

EMERGENCY in SYRIA



Water Distribution in Aleppo, February 9th - ©WeWorld

OPENING STATEMENT

In the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Syria on February 6th 2023, WeWorld with the support of all the other ChildFund Alliance members, responded to the needs of the affected population in the Aleppo governorate within 24 hours. The aim of this document, *Syria Response Plan*, is to share and coordinate the response within the Alliance and with other partners to mitigate the suffering of children, families and other citizens in Syria. The following Plan is aligned with the UN response to the current emergency.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On February 6th, multiple earthquakes hit southern Turkey and northern Syria, and aftershocks were reported in the following days. Several Governorates have been affected in the north, center and coastal parts of Syria: Latakia, Tartous, Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Idleb and Aleppo, the latter being the most impacted.

As of February 17th, more than 5,791 casualties have been reported in Syria, and close to 10,041 people were injured. However, numbers are still expected to go up considering the ongoing risk of building and infrastructure collapsing. Relevant damages have been reported also to water infrastructure, undermining the provision of clean water, in the cities and in rural areas. In the Aleppo governorate, right after the earthquake the water pumping quantity decreased by 17 percent. This consequence constitutes a high risk for public health in the light of the cholera epidemic that is ongoing since 2022.

The Government of Syria has deployed search and rescue teams, supported by humanitarian organizations present in the affected territories, where the population in need is growing by the hour - considering that in the frame of a 12 year-lasting crisis, 15.3 million people already depended on humanitarian assistance, the majority women and children. Increasing urgent needs are related to the lack of access to water and shelter under low temperatures, which have been below zero degrees Celsius in the days following the disaster. This causes a severe problem for the over 11,000 people whose homes have been destroyed and who are added to the 50,000 families seeking shelter in one of the almost 300 temporary accommodations established in the last days. Across the Aleppo governorate, 10,563 families are hosted in collective centers.

After a week of suspension, schools reopened in the country on Sunday 12th, and in the following days in the affected areas. However, the reported attendance is until now very low. 454 school facilities reported damages. Among those unharmed, 150 are being used as temporary shelters for the affected population, 100 of which are in Aleppo.

Millions of Syrian children are once again out of school. An alarming and long-term consequence of the earthquake is exclusion from education, a sector in constant emergency since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011. Another expected implication of the current emergency is the displacement of thousands of Syrians from the impacted areas to southern ones.

