

Final narrative report



Project Name:	Supporting families affected by the earthquake through rental and restoration programs.
Implementing Partner:	The National Evangelical Synod in Syria and Lebanon - Evangelical Church in Aleppo
Location:	Syria, Aleppo
Period of report :	May 15, 2023 until December 15, 2023
Report submission date:	January 24, 2024

Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian and Economic Needs Overview

The Syria crisis, currently in its 13th year, remains the largest displacement crisis in the world, with over 12 million Syrians forcibly displaced . The February 2023 earthquakes further exacerbated the situation inside Syria, affecting around 8.8 million people and destroying homes and vital infrastructure. Refugee-hosting countries, which have shown incredible hospitality for over a decade, are suffering from layers of crises, which has led to an increasingly challenging protection environment with heightened pressures for refugees to return to their country of origin.

The economic conditions continue to deteriorate as the Syrian pound depreciates while raw materials prices remain linked to the dollar, resulting in the need for urgent measures. Regular Syrians people, already stretched thin, are struggling to put food on the table. The salaries were increased to 150,000 SYP per month (10 \$),while the WFP estimates the cost of the minimum monthly food basket is over 1.35 million SYP (\$90).

Overview of the current situation in Syria after EQ:

The dire economic and labour market situation in Syria has been further compounded by the earthquakes that struck Syria on 6 February 2023 caused major damages and losses, affecting both urban and rural areas. Buildings and small workshops collapsed in the main built-up area; and irrigation systems and farms were damaged, along with markets and infrastructure. The earthquake had a devastating impact and left many people without adequate shelter, food, water and essential services.

- More than 5,900 deaths and more than 11,200 injuries have been reported across Syria.
- An estimated 8.8 million people have been affected, and thousands displaced
- According to the latest report on the extent of damage in the country, the number of families affected by the earthquake exceeds 190,000 families



Aleppo' indicators February - December 2023:

- 100,632 families affected by the earthquake.
 - 20,320 families left their houses because of collapse or structural damage.
 - 42,408 families left their houses because they need reinforcement
 - 39,904 families can return or returned to their houses because it only requires light rehabilitation.
 - 33,058 buildings need to provide the rehabilitation (light – heavy) needed
 - 5,192 buildings need to be demolished
- There is no assessment of the number of people who lost workshops and equipment

Challenges facing the Shelter sector:

- The final assessment for all number of buildings that were partially destroyed and in need of simple or partial rehabilitation not finalized yet and it's process very slowly due to the shortage of capacity from the government and that cause delay in providing damage assessment results as a result of lack of computers and fuel shortage.
- The total number of affected families who lose their homes very high comparing with the available funds from the humanitarian support program for rental or light rehab programs.
- The gaps of coordination between the humanitarian actors and the government
- The difficult to reach to accurate number for the affected families and the buildings were collapsed
- The limited resources, facilities and funds from all actors (government , NGOs, INGO, UN)

Description of the project :

The goal of the project is to provide the help and the support for Syrian Families who affected by the Earthquake of 6th February 2023 through House Rentals and Restoration.

Project services in Aleppo :

The project aims to provide support to families affected by the earthquake as follows:

- Providing cash support to cover rental expenses for a full year for families who have completely lost their homes or whose homes and buildings have been structurally damaged and have become dangerous and uninhabitable.
- Providing cash support to provide simple and light maintenance for homes that were slightly damaged and whose structural structure was not affected by any damage.

- Providing cash support to provide heavy maintenance for homes that were partially damaged and whose structural structure was not affected by any damage.

Criteria of the selection:

- For rental : the original house fully damaged (first priority) or will be demolished (second priority).
- For small and heavy rehab : the structure statut of the building and the home is safe and there is no threat from the surrounding buildings and can be repaired.
- The following families will be given priority: high-sized families, households headed by women, families who have lost their workshop and income, families with persons with disabilities, and families with persons with chronic diseases.

Implementation methodology steps :

Preparation stage: All paper forms that will be approved within the project were prepared so that they suit the required services and relevant legal papers and are consistent on paper with the requirements of other supporting agencies working in the same field.

Registration stage: the project has been announced within the church and public-related circles, and it has begun receiving applications from the affected families since the beginning of June and on by filling out the project's forms and the paperwork for each person's file. A special file is created for each person that includes: a copy of the identity card, a copy of the family legal statement, a copy of the ownership/rent contract for the damaged or destroyed house, and a copy of the general structural safety report for the house and building.

Verification stage: After entering all the information and according to the registration form and information included, each file is referred to the engineering team assigned to visit the houses, verify the information, and take pictures, and then it is proposed to refer it according to its status (accepted ot rejected) and then referal to rental or rehab support.

Final selection stage: After discussing the situation of each beneficiary through the engineering visit report , the benefecery will inform about the support which will be provided from the project.

