



Wafaa, 9, taking part in UNICEF-supported psychological first aid and recreational activities at a school-turned-collective-shelter in Aleppo city, Syria

Earthquake Response in Syria

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 10



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

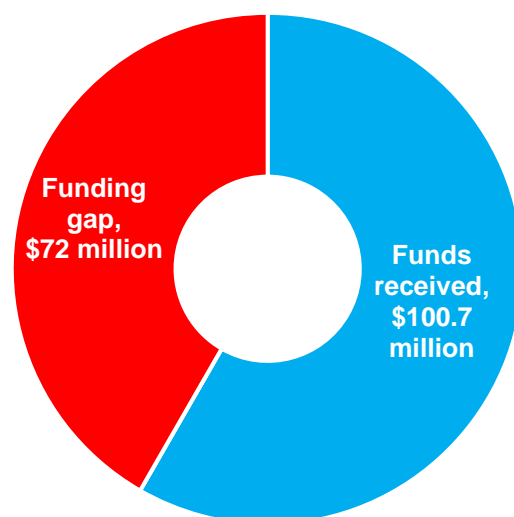
Reporting Period: 3 – 31 May 2023

Highlights

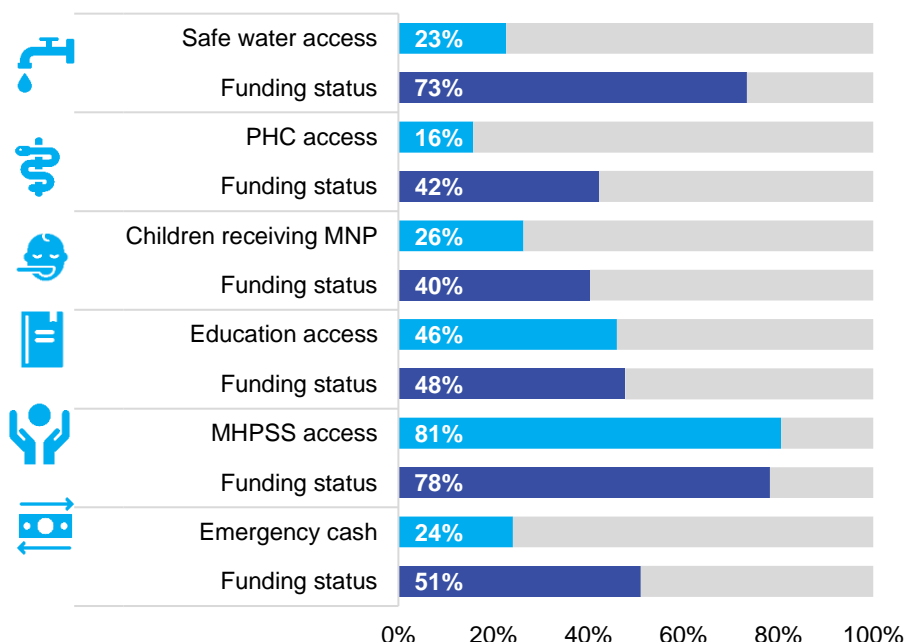
- UNICEF alongside partners, scaled up lifesaving assistance to children and families affected by the earthquake and made a strategic shift in the response, moving towards supporting people recover, through the rehabilitation/reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and restoration of basic services.
- UNICEF and partners have been supporting children from cross border/crossline areas to sit in for the national exams (grades 9 and 12). So far, a total of 11,957 students (5,716 girls) from cross border to the earthquake affected areas (mainly Aleppo) have registered for the exams.
- UNICEF and partners provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to a total of 217,572 children (122,269 girls and 95,303 boys). These interventions included psychological first aid (PFA), recreational activities, structured psychosocial support interventions that support children in gaining a sense of stability and routine.
- The Immediate Response Plan is **58 per cent funded**, with US\$100.7 million received. Nutrition, health and education remain significantly underfunded.

UNICEF Appeal US\$172.7 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



UNICEF's Response and Funding Status***



*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 58 per cent funded**, with US\$100.7 million received.²³ Nutrition, health and education remain significantly underfunded.

