

**Churches Rehabilitation and Helping Syrian Families  
Affected by the Earthquake of  
6<sup>th</sup> February in House Rentals and Restoration  
Final narrative report**

**Project Name:** Supporting families affected by the earthquake through rental and restoration programs.

**Implementing body:** The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon – The National Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Latakia.

**Governorate:** Latakia

**Interim period:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

**Report submission date:** 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Overview of the general situation:**

After 11 years, the prolonged crisis continues to worsen. Out of a total population of 22.1 million people, 6.8 are internally displaced, and 15.3 million are people in need - the highest number since 2011.

The Syrian population has been facing stretched displacement for more than a decade. Today, returns have begun in some areas, and the number of newly displaced people from overburdened communities has enlarged, increasing the scale of intensity and complexity of needs across Syria. Basic services remain beyond the reach of the majority of the population, humanitarian needs are increasing across all sectors, and climate change and the Ukrainian-Russian war have exacerbated the situation. As such, Syria is “one of the most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies in the world.”

This year, the Syrian crisis has completed its twelfth year, and although military operations have stopped in several areas, the life and living situation has become more deteriorating and difficult.

According to the official governmental exchange rate, the value of the Syrian currency against the dollar decreased from 3,500 in January 2022 to more than

13,200 Syrian pounds per dollar according to the official rate. However, the exchange rate in the parallel market ranges between 14,000 and 15,000 S.P. This decline is due to several reasons. Reasons such as

- 1) The Syrian government's inability to access the country's main national resources in northeast Syria.
- 2) Foreign sanctions.
- 3) The Lebanese economic crisis. The deteriorating economic situation leads to an average monthly salary falling to less than \$18 while the cost of living continues to escalate.

In addition to this deteriorating situation, Syria was exposed to another disaster, as two earthquakes struck southeastern Turkey and northeastern Syria, first on February 6, 2023, and a second wave on February 20, 2023. Several aftershocks followed. About 6,000 Syrians died due to the earthquakes and a total of 8.8 million people were affected.

According to the latest report on the extent of damage in the country, the number of families affected by the earthquake exceeds 91,000 families.

The number of families that completely lost their houses is 34,000 families.

The number of buildings that were fully destroyed or that will be demolished as a result of the serious structural condition exceeds 6,100 buildings.

The number of buildings that were partially destroyed and in need of structural reinforcement exceeds 29,000 buildings.

The number of buildings that were partially destroyed and in need of simple or partial restoration exceeds 30,000 buildings.

The number of families who lost their houses and still reside in shelter centers exceeds 500 families.

### **Project goals:**

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

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

3. Providing cash support to provide intermediate maintenance for partially damaged houses and whose structural structure was unaffected by any damage.

اهداف المشروع:

### Project work mechanisms and steps:

1. **Preparation stage:** During May 2023, 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.



السينودس الاتجيلي الوطني في سورية و لبنان - اسم الكنيسة

استمارة طلب للعائلات المتضررة من الزلزال للتقديم على مشروع

استتجار بيت

ترميم بيت

أ - معلومات العائلة :					
الزوج ( الاسم و الشهرة):	الرقم الوطني:	رقم الموبايل:	الزوجة ( الاسم و الشهرة):	الرقم الوطني:	رقم دفتر العائلة :
الموالب ( يوم/شهر/سنة) / مكان الولادة:	الموالب ( يوم/شهر/سنة) / مكان الولادة:	رقم الموبايل:	الموالب ( يوم/شهر/سنة) / مكان الولادة:	رقم الموبايل:	رقم الموبايل:
اسم المحافظة:	اسم المنطقة:	المنطقة العقارية:	رقم المحضر :	رقم المقسم :	اسم البناية / طابق رقم:
الحالة الاجتماعية للمعيل/ة:	متزوج/ة <input type="checkbox"/>	مطلق/ة <input type="checkbox"/>	ارمل/ة <input type="checkbox"/>	ملكية العقار الحالي لمقدم الطلب :	ملكية <input type="checkbox"/> وفق سند ملكية <input type="checkbox"/> وفق وكالة قانونية <input type="checkbox"/> مهجرة (من خارج المدينة) <input type="checkbox"/>
وضع العائلة :	مقيمة اصلية <input type="checkbox"/>	نازحة (ضمن نفس المدينة) <input type="checkbox"/>			
ث - معلومات أفراد الأسرة التفصيلية : العدد الكلي للعائلة / /					
العدد الكلي ذكور	دون 5 سنوات	18-5	64-18	75-64	فوق 75
العدد الكلي اناث	دون 5 سنوات	18-5	64-18	75-64	فوق 75
ج - الوضع الصحي:					
حالات مرضية مزمنة:			ذوي احتياجات خاصة:		
د - أفراد الأسرة العاملين:					
الفرد العامل (الاسم و الصفة):	توضيح اسم جهة العمل:	متوسط الدخل الشهري / ل.س:			
	( قطاع حكومي - قطاع خاص - تمويل شخصي )				
وصف بسيط للأضرار (بناء على مشاهدة مقدم الطلب)					

توقيع مقدم الطلب على صحة ما ذكر اعلاه

## **2. Registration stage:**

Since June 2023, 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 was created for each person that included: 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.

