



مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط

The Middle East Council of Churches

## DIAKONIA DEPARTMENT- SERVICE IN DIGNITY

# Rescue Syria Update - 5

February 12<sup>th</sup> 2023



In spite of the tragedy, children still believe in the future and welcome every morning with a smile. From one of the public shelter in Aleppo

## On every morning, a new dawn arises and new smiles appears on children faces

*The tragic earthquake that hit Syria and turkey is a true exam for the international community if is with billions for war rather than being with billions to rebuild. If we compare the pledges to support war with what many countries offered to support Syria and Turkey to meet its humanitarian response, we can reckon how things are going in our present world ... and at the end ordinary people pay the price. Will this tragedy awake the conscious of other ordinary people to make a change in international policies .. It is an open question for every one believes in human rights, human justice and equality.*

# OVERVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

The Council of Ministers: Considering the affected areas in Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Idlib as disaster areas and establishing a national fund for their rehabilitation<sup>1</sup>. The Government of Syria also issued a waiver allowing organizations to use the new money transfer exchange rate of SYP 6,900 (Syrian Pounds) for USD 1, instead of SYP 4,500, but no official instruction are published in web of the central bank of Syria. As of 10 February, the Syrian Health Ministry reported that at least 1,387 people were killed and over 2,326 were injured as a result of the earthquake across the Government-controlled areas of Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Tartous Governorates. The UN estimates that 6 million people have been affected by the earthquake in the affected areas. This includes communities in the most affected Governorates of Aleppo (2 million people), Hama (1.3 million), Latakia (1.2 million), Homs (963,000), Tartous (522,000) and southern Idlib (27,000). This total also includes some communities in the less affected Governorates of Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa.



Based on preliminary data and associated assumptions, the Shelter/Non-Food Item (SNFI) Sector estimates that approximately 5.3 million people are in need of SNFI assistance across the Whole of Syria, ranging from minor repairs of houses through to life-saving SNFI interventions for those displaced from collapsed buildings. Other priority needs and gaps are food and water, shelter, core relief items, winterization assistance (including winter clothing), medicine, psychosocial support, hygiene and sanitation assistance.<sup>2</sup>

Freezing temperatures, snow and heavy rain are further threatening the life and health of those affected, particularly children, elderly people, and those with pre-existing vulnerabilities. After experiencing 11 years of devastating war, Covid-19 and cholera epidemics, local communities and civil organizations especially in the areas close to the affected governorates including rural areas have risen up to provide assistance and donations and mobilize human resources in order to help to collect basic needs such as clothes, blankets, shoes and materials. Food, diapers and medicines and sent it to the affected areas in Latakia, Jableh and Hama. Examples of these communities are the Homs governorate, the Mishta al-Hilu area, Wadi al-Nasara, and the city of al-Mahardah which also hosted hundreds of earthquake- affected households

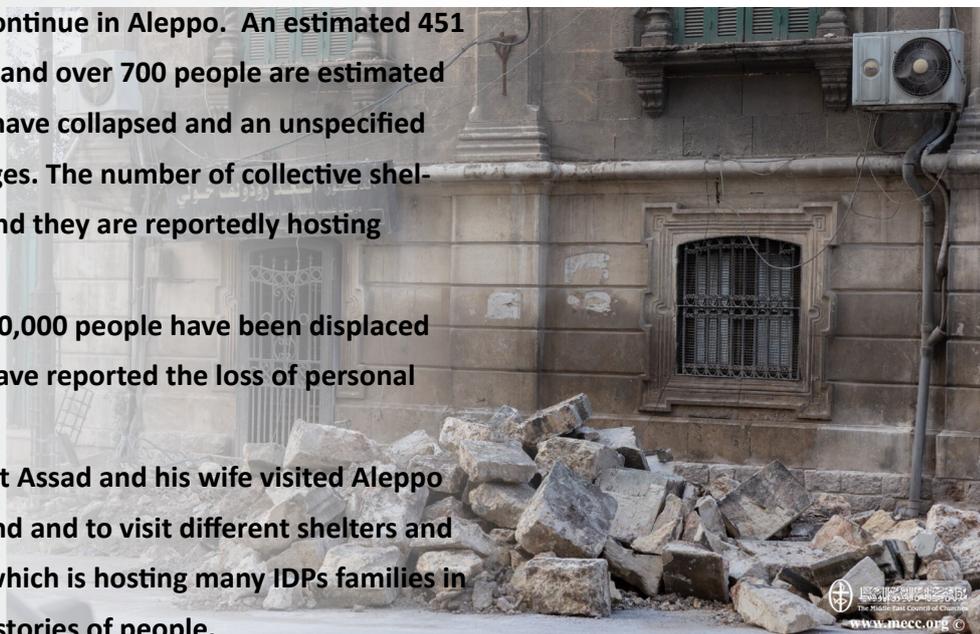
<sup>1</sup> Syrian Prime Ministry, 10 Feb.

