



© UNDP - Syria | Mohammad Jouni  
Salvaging what is left of her home in Latakia, Syria

# Supporting a **Resilient Earthquake Recovery** for the **People of Syria**

## UNDP's Earthquake Response Programme 2023 - 2025



“As we mourn all those who lost their lives and expand humanitarian operations across Syria, we must ensure continued access using all modalities and sufficient resources to meet the needs of all those affected. This includes **early recovery assistance**, which **builds resilience while addressing immediate life-saving needs.**”

António Guterres, UN Secretary General



# IMPACT

## Devastating Earthquake After 12 Years of Conflict and Displacement



February 2023  
multiple earthquakes  
strongest of  
**7.8**  
magnitude

**5** of Syria's **14** Governorates  
sustained heavy damage  
Aleppo | Hama | Idleb |  
Lattakia | Tartous

## Increasing Vulnerability in Earthquake Affected Areas

**8 - 20%**  
increase in prices of  
essential commodities

more precarious **access**  
**to sustainable**  
**livelihoods**

destruction of  
**livelihood**  
**assets**  
and economic value chains

with already strained essential services, many reaching breaking point  
in affected areas

## Significant human and physical damage, and economic and social losses

**6,000**  
people dead\*

**12,000**  
people injured

**8.8**  
million  
people affected

**105,000**  
households  
displaced

**water supply &  
sewage systems**  
considerably damaged

**energy  
infrastructure**  
fuel and electricity crisis  
most severe in a decade

**health sector**  
overstretched capacity due to  
COVID and Cholera

having a direct impact on vulnerable populations

at a moment when the needs of people across Syria were already at their highest

**6.6 million**  
internally displaced people

**9** out of **10**  
living in poverty

**15.3 million**  
need humanitarian  
assistance  
= 7 out of 10 people

**majority**  
**of households**  
struggling to meet basic needs

shortages of drinking  
and  
irrigation water  
water-borne diseases

people exposed to the elements  
emergency response constrained  
great cost to urban and rural  
livelihoods

damaged and overwhelmed  
healthcare services  
sector unprepared for a mass  
mortality disaster

\* estimated as all rubble is not cleared yet



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## For UNDP Engagement

### Inclusive Recovery, focused on Most Vulnerable

- For the Whole of Syria, our approach is people-centred, needs-based, and inclusive.
- In affected communities, we target the most vulnerable and consider the specific needs of women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

### Strengthening Local Community Capacities

- We work in a participatory manner to help local communities to prioritise needs, define disaster resilient recovery pathways and develop their capacities to withstand future crises.

### Conflict-sensitive and Risk-informed

- Our targeted assistance will be informed by risk and a context-sensitive analysis; employ human-rights-informed procurement; and apply environmental and social risk screening.
- We give special attention to risks around Housing Land and Property (HLP) rights, exclusion and inequalities in targeting, and safety and environmental risks around debris management.

### Minimizing Negative Environmental Impact

- To support the local economy and reduce our carbon footprint, our early recovery interventions will aim to use local materials and technologies.
- We will salvage and reuse construction materials from destroyed structures where possible.

### UN Coordination, Partner Alignment and Partnerships

- As the lead of the UN's Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector, we play a key role in ensuring a coordinated and integrated response to post-disaster early recovery efforts.
- Under the leadership of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, close strategic partnerships, including with UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, World Bank and WHO are critical for high-impact, well-coordinated and sustainable interventions.

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A family clearing some furniture from their severely damaged home in Lattakia, Syria







# RESPONSE PROGRAMME

Early Recovery | Building resilience, while addressing immediate lifesaving needs

UNDP's early recovery approach helps communities restore normalcy, people to preserve their livelihoods and dignities, and strengthens delivery systems to build resilience.

Our people-centred and community-led approach to inclusive early recovery builds on our long experience and trusted engagements in participatory local planning and management.

We facilitate post-earthquake end-to-end recovery processes, from damage, impact and needs assessments to the implementation of catalytic, community-led recovery interventions. And we do so working directly with communities.

We lead the UN's Whole-of-Syria Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector, with partners operating in all earthquake-affected areas. This places UNDP in a uniquely strategic position to shape the broader post-disaster recovery process, supporting coordination and integration of high-impact, risk-informed and conflict-sensitive early recovery interventions.

Our response programme builds on the UN Humanitarian Response Plan and Earthquake Flash Appeal and is fully aligned with UNDP's Country Programme for Syria 2022-2024.

With an initial estimated budgetary requirement of US\$100 million, UNDP's two-year programmatic response priorities are formulated to advance early recovery, building resilience while addressing immediate lifesaving needs.

