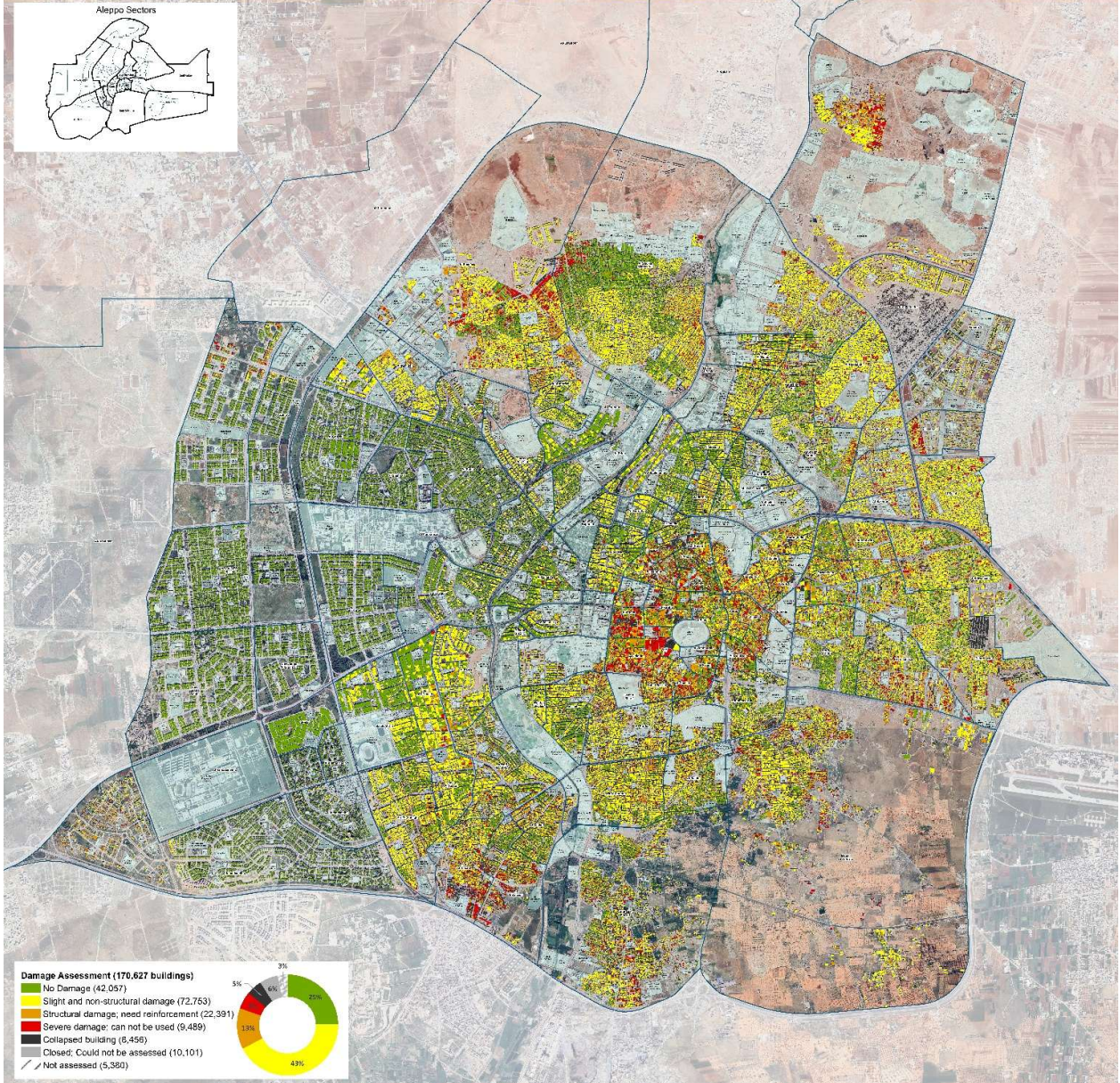


Flash Update

Restoration of Basic Services and Job Creation through Cash-for-Work in conflict-hit areas of Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafieh in Aleppo City





Situation Update:

- On 6 January 2025, heavy clashes between Government Forces and the SDF in Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah—home to over 300,000 people, including 40% IDPs from Afrin—caused civilian casualties, mass displacement, damage to health infrastructure, and suspension of humanitarian aid.
- Fighting has paralyzed the city- economic activity has halted, schools and public services suspended. Authorities suspended all flights to and from Aleppo International Airport with services rerouting air operations to Damascus.
- Ongoing armed hostilities and use of drone attacks and shelling have severely restricted movement along several critical routes, including the Allaramoon–Shihan Road and key access roads circling Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah. While main supply routes into Aleppo city remain open, movement within the urban area is increasingly constrained by the proximity to front lines and contested areas.
- As of 10 January, more than **148,000 people** were displaced from Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah. Approximately 106,000 people have sought refuge in Afrin district are staying with family members, while the remaining **42,000 people** have arrived in A'zaz, Al-Bab, Jarablus, Jabal Samaan. Of these, about **5,000 people** are staying in temporary shelters within Aleppo City identified by Aleppo Governorate, predominantly mosques and one church while 10 families have arrived in an IDP site in Tabaqa north-east Syria.
- Civilian casualties remain high: reportedly **64 civilian casualties** (9 fatalities and 55 injured) while the SDF reported 7 fatalities and 52 injured within Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah.



