls in the most affected HCT coordinated areas. In addition, UNFPA has sent 1,000 kits for pregnant and breastfeeding women, 1,000 blankets, and 1,000 winter clothing kits to Aleppo. Moreover, 40,744 sanitary napkins, which would serve around 900 women for three months, and 500 male dignity kits were sent to support Latakia and Hama.
- Additional supplies are ready to be shipped from Dubai to the affected governorates including 196 IARH Kits with essential medicines and supplies for women and adolescent girls. More winterized dignity kits, which include blankets and warm clothing, are being procured. A total of 100,000 sanitary pads, sufficient for around 2,200 women for three months, are enroute to Aleppo on 13 February.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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