



WHO GAZIANTEP FIELD OFFICE

WHO ERF GRADE 3

SINCE 06 FEBRUARY 2023:



4.6 M
OVERALL
POPULATION IN NEED



8,172
INJURED



4,426
DISASTER-RELATED DEATHS

WHO KEY FIGURES

NUMBER OF
SURGED
PERSONNEL



**11 SURGE STAFF
DEPLOYED TO
GAZIANTEP FO

(16 PLANNED)**

SUPPLIES DELIVERED SINCE 06 FEB

SUPPLIES
DELIVERED



297 METRIC TONS

FUNDING US\$

FUNDING
REQUESTED
FOR 3 MONTHS



15.7 MILLION

HEALTH CLUSTER

HEALTH CLUSTER
PARTNERS



55

TARGET
POPULATION

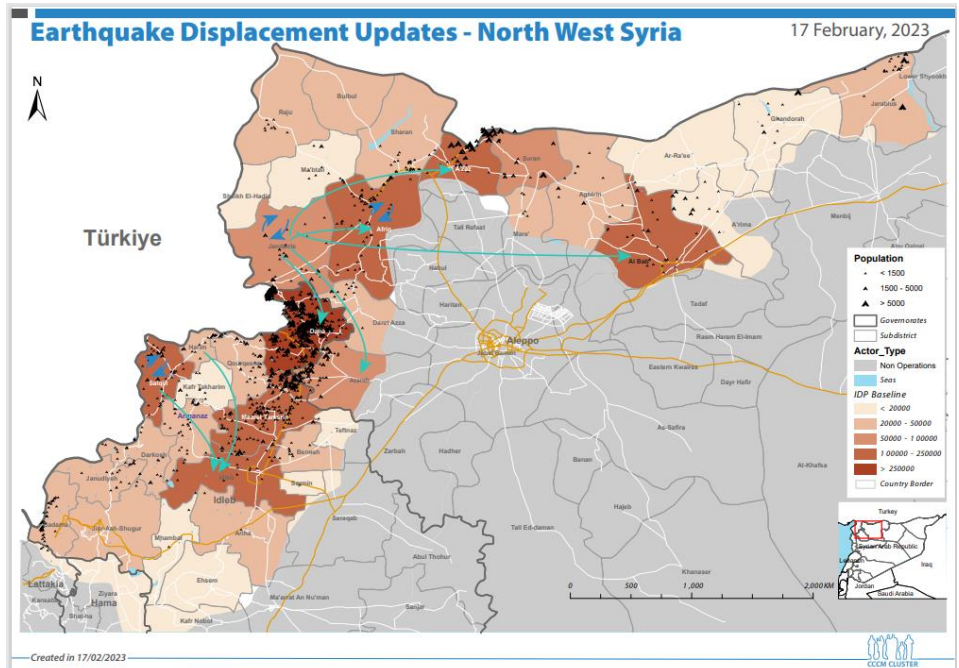
1.8 MILLION

HEALTH FACILITIES

HEALTH
FACILITIES
#DAMAGED/
DESTROYED



55





SITUATION UPDATE

Aftershocks continue to occur frequently in affected areas. The earthquake has affected 34 sub-districts of Northwest Syria (NWS), across 137 communities. Over 1,725 buildings have been destroyed; another 7,240 partially damaged, and 11,000 families affected. While comprehensive information on population displacement throughout NWS is not available, more than 86,000 displacement movements were recorded in NWS in the days following the earthquake.

As of 16 February 2023, the number of deaths in NWS reported to WHO had risen to 4,452 and the number of earthquake related injuries is 8,382. Search and rescue operations in NWS have been impeded by the lack of human resource capacity and the required heavy machinery to extract the injured from under the rubble. Damage and needs assessments have now begun to take place and will do so over the following week. Public health and health services have started to resume, however affected areas report major supply and resource gaps in managing both the victims of the earthquake as well as routine health services. Surveillance and response systems for the cholera outbreak have resumed, but gaps continue in the completeness and timeliness. Significant health needs have been expressed in both Idleb and northern Aleppo.