## **3. Verification stage:**

After entering all the information and according to the paperwork and information included, each file was referred to the engineering team assigned to visit the house, verify the information, take pictures, and then it was proposed to refer it according to its status according to the following measures:

3.1 If the house was fully destroyed or the house and building were structurally damaged/dilapidated/required to be immediately evacuated: it was referred to benefit from the rental program.

3.2 If the house was not destroyed, the house and building were structurally sound and the extent of the damage was partial: it was referred to benefit from the partial simple or heavy restoration program.

3.3 If the house was not destroyed, structurally sound, and was not damaged at all, or if the house was in good condition, including decoration and general framework, and the house owner is financially capable, then the application was canceled due to lack of need.



#### **4. Final acceptance stage:**

After discussing the situation of each beneficiary through the engineering visit report and approaching it with his family and living situation, the beneficiary was accepted into one of the two programs, according to the situation of his residence.

4.1 If the family would benefit from the rental program: the beneficiary was requested to search for a suitable residence within his/her original residential area and inform the team. After that, the beneficiary provided us with a rental contract upon which the beneficiary received the cash payment proved by a receipt signed by both the beneficiary and the owner of the rented house.

4.2 If the family would benefit from the rental program retroactively: After the verification visit, the beneficiary was asked to submit documents proving his ownership of the damaged house and a rental contract in order to receive the payment proved by a receipt signed by both the beneficiary and the owner of the rented house.

4.3 If the family would benefit from the partial simple or heavy restoration program: the beneficiary was informed by the engineering team of the works that could be done with the cash paid, then he/she was requested to start the restoration works after receiving the first payment and provide our team with all invoices and bills. The cash aid was given through three payments: a first advance of 50% was paid upon acceptance, a second payment of 30% after an intermediate visit of the engineering team and a final payment of 20% at the end of the work.

#### **Project indicators:**

At the end of the project, the following has been implemented:

##### **In Latakia:**

125 families affected by the earthquake were contacted, and the results were as follows:

- 1.** 46 affected families did not submit an application, because their houses were in urban violation or the property was not residential, or because the damages were at the level of the whole building that required repairing in partnership with other residents of the building, or because of the inability to complete the necessary identification papers.
- 2.** 79 applications were officially registered, visited, and engineering examinations were conducted. The results were:

**(2.1)** 12 applications were found with very minor damages and the cost of restoration was less than the minimum set for this project.

**(2.2)** 4 applications: the owners were unable to complete the necessary identification papers.

**(2.3)** 1 application was found that the property was not damaged by the earthquake.

**(2.4)** 20 applications were approved for the rental program.

**(2.5)** 42 applications were approved for the partial simple and heavy restoration program and all works were completed within the project period.

### **Achieved Goals:**

#### **In Latakia:**

1. 20 rent contracts were concluded during the project period.
2. The restoration of 42 houses was completed during the project period.

### **Set Project goals:**

#### **In Latakia**

1. Rental assistance for 48 families affected by the earthquake: we were not able to reach this number since many affected people have been already helped by other organizations working in this field. For that the rest (28 houses) of the set number of beneficiaries were transferred to Aleppo.
2. Providing 21 houses with partial simple restoration: was completed.
3. Providing 21 houses with partial heavy restoration: was completed.

### **Documentation:**

1. **Preparation and registration:** Several photos were taken during registration.
2. **Rental program:** A file was prepared for each beneficiary containing all identification papers and documents, photos of the damaged house, and receipts of cash paid signed by the beneficiary and the owner of the rented house.
3. **Restoration program:** A file was prepared for each beneficiary containing all identification papers and documents, photos of the damaged house before the intervention and while the works were being done and after the completion of the works, and all invoices and bills for the executed works.
4. **Several interviews:** were done for some beneficiaries (after obtaining their official approval).

**Challenges:**

1. The shortness of time frame for implementing the project.
2. The large geographical distribution of affected applicants.
3. The instability of market prices as a result of prices link to the exchange rate of the black market.
4. The small number of restoration workshops available in the market due to the huge destruction in the city.
5. The presence of several organizations working on the issue of restoration and rental assistance, making verifying of non-duplicate benefits necessary, but time-consuming.