Of the funds received, US\$55.4 million (55 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\$45.3 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 State of Kuwait, CERF Underfunded Emergencies and Syria Humanitarian Fund. 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 is provided to the ongoing humanitarian response, promote a child-focused early 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

Four months following the first earthquake on 6 February, children and families continue to struggle to rebuild their lives including 3.7 million children who face desperate conditions and need humanitarian assistance.⁴ According to local and government sources, approximately 6,000 people were reportedly killed and more than 12,000 injured across Syria as a result of the multiple earthquakes that hit parts of Syria and Türkiye.⁵ The situation is exacerbated by 12 years of ongoing conflict, the persistent economic crisis and the spread of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera. 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 country⁶.

Between 25 March and 9 April, a rapid earthquake assessment⁷ was conducted by 1,019 enumerators who used the Syria needs assessment tool (SYNAT)⁸ to carry out key informant interviews. The assessment covered 862 communities and neighbourhoods affected by the earthquake in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs and Idlib governorates and aimed at understanding the perceptions of key informants as well as providing an overview of the needs of affected people residing in communities outside of collective shelters.

According to the findings of the SYNAT, 80 per cent of the assessed communities were directly impacted by the Earthquake. In these communities, respondents reported that there are 2,286 functional health facilities, 526 fully damaged, and 273 partially damaged. In addition, they identified 2,076 functioning schools, 227 fully damaged schools, and 702 partially damaged schools. Of the total respondents (794), 69 per cent, reported that their communities had access to water supply networks, while 31 per cent indicated lack of access to water supply networks. Additionally, 19.8 per cent of the respondents reported the risks of contamination, particularly with septic tanks, flood water or other waste materials near the water sources in their communities.

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). As part of the plan, UNICEF alongside partners, scaled up lifesaving assistance to impacted children and families and made a strategic shift in the response, moving towards supporting people recover, through the rehabilitation/reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and restoration of basic services. UNICEF is meeting the humanitarian needs of girls, boys, adolescents, and families through an integrated and

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. The 2023 HAC is currently being updated to integrate the earthquake and cholera responses and will be ready by mid-year. Please see humanitarian leadership section below for further info.

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 This information is for up until 10 May

⁴ OCHA Syria Earthquake Flash Appeal, 14 February

⁵ OCHA Syrian Arab Republic: Earthquakes, Whole of Syria Situation Updates, 1 March 2023

⁶ Syria earthquake recovery needs assessment (SERNA) April 2023

⁷ Led by the Humanitarian Country Team including UNICEF

⁸ The tool has been finalised and endorsed by the Inter-Sector Coordination (ISC)

gender-responsive approach, prioritizing highly affected areas and areas of large displacement. UNICEF and partners are also 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, **77,165** children and adults have participated in PSEA awareness sessions (28,677 girls, 28,405 boys, 13,201 women and 6,882 men) across the whole of Syria.

Since the earthquakes struck, the UNICEF Northwest (NW) Syria team has undertaken 29 **missions** inside Northern Aleppo and Idlib for programme monitoring and needs and operational environment assessment, including seven visits in May. UNICEF also sent 189 trucks of lifesaving supplies into NW Syria through the open crossing points of Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al-Salam, of which, 45 trucks were sent in May. In addition to the supplies and cash support, UNICEF provided technical support to implementing partners (IPs) in addition to field visits.

WASH

With the onset of the summer season, there is a potential for outbreaks of diseases such as AWD and cholera in the country. In this respect, UNICEF continues to supply and monitor the provision of important water disinfectant (sodium hypochlorite) to cater for the majority of the Syrian population needs (covering up to 70-75 per cent).

To mitigate the risks as a result of dilapidated water supply networks and ensure reliable water services UNICEF started the **rehabilitation of water and sewage networks** in Aleppo and Latakia governorates targeting almost 805,000 people, and rehabilitation activities will start beginning of June 2023 in Tartous, Homs and Hama. Furthermore, in NW Syria, UNICEF and partners are working on the rehabilitation of WASH services and infrastructure particularly focusing on the sewage networks in order to reduce the transmission of AWD and waterborne diseases. In addition, UNICEF is supporting the rehabilitation of water systems in NW Syria to maintain sustainable access to safe and clean drinking water, especially in the locations which are affected by the earthquake.