I. Scale of Damage and Disruption of Essential Services :

Prior to 6 January, Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah already faced chronic poor services and restricted access. The escalation of fighting has exacerbated conditions leaving widespread debris, explosive remnants of war and damage to infrastructure.

➤ Education and Health:



At least three schools and several primary health centers have been damaged. The nearby Zahi Azrak Hospital—one of Aleppo Governorate’s main internal medicine facilities and previously rehabilitated by UNDP—was targeted during the escalation. Although the hospital did not sustain major structural damage, its proximity to the frontline and ongoing sniper activity forced its

closure on 10 January, further straining overstretched health services.

➤ Residential Damage Assessment:



Aleppo City has 170,627 residential buildings, with 25,802 located in Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah. Before 6 January, 21% of these buildings were reported damaged: 2,908 required reinforcements, while 1,857 were destroyed or uninhabitable. These figures are based on a comprehensive damage assessment supported by UNDP in 2023–2024 following the February 2023 earthquake. Since the

recent escalation, damage to both residential buildings and infrastructure networks has reportedly increased further.

➤ **Electricity:**



15 transformation centers and 50 kilometers of the electricity network require urgent rehabilitation.

➤ **Water and Sewage System :**



Building on UNDP assessments from 2024 (following the February 2023 earthquake), a high level of damage to the water and sewage infrastructure from recent hostilities. The densely populated area is on a high plateau that historically suffers from access to drinking water and needs long term water systems rehabilitation.

UNDP expresses its gratitude to donors that have contributed to the ongoing projects that assist in the rehabilitation of Aleppo city and its populations.

Al-Ashrafiyeh Neighborhood (2019–2024) :

- Rehabilitation of Omar Abdulaziz Primary Health Centre.
- Cash-for-work activities for debris, solid waste management and maintenance of water and sewage networks.
- Installation of **75 solar-powered streetlights** .
- Rehabilitation and maintenance of water and sewage networks, with approximately **800 points** repaired.
- Removal of approximately **6,000 m³ of debris**.
- Provision of **225 school desks** through vocational training programmes.

Sheikh Maqsoud Neighborhood (Earthquake Response 2023-2024)

- Removal of approximately **1,510 m³** of debris.
- A cash-for-work intervention, through which **117 sewage points** were repaired and maintained.
- Damage assessment of all **25,802** residential buildings following lengthy negotiations between SDF and former regime.

II. Current UNDP Support :

UNDP is joining efforts at the Area Humanitarian Country Team (AHCT) level to ensure recovery needs and priorities are aligned with the short-term humanitarian response. On day one of displacement, UNDP mobilized its already cash-for-work teams under for urgent solid waste management support to the temporary collective shelters through its ongoing cash-for-work programme in Aleppo City, complementing other UN interventions that provide food, NFIs and medicine.

UNDP is currently preparing to reprogramme one of its key large-scale projects for debris removal and recycling in Aleppo City thanks to the Republic of South Korea for its generous contributions. Under this project, more than 150,000 tons of debris will be removed and 50,000 tons recycled into construction materials. The project includes a parallel component on Mine Action.

III. Proposed Medium to Long-term Activities :

With the cessation of fighting, immediate and longer-term recovery programmes are required in the area to enable quick, safe IDP returns and to stabilize affected neighborhoods which includes rapid debris removal and recycling, mine action and restoration of basics services. Thanks to Germany, South Korea, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Switzerland. Building on existing resources and expertise, UNDP calls for urgent donor support to repair damaged projects, launch new rehabilitation efforts, and prevent further deterioration and secondary displacement.

To address urgent early recovery needs, UNDP proposes a package of priority interventions focused on restoring basic services and livelihoods, with an estimated total cost of **USD 3.5 million**. Proposed activities include:

- Rehabilitation of electricity infrastructure, including 15 Transformation Centre and 50 kilometers of electricity networks.
- Rehabilitation of 10 kilometers of water and sewage networks.
- Rehabilitation of four social buildings (schools, PHCs, bakeries, etc.).
- Creation of 100 short-term jobs through cash-for-work activities for solid waste management and water/sewage network repairs.

- Rehabilitation of 3 kilometers of essential roads to markets, schools and health facilities.
- Mine Action (complementary to all basic infrastructure rehabilitation):
 - Training of debris removal workers as Explosive Ordnances Banksmen.
 - Delivery of Explosive Ordnances Risk Education sessions to community members.
 - Removal of Explosive Ordnances in affected areas.

For more information on proposed activities and detailed cost estimates, please contact:

UNDP Syria – Rhitu Siddharth, Partnerships Advisor, rhitu.siddharth@undp.org, +963 989 300 273