The programme will be continuously updated to respond to evolving needs and adapted based on the forthcoming Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA).

The two pillars of the UNDP response programme are:

- Restoring Inclusive Access to Community-level Essential Services and Basic Infrastructure
- Supporting Sustainable Local Livelihoods



# ACTION PILLAR I

Restoring Inclusive Access to Community-level Essential Services and Basic Infrastructure

Approximate Budget | USD 65 million

## Coordination, assessment, and recovery planning

Together with UN partners we are providing technical, operational and logistical support on building and community infrastructure damage assessments. Under the overall leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP is the technical lead of SERNA -an in-depth, intersectoral recovery needs assessment for all earthquake-affected areas, reflecting the needs and priorities of diverse segments of affected populations that is conflict, gender, and environmentally sensitive.

## Debris removal and management

In the immediate term, we support the removal of debris that threatens public health and impedes humanitarian access and access to essential services. Our debris removal activities provide emergency livelihoods through labour intensive cash-for-work modalities targeting the most vulnerable. Forty per cent of beneficiaries will be women. We will also build local capacities for sustainable recycling of debris, provide machinery and equipment for debris removal and crushing, and raise community awareness on debris safety and reuse that reduces environmental degradation.

## Access to basic services, social infrastructure and housing repair

In the medium term, UNDP will focus on restoring critical essential services and productive assets, to address old and new humanitarian needs in earthquake affected areas. It will also support the preservation of cultural heritage.

Our early recovery approach that begins at the onset of emergencies, complements humanitarian relief efforts, as we work to ensure reliable access to essential services, with a focus on restoring inclusive access to WASH, health (including psychosocial support), education, energy and critical community productive infrastructure and assets, including small-scale irrigation and natural disaster management systems, required to protect food and health security and basic well-being of directly affected populations.

Given the significant impact on access to shelter, UNDP will also support access to more sustainable housing solutions, including for those living in informal settlements. We will prioritize female-headed households and households with members living with disabilities. Housing, land, and property (HLP) due diligence will inform all housing-related interventions. In addition, together with other UN partners, we will expand our HLP and civil documentation legal support services in affected areas. One-stop shops and hotlines will be made available for affected populations to seek information on and referrals to services and assistance, with special attention to vulnerable, differently abled groups, and women-headed households.

We will provide technical guidance to affected communities at the local level on rehabilitating disaster-resilient infrastructure, disaster risk-informed recovery and resilience building.



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Determined to save his books, Lattakia, Syria





## ACTION PILLAR II

Supporting Sustainable Local Livelihoods

Approximate Budget | USD 35 million

### Livelihoods and Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

UNDP will support inclusive economic recovery in affected areas by restoring value chains and local markets. Initiatives will be informed by community-led recovery and prioritization to boost a greener local economy and provide decent livelihoods opportunities for the affected population. UNDP will focus especially on livelihood opportunities and support for women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

In the medium and longer term, UNDP will support MSMEs to restart their businesses, with a focus on businesses led by women, youth and persons with disabilities. Local help desks will be established to provide livelihoods advisory support, including referrals to skills training, employment support, placement and matching services. Livelihood generating programmes will be carried out through capacity building on restoration of disaster-resilient livelihoods programming, micro-financing and entrepreneurship development.

UNDP will support demand-driven vocational and technical training, targeting youth, especially in sectors of basic services and other production sectors.

### Alternative energy sources and renewables

Special attention will also be given to livelihood recovery options that would make use of new solutions for renewable energy and energy-efficient basic technologies. In restoring access to critical services - such as education and health -- and livelihoods, UNDP will scale up its renewable energy programmes to support the rehabilitation of micro-hydro schemes and other small renewable electricity and energy infrastructure required to keep education, water and health facilities functioning.





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Abo Abdo, twice displaced and now lost his shoe repair shop as a result of the earthquake in Aleppo, Syria

## ADDING VALUE

On the ground,  
delivering  
early recovery  
solutions for the  
Whole of Syria

Our people-centred, needs-based and communities-driven early recovery response complements emergency humanitarian responses to the earthquake.

As per our mandate in crisis and post-crisis settings, our principled response adopts a holistic and integrated multi-sectoral approach that is area-based and inclusive, focusing on the most vulnerable across the Whole of Syria.

We have more than a decade-long experience in community-based, people-centred basic service rehabilitation and livelihood generation in Syria, throughout the current crises.