UNICEF distributed much-needed **hygiene items** such as family hygiene kits, baby diapers, women sanitary napkins and water purification tablets, to a total of 13,983 IDPs (4,017 girls, 3,689 boys, 3,516 women and 2,805 men) in the month of May. Additionally, UNICEF continued the provision of lifesaving assistance to a total of 119,400 IDPs (30,171 boys, 32,054 girls, 26,964 men and 30,211 women), through various activities such as water trucking to vulnerable communities in Aleppo affected by the earthquake. In NW Syria, UNICEF IPs are continuing to provide lifesaving WASH services in the reception centres and informal settlements that were established during the earthquake response. To date, the total reached with lifesaving WASH services is **607,524** people (163,967 girls, 152,962 boys, 155,644 women and 134,951 men) in the targeted sites. WASH hygiene kits are also being distributed to the affected population alongside the distribution of sodium hypochlorite and aqua tabs.

Several challenges however 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 partners are continuing to provide **health services**, reaching **212,264** individuals with medical consultations, treatment of common diseases, referral and essential health services (100,161 girls, 96,759 boys and 15,344 women). In NW Syria, **31,777** people (6,965 girls, 7,875 boys and 16,937 women) were reached with medical consultations and essential health services provided by UNICEF and partners.

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 and privacy for women, all mobile medical teams have female nurses and most of them have female doctors.

Routine vaccination is ongoing with the tracking of zero dose children, reaching more than 6,000 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 IPs on PSEA, and they are informed about UNICEF's zero tolerance policy for all forms of SEA.

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. UNICEF installed 10 prefabricated stores to overcome the storage problems, in addition to 28 prefabricated clinics (22 of them in April and May).

In NW Syria, preparation for the cholera vaccination campaign in Idleb and Aleppo is ongoing, for the launch date of 12 June, to cover 1.1 million above the age of one year in areas affected by the earthquake.

Nutrition

During the past four months of response to the earthquake affected victims, UNICEF and its partners have provided integrated health and nutrition services (prevention, protection, early detection and treatment of wasting) through **fixed centres and mobile health and nutrition** approaches providing outpatient therapeutic services, micronutrient supplementation and IYCF counselling. For the overall nutrition response to the earthquake, a total of 47 mobile clinics (22 in Syria and 25 in NW Syria) were established to increase programme coverage and service delivery. This was in addition to the existing fixed health facilities in both locations.

To date, UNICEF and its partners screened children aged 6-59 months **for wasting**, including **139,267** (70,502 girls, 68,765 boys) children in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous as well as **61,452** children (30,104 girls and 31,348 boys) in NW Syria. Out of the total children screened, since the beginning of the response, 285 children (132 girls and 153 boys) in the five Governorates were admitted for treatment with severe wasting, in addition to 575 children (342 girls and 233 boys) identified with malnutrition in NW Syria have been treated. Moreover, 38,732 pregnant and lactating women were also screened for acute malnutrition in the five Governorates.

UNICEF and partners provided both children under-five and pregnant and lactating women with **micro-nutrient powder and tablets (MNP and MNT)**. A total of **130,709** children under-five (65,645 girls and 65,064 boys) in the five Governorates (110,192 children covered by Syria and 20,517 covered by NW Syria). Furthermore, 32,070 pregnant and lactating women received micronutrients in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous. UNICEF also provided malnutrition preventative nutrition supplies e.g. **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 (1,228 girls and 1,180 boys) in NW Syria.

In addition, the **cash plus nutrition** programme in NW Syria supported 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).

UNICEF and partners ensured appropriate key messages on **infant and young child feeding** practices in emergencies, focusing mainly on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding. A total of 20,646 primary caregivers were reached during the reporting period. Overall, to date, **130,301** primary caregivers were reached with appropriate IYCF counselling since the earthquake occurred (110,122 primary caregivers in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous as well as 20,179 in NW Syria).