Total Achievements per activity in Aleppo

Activity / Target	Original Target per family	Achieved Target per family	Percentage achieved
Rental Support	112	227	202 %
Small Rehabilitation Support	39	39	100 %
Heavy Rehaniliation Support	39	47	120 %

Achievements per details :

Rental Support indicators :

# of Families who benefits	# of families members
227	1542

# of families were headed by women	# of families were headed by men
140	87

# of families who have persons with disability	# of families who have chronic disease persons
52	160

Small Rehabilitation Support indicators:

# of Families	# of families members
39	294

# of families were headed by women	# of families were headed by men
15	24

# of families who have persons with disability	# of families who have chronic disease persons
12	33

Heavy Rehabilitation Support indicators:

# of Families	# of families members
48	254

# of families were headed by women	# of families were headed by men
27	21

# of families who have persons with disability	# of families who have chronic disease persons
9	33

Challenges:

- The number of requests and activities is very high and does not match the number of project' staff.
- The time frame for project implementation is very tight.
- The total number of affected families who lost their homes is very high compared to the target and the available fund in this project.
- The donation and collecting the funds for this project should have started at the beginning of the EQ crisis to provide early the support needed to the affected families.
- The applicants are widely dispersed across a large geographical area.
- The distance between regions is significant, and fuel costs are expensive.
- The evaluation visits process are slow due to the presence of only one engineer within the project.
- Market prices are volatile due to their link to the black market exchange rate.
- There are few workshops implemented and equiped in the market.
- Most small workshops are involved in operations due to the extensive destruction level in Aleppo.

Recommendations:

- Looking for donors to provide rental cost support for the same families who benefited from this phase of the project since their homes fully damaged and they don't have any safe and secured home to go.
- Seeking more donors to provide rental support for families. (there are currently over 380 requests on the waiting list).

- Increase the staff' numbers for next project
- Increase the cost and the target of rehabilitation program
- Increase the target of rental program
- Add a new activity support to provide monthly cash for those who lost their workshops and stay without income.
- Add a new activity support to provide light rehabilitation for those who lost their workshops.

Total Achievements per activity in Aleppo from Lattakia' fund

Activity / Target	Original Traget	Achieved Target	Percentage
Rental Support	28	48	172 %

Achievements per details :

Rental Support indicateros :

# of Families who benefits	# of families members
48	278

# of families were headed by women	# of families were headed by men
29	19

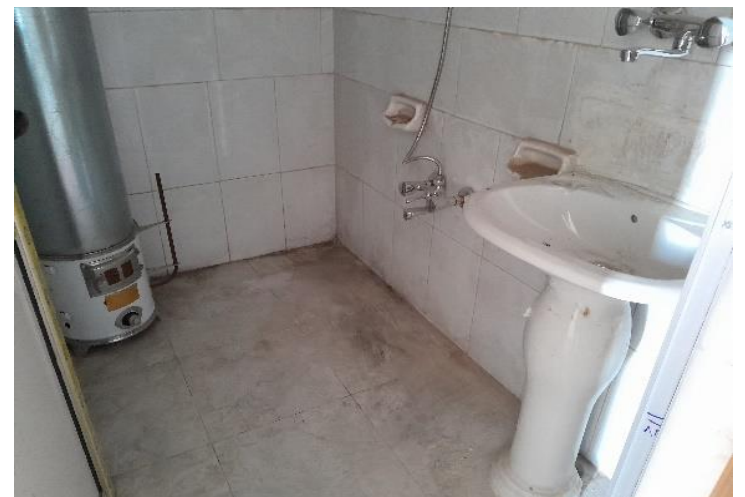
# of families who have persons with disability	# of families who have chronic disease persons
14	30

Photos : Workshops' Work :



Photos : Before & After:







Story :

The earthquake took place at around 4am, when we were all asleep. When the vibrations started, everyone was in shock, and people started screaming. There were 16 people living in my building, including my children and grandchildren, my sisters, her sons and her family.



We managed to fled because we were afraid that the building would collapse onto the market shops on the ground floor. It was raining and everything was chaotic. None of us slept further that night.

“One of my granddaughters was injured during the catastrophe. We took her to a hospital, and she stayed there for a week

“We suffer from many challenges every day, including a lack of adequate food and water, excessive heat in the tent and physical injuries sustained during the war as well as the recent earthquake. These things have led to conflict, even amongst family members.

“the rehabilitation support program from the church help us to continue our life with dignity and in safe condition after provide all the maintenaces needed to our home.

Thank you and Thank you!



Story:



Sleman, his brother, his brother's wife Sabah, and their five children are currently living in a collective shelter with other earthquake survivors. Sleman's daughter, Jana, who is only two months old, is also with them. Sabah, Ibrahim's sister has taken on the responsibility of caring for Jana since her mother passed away due to the earthquake .

Sabah regards Jana as her own daughter and is taking care of her by breastfeeding her and changing her diapers.

Sleman and his family are facing difficult economic and living conditions, but they are fortunate to have received the great support from the volunteer team from the Presbyterian church who came to the collective shelter to see them and fill their application.

They have registered for a rental program and they will move next week to safe and equipped house.

Many thanks for the donors who care and support us in this miserable situation!