



25 October 2023 – Thirteen-year-old Ahmad was asleep at home in Azmarin, a small village in north-west Syria, when the house began to shake violently in the middle of the night. The deadly earthquakes of 6 February 2023 had begun.

Moments later, the house had collapsed, burying Ahmad, his parents, sister and younger brother under the rubble. By the time rescuers reached the family, only Ahmad and his brother Omar were still alive. The boys were rushed to Al Rahma Hospital in Darkoush, where they were treated for their injuries. Once their health had stabilized, they were taken in by relatives.

The physical scars of the disaster may have healed, but the mental wounds run deep, particularly for Ahmad. He has told doctors he is “overwhelmed with sadness”. Ahmad often returns to visit Azmarin, seemingly still in disbelief over his loss, spending most of his time near the ruins of his former home and at the graves of his family members who perished.

Ahmad is being monitored by health professionals, with the support of the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association, and he receives special care, including protection and rehabilitation services. Doctors fear the devastating impact of the earthquake may have a more substantial impact on his future development.



Abdullah is one of the many victims of the earthquake in Syria. He is currently in a temporary shelter in the city of Aleppo.