After the joint statement release prioritising breastfeeding protection and restricting the provision of procured **breast milk substitute** (BMS) to formula-dependent children, UNICEF has been actively involved in estimating BMS needs, procurement, and monitoring distribution and sharing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related. However, some shelters/communities are receiving unauthorised donations of infant formula, which goes against UNICEF Global guidelines on use of BMS. UNICEF is working closely with partners to monitor and report these instances and promote social behaviour change to protect exclusive breastfeeding and proper infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. Moreover, UNICEF has provided IYCF-E training to over 27 NGOs in Northwest Syria, focusing on counselling, BMS distribution, and monitoring.

Additionally, nutrition support for mothers is being offered through various platforms, including antenatal care and postnatal care services. These services aim to provide **comprehensive nutrition care and support during pregnancy and after childbirth**. In addition, mothers' support groups have been instrumental in disseminating essential **Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)** messages within the community. However, a challenge lies in engaging men in child nutrition and care practices, specifically through responsive parenting. Integrated Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) during community-based interventions are needed to enhance men's involvement in improving women's health within households.

Education

To date UNICEF and partners have supported **131,718** children (64,250 girls and 67,503 boys) to access **formal or non-formal education** in a safe and gender sensitive environment, including early learning, self-learning and remedial classes. 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. To date, 85,681 children (42,359 girls and 43,322 boys) were supported with access to formal or non-formal education.

In coordination with the Directorates of Education, **38 prefabricated classrooms** have been installed as an alternative learning space for schools affected by the earthquake in all five affected governorates. In addition, 29 schools (of 93 planned) have been repaired benefitting 14,500 students, while the remaining 64 are under ongoing repair that will benefit an estimated 32,000 students. The installation will be completed by the end of June benefitting over 77,500 children in urban and rural areas⁹. In addition, UNICEF Aleppo Field Office and Directorates of Education have delivered education supplies and furniture to 666 schools benefitting around 2,400 teachers and more than 530,000 children¹⁰.

UNICEF and partners in the earthquake affected areas have been supporting children from cross border/crossline areas to sit in for the national exams (grades 9 and 12). These children are accommodated in the centres/schools identified in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Directorates of Education. UNICEF and partners have provided light rehabilitation and non-food items such as mattresses and blankets to the centres to accommodate in-coming students and chaperones and companions. So far, a total of 11,957 students (5,716 girls) from cross border to the earthquake affected areas (mainly Aleppo) have registered for the exams. In Aleppo, UNICEF is supporting more than 6,100 children from Manbij, Al Bab, Jarablus and Ain Al-Arab. A total of 42 accommodation centres have been prepared and education bursaries are being transferred along with the e-vouchers provided by a UN Sister Agency. UNICEF's IPs are also providing remedial learning classes to 3,200 students of 9th and 12th grades, while other education sector partners are supporting the remaining students.

To ensure the transition to early recovery phase, the education earthquake response has been built on integrating elements for improved resilience of the most vulnerable communities. In the short term, education provides affected children and communities with a safe and supportive learning environment, which helps them to restore a sense of normalcy during times of crisis. By bringing education access to the at-risk children, UNICEF and its partners also support protecting them from child labour or child recruitment and contribute to peace-building and social cohesion. In the long-term, education activities equip children with cognitive, emotional, and social skills that enable them to adapt to changing circumstances and make informed decisions, thereby enhancing their resilience in the face of future adversity, improving their overall well-being. Finally, it contributes to resilience of the communities by cultivating a skilled workforce, promoting sustainable development, and fostering social progress in the long run.

In NW Syria, **community engagement** has been an integral part of the education response whereby the number of individuals reached with **back to learning (BTL) interventions** was 19,704 (caregivers and children). During the same period, life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal and non-formal settings were conducted with UNICEF support, reaching 10,500 children (4,963 girls and 5,537 boys).