On 13 February, the UN Secretary-General announced the opening of the two additional crossing points (Bab Al-Salam and Al Ra'ee) from Türkiye to NWS for an initial period of three months to allow for the timely delivery of humanitarian aid.



WHO meeting with the earthquake survivors at a reception centre for people displaced by the earthquake in Azaz, NWS on 15 February 2023 (Credit: WHO)

On 14 February, the UN launched a USD 397 million [humanitarian appeal](#) for the people of earthquake-affected Syria. This will cover a period of 3 months. WHO's earthquake appeal was also re-launched with



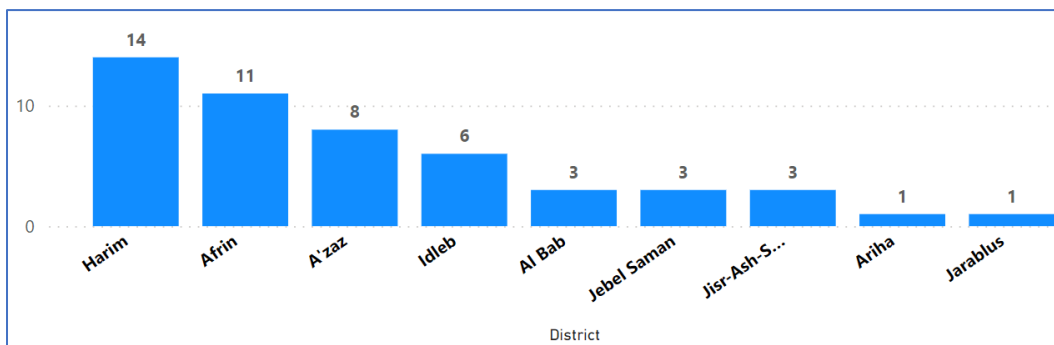
updated requirement of close to USD 85 million, outlining the health situation in the two countries following this humanitarian disaster, the main threats to health, the WHO response since the earthquakes hit and priorities for addressing the health impacts in both countries.

Impact earthquake on the services delivery in NWS:

- Disruption of EWARN, surveillance and laboratory interventions.
- Temporary disruption of cholera treatment centres (CTCs/CTUs) and Oral Rehydration Points, infection prevention and control, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities. These have now resumed functioning, except one that was damaged during the earthquake.
- Disruption of routine immunization services including the 93 EPI Centres and community outreach activities.
- Disruption of two planned and ongoing emergency vaccination campaigns, including combined measles-rubella (MR) and bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV), Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) and ongoing COVID-19 immunization campaigns.
- Significant disruptions to essential health services including MNCH, nutrition stabilization centres, blood banks and specialized services have been reported across NWS.
- Disruption of NCD services.

DAMAGE & HEALTH NEEDS

- Key updates and the impact of the earthquake in NWS are available on the [earthquake response dashboard](#).
- As of 16 February 2023, 55 health facilities in NWS have been damaged, with 2 completely damaged and 53 part. In addition, out of the 395 facilities supporting the NWS response, 12 facilities reportedly not functioning, and 70 facilities are partially functioning including two cholera treatment centres.



Number of Health Facilities Damaged by District



WHO RESPONSE

Leadership & Coordination

- On 14 and 15 February WHO and other UN agencies entered into Idlib (via Bab-al-Hawa) and northern Aleppo (via Bab-al-Salam) to meet with affected populations, local health authorities and health partners to listen first-hand to the health needs of those affected or displaced by the earthquake.
- The inter-agency missions allowed WHO to define immediate response priorities for the health response, including how to scale up health services in newly established reception centres, better target mobile teams providing primary care, re-orient the deliver of medical supplies to areas that are suffering stock outs, and better understand the risk of possible disease outbreaks.
- 71 health facilities (primary health care centres and specialized services) have been identified to receive further support by the WHO with 8 of them as top priority.
- Surge scale up continues in line with the UN system-wide scale up for the emergency response.

