MEDIA BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2023

Northwest Syria

Emergency response activated following two powerful earthquakes.

As the humanitarian response continues following the deadly earthquakes two weeks ago, aid actors are starting to build a clearer picture of the situation on the ground. With data coming in from information actors, the response increasingly has a better understanding of which areas have been most impacted, what types of services are disrupted, and what are the most immediate, urgent needs of people in earthquake-affected areas.

Türkiye and Syria
Emergency response activated following two powerful earthquakes.

Stay Updated via **our Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Response thread**, for insights and analysis on how the crisis is evolving.

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REACH rapid needs assessment: Understanding immediate needs in affected areas.

Here is what we know about the current situation, according to the latest analysis from the northwest Syria Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA), conducted by REACH in partnership with the NWS NGO Forum on 9-11 February:

55,000 Households (approx. 302,500 individuals*)
are estimated to have been displaced, either within their community of from it.

50,000 Households (approx. 275,000 individuals*)
are estimated to be **in need of tents or emergency shelter** at a collective centre.

88,000 Households (approx. 484,000 individuals*)
are estimated to be in **need of mattresses, high thermal blankets, and clothing,** to cope with extreme winter conditions.

* Estimated number of individuals is calculated based on an average household size of 5.5 people.

Analysis of earthquake damage and access to key services.

Eighty-five percent of assessed communities (covering about 60% of earthquake-affected areas) are reported to either be directly impacted by the earthquake – damage and/or service disruption – or have received new arrivals of displaced people. Among the directly impacted communities (456 in total), severe disruption to key services has been reported:

- 28% of communities reported that electricity services were not accessible to anyone in the community; 20% reported the same for health services.
- 15% of communities reported that water services were not accessible to anyone, or were accessible to only a few (less than half of the community).
- Badama, Harim, and Judiyeh are the three sub-districts reporting the most severely disrupted access to services, according to the severity scores calculated in the RNA analysis – see yesterday's post for more details.

The recent earthquakes strike an already vulnerable Northwest Syria.

The rapid needs assessment findings are concerning – not only because they underscore the imminent need for aid to earthquake-affected communities, but also because of the high vulnerability of people residing in northwest Syria prior to the disaster.
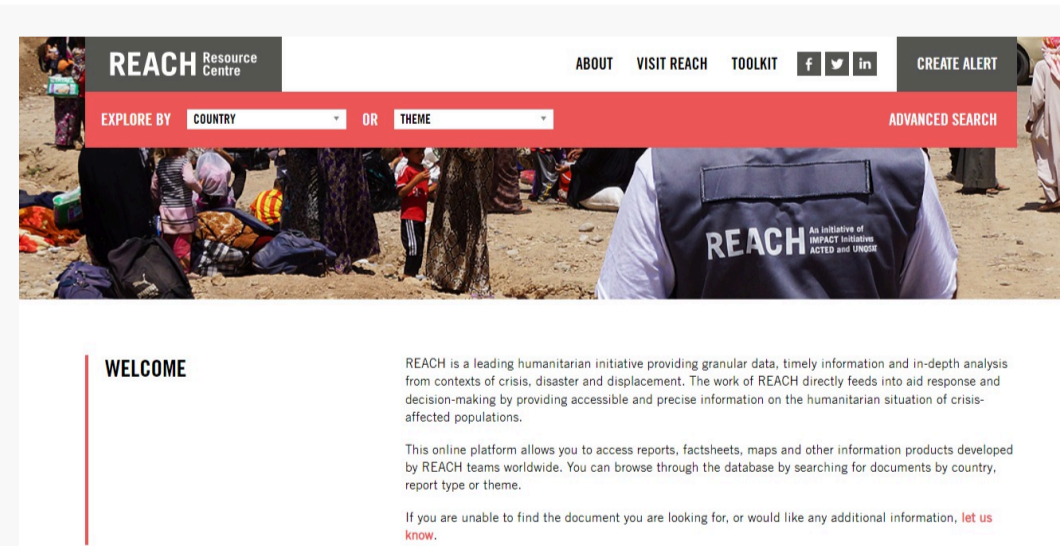
For example, a reported lack of access to health and water services in the RNA is particularly troubling given the ongoing cholera outbreak in the country and generally weakened health infrastructure due to years of armed conflict. According to OCHA reporting from 18 January, "over 2.1 million people in northwest Syria live in the most at-risk subdistricts for developing a cholera outbreak"; as of 14 January the region had recorded 555 lab-confirmed cholera cases and 20 deaths, with more than 37,700 suspected cases reported in both Idleb and Aleppo governorates.

The country has also been facing a serious economic crisis over the past year, due to currency depreciation and rising prices – in greater Idleb, this translated to higher costs for key necessities like food, fuel, and hygiene items. Additionally, according to our last humanitarian situation monitoring in December 2022, most communities in the greater Idleb area were reporting barriers to accessing sufficient food, access to healthcare remained unaffordable for many, and winterisation needs – particularly heating fuel – was already being raised as a top priority for both IDPs and host communities.

It is therefore crucial for aid actors to keep in mind the pre-earthquake baseline of conditions in northwest Syria that were already alarming, as they use incoming needs data to inform their response planning.

Further reading

- **Factsheet** - REACH's Rapid needs assessment situation overview shows the priority needs of affected populations.
- **Interactive Dashboard** - REACH developed a dashboard which enables you to click through any indicator you are interested in and visualise the results at the community or sub-district levels
- **HTML Analysis** - The file provides additional analysis of data, aggregated to the NWS and sub-district levels, to support partners' further exploration of RNA findings.
- **Datasests (ENG/ARA)** - The complete community-level data from the RNA is publicly available in two languages.

As an organisation, we believe that only a free, transparent, and open-access to our information products can yield an evidence-based understanding of the crisis we are working on from all stakeholders involved.

To organise your research efficiently, the REACH Resource Centre allows you to filter through our reports and fact-sheets depending on which country you want information on. If you are interested in a wider theme within humanitarian responses, we've got you sorted there too.

Topics range from Food Security, Mixed Migration, Humanitarian Situation Monitoring, and much more. The advanced search also allows you to to target your search even further by date, type of crisis, and through keywords.

The REACH Resource Centre has a built-in functionality which enables all users to subscribe to a mailing alert system.

How does it work?

Every user can select exactly what country they are interested in receiving updates on, further narrowing their interests by theme, or even type of information product. Subscribed users will then receive an e-mail directly to their inbox whenever an information product is published in line with their interests.

Access the REACH Resource Centre

About REACH Initiative

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All **REACH** activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. **REACH** is a joint initiative of **IMPACT**, its sister-organisation **ACTED** and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme **UNOSAT**.