Child Protection

During the reporting period, additional **collective shelters have been closed**, resulting in affected families being moved to other shelters or back to communities, with nine shelters remaining in Hama, 12 shelters in Lattakia and nine shelters in Aleppo. In Hama, many families returned to their damaged houses with safety concerns. Whilst improvements have been acknowledged, such as WASH facilities in collective shelters, the living conditions within some collective shelters continue to place women, girls, and boys at risk, with concerns with violence including GBV and harassment against women and girls. This is mainly due to overcrowded rooms, lack of privacy, and inadequate WASH facilities, in some shelters. Children in the collective shelters are reportedly less afraid of earthquakes, but they and their families are concerned about where to go if the shelters are closed, especially when they hear from others that the collective shelters will be closed soon by the government.

UNICEF and IPs faced challenges in providing continued child protection services due to constant relocation of families between shelters, and between shelters and communities. The deteriorating economic situation has made parents less concerned with child protection activities, as they are struggling with jobs and income generation. UNICEF and IPs 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. In addition, UNICEF and IPs have increased the use of **mobile teams** in providing mental health and psychosocial support, parenting support programmes, case management including family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and raising awareness to prevent all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse of children.

In the period February to May, UNICEF IPs provided **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)** services to a total of 237,251 individuals (104,169 girls and 78,977 boys, 34,244 women and 19,861 men). These interventions

⁹ The estimated number of beneficiaries reached is based on double shifts operating in schools.

¹⁰ The estimated number of beneficiaries reached is based on double shifts operating in schools.

included psychological first aid (PFA), recreational activities, structured psychosocial support interventions that support children in gaining a sense of stability and routine. Furthermore, 821 parents and caregivers (747 women and 74 men) were reached with parenting sessions organised by UNICEF IPs in collective shelters and community-based centres to ensure that caregivers have a safe space where they can share their experiences with other parents, learn from each other, and to relax. Feedback showed that the parents - and especially mothers - were able to cope with challenges faced in their families through skills including better communication. However, the IPs continued to report that fewer fathers and male caregivers than targeted were interested in the joining the activities. The IPs will continue to adjust their approach such as timing and targeting places where men gather.

UNICEF and IPs continue to provide risk education to prevent incidents and accidents related to explosive remnants of war. To date, 1,475 children (851 girls and 624 boys) were reached with **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)**. Awareness raising to prevent all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse of children also reached 6,270 children (3,320 girls and 2,950 boys). In addition, 2,823 children (1,431 girls and 1,392 boys) and 679 adults (674 women and 5 men) were provided with PSEA sessions.

Implementing partners continue to provide **case management** and follow up in the collective shelters and in the communities reaching 140 children (41 girls and 45 boys), including 54 UASC (28 girls and 26 boys).

In NW Syria, UNICEF and partners delivered various child protection interventions including MHPSS, PFA, parenting program, EORE, case management, capacity building as well as behaviour change communication. A total of 34,426 children (18,100 girls and 16,326 boys) benefited from both static and mobile structured and sustained age appropriate MHPSS and PFA activities since February. In addition to the children, 10,311 women and 3,702 men also accessed these services.

Case Management services targeting children with high protection concerns continue to be an integral part of the child protection and GBV response. Under this activity, in NW Syria a total of 3,102 cases were supported (1,437 girls, 1,496 boys and 169 women). Furthermore, 4,333 parents and caregivers (2,372 women and 1,961 men) were empowered with parenting skills to support and provide a protective environment for children. GBV prevention and empowerment activities reached 7,948 individuals (1,545 girls, 508 boys, 5,213 women and 682 men). As a vital component of risk reduction that enhances protection of lives in conflict prone environments key EORE messages were delivered between February and May to 26,509 individuals comprising of 13,323 girls and 13,186 boys.

Cash Relief Response

In the period February to May, a total of 80,226 people have been reached with cash assistance to date, including **69,851** highly vulnerable people in **13,551** families who have received a first round of cash assistance in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia. Fifty-one percent of those vulnerable beneficiaries reached, or 35,665 people, were children (17,476 girls and 18,179 boys). The remaining beneficiaries, or 34,196 people, were adults (17,126 women and 17,070 men).