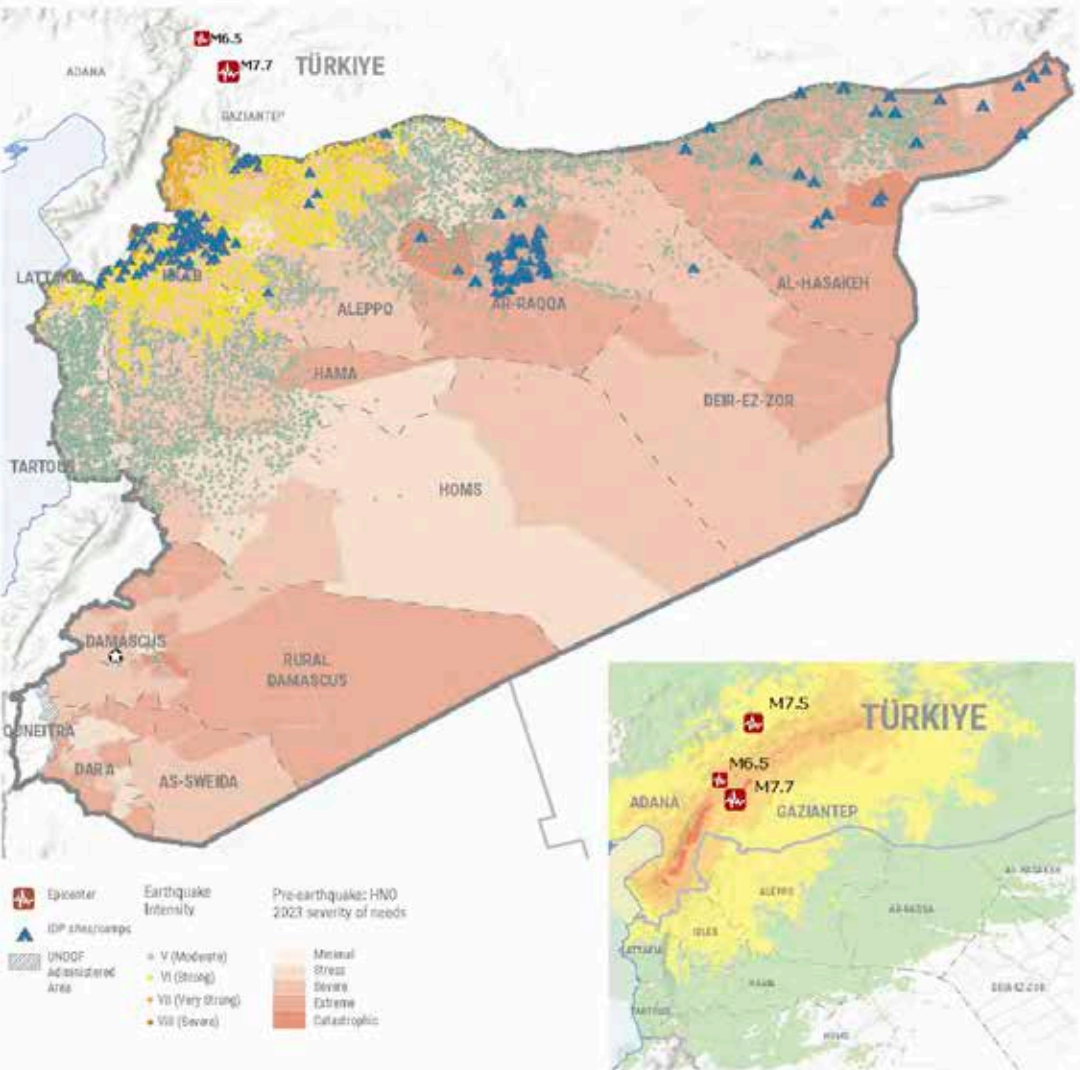
We have local field offices in all affected governorates in Syria and an office in Gaziantep, Türkiye, servicing the country's northwest. UNDP disaster response and recovery experts have been deployed to all affected areas to avail immediate support for damage assessments and early recovery planning and programming.

### We Bring

- Long standing engagements in programming along the humanitarian, recovery, peacebuilding continuum.
- Credibility and trust of local communities, gained through decades of presence on the ground and close to communities through six in-country field offices and one office in Gaziantep.
- A wide-ranging mandate necessary for the early recovery process, allowing us to build bridges ensure linkages across interventions, and convene diverse partners and stakeholders to work towards shared outcomes.
- Expertise and applied knowledge working on sustainable recovery options in emergencies across the globe, with the ability to quickly deploy teams with multidisciplinary expertise.



# Earthquake Intensity by Community



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
 MAP Source: OCHA - Syria