RESPONSE

WASH – Shelter and NFI distribution – Education in Emergencies

TARGET

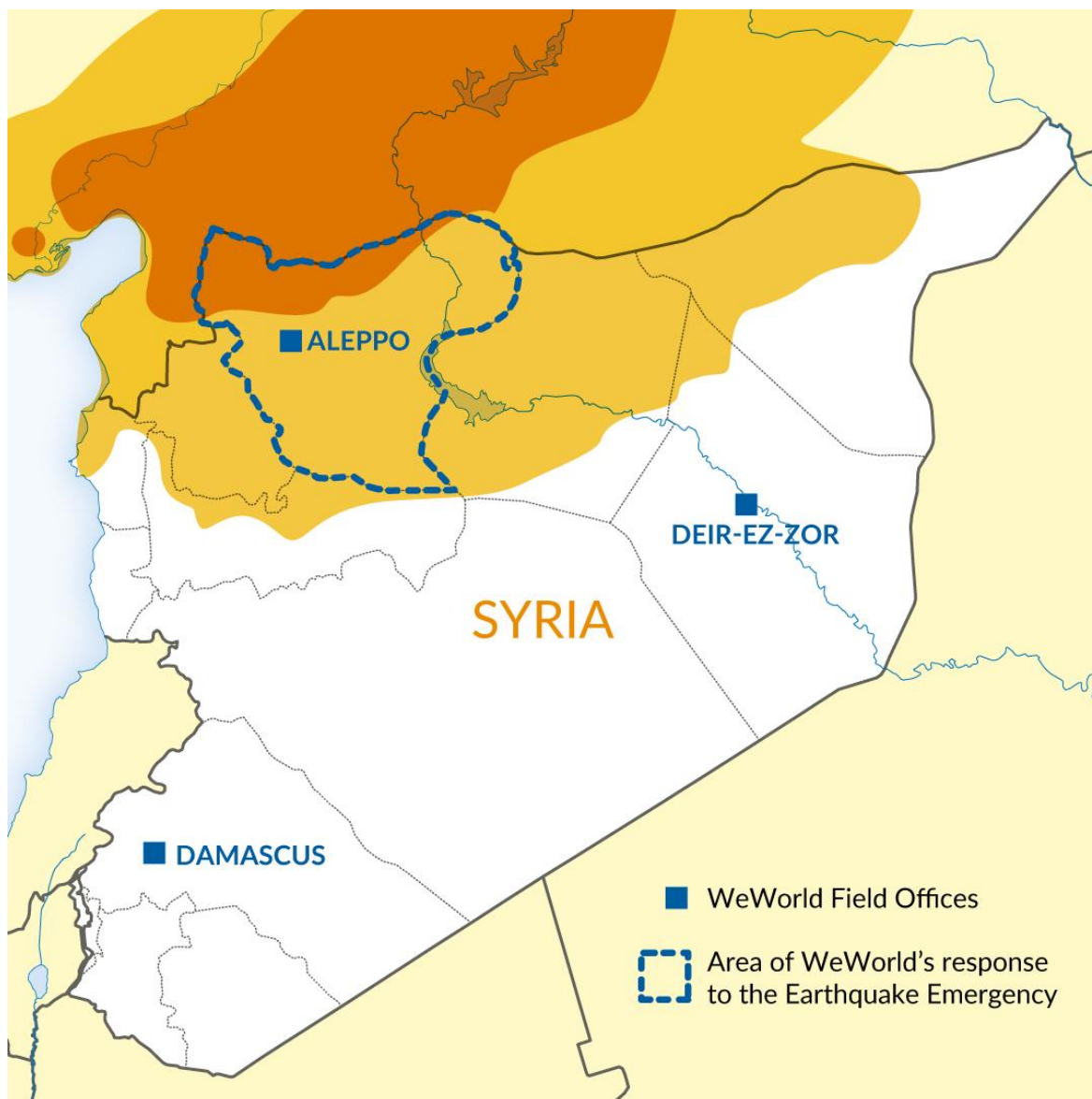
300,000 Syrian children and their families, IDPs, and other people in need

LOCATION

Aleppo Governorate

BUDGET

4.5 million USD



WeWorld is the Italian member of ChildFund Alliance, which has a total of 11 members: ChildFund Australia, ChildFund Deutschland, ChildFund International, ChildFund Japan, ChildFund Korea, ChildFund New Zealand, Barnfonden, Children Believe, Educo, Un Enfant par la Main, and WeWorld.

WeWorld operates in Syria since 2011, right before the start of the crisis. Its field offices are **situated** in Damascus, Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor, and it has recently focused its interventions on the rural areas of Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor, which are the most underserved and affected by the 12-year-long crisis.

OVERVIEW OF WEWORLD RESPONSE

WeWorld, with the support of all the other members of ChildFund Alliance, is responding to urgent needs of the earthquake-affected population in the Governorate of Aleppo. The needs are extensive, and it is necessary to maintain high financial support for the Syrian crisis and its affected population. WeWorld is the member leading the Alliance response in the field. The organization **operates directly** in the field in coordination with SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Water Resources.

The Syria Response Plan provides an integrated approach to support the population affected by the earthquake in Aleppo with an immediate and mid-term response.

The immediate ongoing response will cover 3 months and it consists of providing prompt relief support to the displaced and affected population with the basic needs essential in the temporary shelters at low temperatures, and in supplying clean water in the areas affected by the damages to the water infrastructure.

The mid-term response will cover the following 6 months and it is multisectorial, covering WASH, education, and shelter and NFIs with a protection mainstreaming.

The present Response Plan covers a total of 9 months.

Since damages of the earthquake will have long term effects, WeWorld is also already assessing needs for a longer term intervention.



Water distribution in Aleppo, February 9th - ©WeWorld

Total Beneficiaries: 300,000 (children and women, IDPs, People in Need, Returnees)

Locations: Accommodation Centers and the affected communities in Aleppo City and Aleppo Governorate, assigned to the Organization in the coordinated response to the emergency within the Clusters in which it takes part.