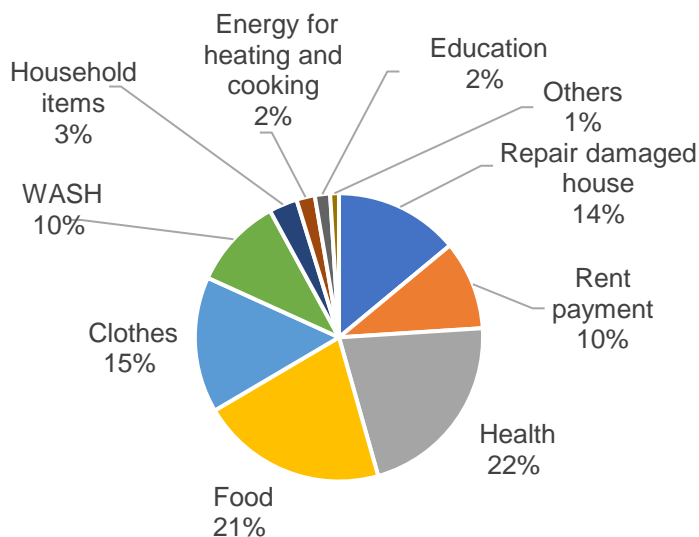
In Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia, cash assistance is delivered through the vertical and horizontal expansion of two Humanitarian Cash Transfer (HCT) programmes:

- [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.

During the reporting period, 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.

During the reporting period, UNICEF issued the findings of a new Post-Distribution Monitoring Survey (PDMS), which was conducted in Aleppo Governorate to assess how families affected by the earthquake have used the cash assistance they received. Previous surveys' reports published in March and May 2023 focused on the vertical expansion of the of the programme (i.e. cash top-up to existing beneficiaries who were affected by the earthquake). The new report focuses on *new* beneficiaries, who received emergency cash assistance as part of the **horizontal** expansion of the programme. The survey indicated that the top expenditures with the cash assistance received by family (US\$ 233) was health (22 per cent), followed by food (21 per cent), clothes (15 per cent), repairs for damaged house (14 per cent), rent (10 per cent) and WASH (10 per cent). The use of cash for house repairs and rent was much lower than among families who had received cash assistance as part of the vertical expansion of the CWD programme. For example, a survey conducted at the same time in Aleppo among families who received a top-up as part of the vertical expansion, indicated that over 40 per cent of the cash was used for house repairs and rent.

Use of cash assistance in Aleppo



Source: UNICEF PDM Report – June 2023 – Earthquake Emergency Cash Response – CWD programme, horizontal expansion

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. While house repairs and rent accounted for about a quarter of the cash use, the surveys shows that consumption patterns of families have not changed and that the top priority needs of families caring for children with disabilities remain food, health and non-food items.

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 6,125 young volunteers, including 3,151 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.

UNICEF supported adolescents' and youth's skills and capacities through skills development opportunities, including those that will help them develop individual resilience and prepare them to participate and engage in the humanitarian response and recovery. Across Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia, 1,597 young people (889 girls and 708 boys), benefited from skill-building activities, including interactive sessions on the topic of self-awareness, stress management, teamwork, and living together.

UNICEF prioritised engagement of adolescents and youth through integrated cross-sectoral approaches and promoted co-creation with adolescents and youth as 'partners. UNICEF engaged 4,528 adolescents and youth (2,262 girls and 2,266 boys); 2,877 in Aleppo, 79 in Hama, 747 in Lattakia, and 825 in Tartous; with other sectors to link ADAP-supported adolescents and youth who had been trained with opportunities for continued participation and engagement to identify issues, design, and implement solutions to respond to the earthquake. In addition, UNICEF supported these adolescents and youth with Sport for Development programmes aimed at empowering them, including girls and adolescents with disabilities, which combined recreational activities with discussions and learning on critical social issues affecting their communities after the earthquake.