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR Syria Emergency Response to Earthquake: Flash Update #5 (10 February 2023)

## 01 ALEPPO

Search, rescue and recovery efforts continue in Aleppo. An estimated 451 people were killed in the earthquake and over 700 people are estimated to be injured. A total of 54 buildings have collapsed and an unspecified number of buildings sustained damages. The number of collective shelters has increased to a total of 173, and they are reportedly hosting around 12,640 families (over 52,840 individuals). Overall, an estimated 150,000 people have been displaced from their homes. 359 families who have reported the loss of personal documents. <sup>3</sup>

On Saturday February 10th, President Assad and his wife visited Aleppo to examine the situation on the ground and to visit different shelters and hospitals. He visited St Elias church which is hosting many IDPs families in its community halls and listen to the stories of people.



The number of estimated Earthquake IDPs who are in Churches' Halls, schools and centers is the following. <sup>4</sup>

Denomination's name	No of temporary shelter ( Halls & schools)	No.of IDPs
Syriac Orthodox church	1	500
Syriac Catholic church	1	200
Greek Orthodox church	1	1800
Greek catholic church	2	220
Latin church	2	1700
Armenian Evangelical	1	800
Anglicans church	1	1000
Armenian Catholic church	3	950
Armenian Orthodox church	5	1500
monasteries (Al bBishara, franciscan, Salesian)	4	1450
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10120</b>

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR Syria Emergency Response to Earthquake: Flash Update #4 (09 February 2023)

<sup>4</sup> MECC Aleppo team

## 02 HOMS AND HAMA

Based on information collected, it appears most of the families affected by the earthquake in Hama Governorate are being hosted by relatives. The main protection needs in collective shelters relate to psychological first aid, psychosocial support, dignity kits and social and recreational activities for children. Some of the families in the collective shelters said that they were scared to return to their homes because the walls had cracks and had not been assessed for safety yet. 120 families who arrived to Kfarbo village (rural Hama) from Aleppo and Latakia. They are mainly being hosted by relatives and others in the community.<sup>5</sup>

## 03 TARTOUS/LATAKIA GOVERNORATES

According to the National Seismological Centre, on 10 February at 11:17 hrs, another earthquake of 3.9 magnitude on the Richter scale was recorded 55km west of Latakia Governorate. No damages were reported. Around 160 families affected by the earthquake arrived from Aleppo to Mashta Al Hilu (Tartous Governorate). The displaced families in Safia area are from Aleppo and the recent earthquake either damaged their homes or the buildings in their surroundings, forcing them to move to Tartous.<sup>6</sup> An estimated 566 people were killed in the earthquake and over 880 people are estimated to be injured. There are reports of children being separated from their parents. Reported damages include the collapse of 102 buildings in Latakia and Jableh and more than 114 buildings damaged in different locations including Banyas and Tartous city. People have sought safety in collective shelters and in rural areas, including 230 families in Jableh. The priority needs for those families are food and drinking water, core relief items and winter items. The Governorate has shared a list of 47 available reception centers which are currently hosting a total of 6,000 families (30,000 people). In Jableh, there are two reception centers including one mosque (hosting 250 families) and one sports facility (hosting 120 families). In Latakia city, the UN mission visited three other shelters including “Sports City” (278 families), Al-Basel center (53 families), and Tishreen school (93 families). Some of the centres lack privacy and WASH facilities. So far, they have identified 359 families who have reported the loss of personal documents.<sup>7</sup>

## 04 Rural Damascus Governorate

There has been no largescale destruction in Damascus and Rural Damascus. However, last night (8 February) a four-story residential building collapsed in Harasta (Rural Damascus). There were initial reports of two casualties.



People helps each other while they stay in public shelter

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR Syria Emergency Response to Earthquake: Flash Update #5 (10 February 2023)

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR Syria Emergency Response to Earthquake: Flash Update #5 (10 February 2023)

<sup>7</sup> UNHCR Syria Emergency Response to Earthquake: Flash Update #4 (09 February 2023)

# Video Reports :

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1- Syria Is in Distress Due to the Earthquake that Hit It  
Video - Safir Salim Describes the Situation in the Salesian Church in Aleppo



2- Moments of Terror Following the Earthquake that Struck Syria  
Video - Georges Batikha Survives the Disaster and Highlights the Urgent Needs



3- Searching for Hope Following the Earthquake that Hit Syria  
Video - Rogina Makhoul Describes the Fear of the Afflicted Families and Children