Sectors of Support

The various sectors of WeWorld's response to assist the affected population are listed below. It is important to note that not only should any response aim to be **multisectorial** in its approach, such responses should also be conducted in an **integrated** manner. Through a **holistic approach**, our support in addressing vulnerabilities and the risks people face daily can have a greater reach, even when the context is constantly shifting.

The earthquake has placed millions of lives at risk, and protection of the displaced families remains an absolute priority. Incorporating protection principles and promoting meaningful access, safety and dignity in aid delivery will be thus a priority in every sector of intervention ensuring to WeWorld response a **full protection mainstreaming approach**. Providing **first aid support with non-food items** for the displaced population hosted in the shelters to cope with the freezing temperatures, and **with drinking and clean water** in the areas where the water networks have been damaged, is as essential as **assessing and rehabilitating the education and water infrastructures**, in order to renew the access to such basic services as soon as possible and go beyond immediate relief. **The needs are changing and WeWorld's response is adapting to them through constant assessments.**



WeWorld assessment in a school in Aleppo, February 8th - ©WeWorld

WASH

Due to the protracted crisis, in Syria 13.55 million people are in need of WASH assistance. The earthquake has exacerbated an already challenging situation, where access to sufficient clean water was very limited for many segments of the local population. Relevant damages have been reported to the water networks, especially in the most isolated areas of the affected territories. This urgent issue becomes even more alarming for public health, in the light of the **cholera epidemic that is ongoing since 2022**. On February 9th, WeWorld has started drinking water distributions through water trucking, reaching almost 30.000 people by February 19th. Furthermore, to extend the intervention and support the affected population in the long term, the organization has been assessing the state of water networks and started rehabilitation in some areas, expecting to extend this intervention to the rest of the areas affected in Aleppo.

Planned activities in the WASH sector are:

1. Temporary water trucking to collective shelters and affected communities
2. Distribution of Hygiene items and other WASH NFIs
3. Damage assessments to critical water infrastructure
4. Emergency water network rehabilitation
5. Rehabilitation/adaptation and operations of WASH facilities in collective shelters
6. Water infrastructure repair/rehabilitation

Target: 252.500 people in need affected by the earthquake, mainly children and their families

Budget : 2.300.000 USD

Education

After 12 years of conflict, 6.9 million children and education personnel are in need for emergency education services in Syria. Out of school children are particularly affected, especially adolescents who are exposed to protection and GBV threats such as child labour (mainly for boys) and child marriage (mainly for girls). Since the start of the conflict, one of the main sectors of WeWorld's intervention in Syria has been **Education in Emergency, giving thousands of children access to safe and inclusive education**. In the light of the current emergency, the Organization is assessing the impacts on the schools in the governorates of Aleppo starting from the one where it has ongoing activities.

Planned activities in Education sector are:

1. Damage assessment and light rehabilitation of schools impacted by the earthquake based on needs
2. Provision of school materials and equipment based on needs
3. Non Formal Education (NFE) programs to support children to catch-up with learning due to the suspension of classes after the earthquake

Target: 32.500 childrens

Budget : 1.300.000 USD

Shelter and NFI

Schools, churches, mosques and other public buildings have been transformed into temporary shelters. Before the earthquake, in Syria there were already 6.8 million internally displaced people, among which more than 80% in the Aleppo governorate. To accommodate the over 50,000 families

nationwide who sought for shelter after February 6th, WeWorld is contributing by distributing in Aleppo non-food items such as mattresses, blankets, and jerry cans, increasing the beneficiaries' ability to meet their immediate basic needs and accommodating them as best as possible in the temporary shelters. WeWorld is also assessing the damages of buildings affected by the earthquake and preparing to secure and rehabilitate them.

Planned activities in Shelter sector are:

1. Distribution of NFI
2. Assessment of damages of buildings, shelters, and community infrastructure
3. Rehabilitation and repair of infrastructure
4. Basic repair of damaged shelters

Target: 15.000 IDP, mainly children and their families

Budget : 900.000 USD

Syria Response Plan as of 21 February 2023

WeWorld response will continue to adapt to the evolving situation and people's needs accordingly.