Cross Sectoral-Social and Behavioural Change (SBC) / Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Throughout the reporting period, significant progress was made in conducting SBC interventions, with a total of 202,742 individuals engaging actively. Community dialogues and awareness sessions successfully engaged 45,152 beneficiaries (1,432 girls, 1,266 boys, 26,697 women and 15,757 men) on various topics including earthquake self-protection, cholera prevention and hygiene promotion. Meanwhile, the active engagement of 24,476 beneficiaries (449 girls, 497 boys, 11,956 women and 11,574 men) was ensured through targeted household visits. Additionally, through recreational activities, 10,573 children (5,797 girls, and 4,776 boys) were reached through songs, theatre plays and other edutainment interventions that promote health-seeking behaviours.

Moreover, to date **765,178** individuals were reached through **targeted messages** focusing on preventing diseases and accessing essential services, particularly for those living in shelters. A total of 2,332 print materials were distributed reaching 466 girls, 329 boys, 897 women and 640 men, while public announcements reached 15,307 individuals (6,753 women and 8,554 men).

In NW Syria, UNICEF continues to lead the RCCE program in partnership with WHO. The program aims at responding to emergencies such as the cholera outbreak and the earthquake. UNICEF has reached 74 per cent of the target population through social mobilization on key preventive messages to safeguard from diseases and to keep safe during an emergency. The different modalities used to mobilize and engage with communities include group and individual awareness sessions, face-to-face consultations, orientation with community and religious leaders and through social media. The communication materials are designed in accessible formats and to also reach people with disabilities.

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) were scaled up. Since the earthquakes, the UNICEF service line has responded to more than 1,354 cases from the affected governorates of Aleppo, Hama and Latakia, including 1,166 of which (86 per cent) are directly related to the earthquake including enquiring about the earthquake cash transfer scheme and seeking additional services in shelters. Since mid-March 2023, and as part of monitoring the earthquake response, UNICEF Syria has carried out 1,125 surveys in four affected governorates. Seventy-eight 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 only 44 per cent of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality of the services (about two-thirds of the reasons were related to medical and nutritious supply's availability and adequacy, and the quality of medical examination services, while 22 per cent of the reasons related to the quality of education). Seventy-three per cent responded that the items were delivered immediately, and 89 per cent of the beneficiaries said they received the services at an appropriate time. Eighty-eight per cent of the respondents felt the provided services and supplies were inclusive and reached the most vulnerable and at-risk members of the community. Almost all the respondents were satisfied with the behaviour of the aid workers that provided the assistance. The monitoring findings show however that 80 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. However, 32 per cent of the answers articulated that the service line and 22 per cent of them articulated that the suggestion box was known mechanisms to make a complaint or provide feedback. UNICEF is ensuring full coverage of suggestion boxes in the service facilities and is exploring the option of including leaflets in all the distributed supplies to increase beneficiaries' awareness on AAP.

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.¹¹

In collaboration 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 close coordination with OCHA, the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023 was updated to integrate the earthquake response, which involves UNICEF in parallel updating its HAC for up until end of 2023. These HAC updates are planned for publication for mid-year and a mid-year sitrep will also be released in July that will include the earthquake and the cholera response achievements alongside the original response achievements to date. Discussions are underway with the Government of Syria on the final draft of the 2023 HRP.

External Media

To mark 100 days after the deadly earthquakes struck in Turkiye and northern Syria, [a global press release](#), [a signature video on Syria](#), [web content](#) and series of social media posts were widely disseminated on 17 May by UNICEF on country, regional and HQ level as well as by National Committees to reignite efforts to bolster visibility and resource mobilization actions. More communication content was also shared across the platforms to highlight UNICEF's work on the [ground](#) across the earthquake affected areas and to [thank donors](#) for their generous support.