Health Partner updates

- The functionality of health facilities has been updated through HeRAMS.
- The health services of around 700 K catchment population have been affected due to the non-functionality of 12 health facilities with further 3.5 million indirectly affected by the compromised services in 70 other health facilities and movement of population to new safe areas.
- Currently, health partners in NWS are supporting 49 mobile clinics, 19 emergency mobile teams, and 1 mobile surgical unit.
- An EMT Coordination Cell has been activate for NW Syria and international EMTs are being tasked to support the response based on needs identified by health partners on the ground. The first teams are scheduled to enter NW Syria on 18/02. EMTs wishing to respond can still send an expression of interest to skeltonp@who.int
- Surge deployment of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) is being coordinated through the Health Cluster mechanism. EMTs will work alongside local partners to provide immediate medical care for the affected population.

Health operations

WHO priority interventions

- Assessing the current situation, identifying the specific health needs ensuring the vulnerable population access to free essential healthcare services (MNCH, MHPSS, NCDs and medicines)
- Enhance the Trauma and mass causality response (prehospital and hospital care)



- Maintaining EWARN and surveillance system to early detection and responding to public health vents in timely affective manners
- Deployment of WHO-Classified EMTs to the most affected areas to support the trauma response and the re-establishment of essential medical services.

Essential Health Services and Referral System

- The referral system is functional with additional needs due to the earthquake impact. Ongoing assessment to understand the critical gaps in the referral system continues.

Cholera surveillance and response

- Underreporting continues due to the interruption of the surveillance system by the earthquake.
- 1,011 suspected Cholera cases reported in Epi W#6 (05-11 Feb) compared to (2,607) the previous week. Surveillance activities are being restored gradually.
- RCCE materials jointly coordinated with UNICEF, 7 out of 8 CTCs/CTUs have not been damaged and 1 partially damaged. Cholera patients are gradually trickling back to CTCs/CTUs. The number of CTCs/CTUs is being scaled up to cover emerging shelters as part of the response to cholera under the earthquake.

Immunization Campaigns

- Preparation for oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign to deliver 1,702,383 doses of Euvichol is underway. The campaign, delayed due to the earthquake, is now to start on 7 March 2023 for 10 working days.
- Targeted areas are Maaret Mesrin, Aldana and Azaz sub-districts and will include reception shelters for those displaced during/after the earthquake. The campaign will cover all individuals above 1 year using a house-to-house strategy.
- The cold chain for COVID-19 vaccines in Al-Iman Hospital has been damaged leading to the wastage of 1,735 COVID-19 vaccine doses.

TB Services

- 2 Molbio systems donated by IOM have arrived to Azaz and will be sent to the 2 TB centers in Azaz and AlBab to release the extra work on Afrin and Idlib centers.
- An impact assessment of the earthquake was completed to ensure the continuity of TB services.

Dialysis

- The increase in crush injury and acute renal failure in earthquake victims has led to increased demand for dialysis services in NWS, in a context where service availability was already poor.
- One center in Jandaris, Afrin, was damaged with patients temporarily transferred to AlHedaya center in Qah.
- AlHedaya center had received the patients from Janderis center and also the earthquake survivors needing trauma care.
- This required expansion of the capacity of this hospital with 30 beds and the required staff, medicines, medical supplies, and food to absorb patients from the first days of the earthquake.



Operational Support and Logistics

Cross Border Shipments

- Cumulatively, as of 14 February since the onset of the Earthquake Emergency, WHO has delivered 9 trucks in total to NWS including 7 trucks which crossed to NWS on 11 FEB as follows:
 - Supplies : WHO Emergency Kits and Essential Medicines
 - Value :\$1,054,523.00
 - Volume: 462cbm
 - Weight: 96 tonnes
 - Number of Treatments: 3,705,000
 - Number of Trauma Treatments: 62,500 (included above).



WHO Supplies dispatched to NWS

Distribution of earthquake supplies within Syria:

- Up to 16 February, WHO has accelerated the distribution of supplies to hospitals and primary healthcare centres from its stocks located in Azaz and in Idleb.
- These supplies continued to supply health facilities with the consumables, anesthetics, and medicines required for 49,000 trauma wound interventions.

WHO GAZIANTEP FIELD OFFICE CONTACTS

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To support WHO's earthquake response in northwest Syria please visit and donate to:

[WHO Foundation — Lifesaving Response to Earthquakes in Türkiye and in Syria](#)