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¹¹ All cluster coordinators costs are included into sectoral programme budgets

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

		UNICEF and Implementing Partners Response		
Programme Indicator		Target	Total Results	Change* ▲ ▼
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene				
Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Boys		218,564	24,899
	Girls		241,943	29,491
	Men		189,821	16,805
	women		218,691	32,030
	TOTAL	3,375,000	869,019¹²	103,225
Number of people accessing appropriate sanitation services	Boys		145,917	18,136
	Girls		154,027	18,456
	Men		118,392	17,968
	women		128,128	21,791
	TOTAL	2,650,000	546,464¹³	76,351
Health				
Number of children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	Boys		104,634	23,718
	Girls		107,126	22,768
	Women		32,281	8,709
	TOTAL	1,200,000	244,041¹⁴	55,195
Nutrition				
Number of children aged 6-59 months screened for wasting	Girls		100,606	20,835
	Boys		100,113	20,235
	TOTAL	433,000	200,719	41,070
Number of boys and girls (6-59 months) who received MNPs	Girls		65,645	16,723
	Boys		65,064	16,217
	TOTAL	371,250	130,709	32,940
Number of primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling	Women		128,433	10,135
	Men		1,868	0
	TOTAL	339,000	130,301	10,135
Education				
Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Girls		106,574	36,302
	Boys		110,825	40,811
	TOTAL	305,000	217,399	77,113
Child Protection, GBVIE & PSEA				
Number of children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community based MHPSS	Boys		95,303	4,724
	Girls		122,269	5,908
	Men		23,563	712
	women		44,555	4,415
	TOTAL	335,000	285,690	15,759
Number of children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions	Girls		14,174	4,057
	Boys		13,810	4,027
	TOTAL	545,000	27,984¹⁵	8,084
Number of people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Boys		28,405	10,556
	Girls		28,677	11,081
	Men		6,882	2,330
	women		13,201	3,200
	TOTAL	3,750,000	77,165¹⁶	27,167
Social Protection & Cash Transfers				
Number of people reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	Boys		20,822	0
	Girls		20,074	0

¹² Rehabilitation work is ongoing. Beneficiary figures will increase significantly once this work is complete.

¹³ Rehabilitation work is ongoing. Beneficiary figures will increase significantly once this work is complete.

¹⁴ Data is still being processed due to late reporting from partners, but results will increase by the next sitrep

¹⁵ This important activity remains critically underfunded, resulting in a low result compared to need that has been targeted

¹⁶ 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.

	Men		18,747	0
	women		20,583	0
	TOTAL	333,000	80,226	0¹⁷
Adolescents & Youth				
Number of adolescents and young people who participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes	Boys		1,047	(332)
	Girls		948	(360)
	Men		1,219	(71)
	women		1,314	(90)
	TOTAL	10,000	4,528	(853)¹⁸
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)				
Number of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change	Boys		54,776	13,289
	Girls		63,767	15,534
	Men		78,641	33,597
	women		233,216	140,322
	TOTAL	105,410	430,400¹⁹	202,742
Number of people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Boys		165,735	156,143
	Girls		166,357	156,068
	Men		207,576	165,288
	women		225,510	166,075
	TOTAL	1,850,000	765,178	643,574
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	TOTAL	1,200²⁰	1,166²¹	282

*Change since last report

Annex B

Funding Status*

Section	Requirements (USD)	Funds received (USD)	Funding gap	
			USD	%
WASH	\$47,800,008	\$35,084,234	\$12,715,774	27%
Health	\$29,265,371	\$12,356,377	\$16,908,994	58%
Nutrition	\$18,361,542	\$7,405,559	\$10,955,983	60%
Education	\$31,300,000	\$14,955,696	\$16,344,304	52%
Child Protection, GBViE & PSEA	\$19,950,000	\$15,599,147	\$4,350,853	22%
Cash transfers and social protection	\$23,623,079	\$12,038,577	\$11,584,502	49%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE, AAP, Evaluation, RO technical support)	\$2,400,000	\$1,491,436	\$908,564	38%
Being allocated		\$1,767,351**		
Total	\$172,700,000	\$100,698,377***	\$72,001,623	42%

* 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.

17 Due to a decree being issued by the Central Bank, 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. See narrative for further info.

18 The slight decline from the last report in results is due to the section streamlining the data cleaning process

19 As people move out of shelters and back into the community and move around less, they have been more accessible for engagement actions

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

21 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