

# MECC Syria Earthquake Update NO 4 – February 9<sup>TH</sup> 2023



مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط  
The Middle East Council of Churches



المجلس  
The Middle  
WWW

The Middle East Council of Churches

**Syria Earthquake update**

DIAKONIA DEPARTMENT – SERVICE IN DIGNITY

[www.mecc.org](http://www.mecc.org)

# OVERVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

Fresh snowfall in Syria on Wednesday 8th Feb, has compounded the already desperate situation faced by millions of people in the five governorates whose lives have been shattered by the earthquake disaster. Four days after the double earthquake in neighboring Turkey, the situation remains dire and even more precarious in Syria.<sup>1</sup> This new emergency is compounding suffering in a country already devastated by 12 years of crisis.

The region also continues to witness extremely cold temperatures, complicating response efforts. Over 3,500 People died or injured in Syria according to the Syrian Ministry of Health.<sup>2</sup> As of 09 Feb, There are about 1347 people died and 2295 injured.<sup>3</sup>

About 100,000 people are now believed to be homeless in Aleppo alone, and about 30,000 of that number had found shelter in schools and mosques.<sup>4</sup>



According to MECC focal point in Aleppo, there are more than 8000 families from all religious backgrounds staying in many churches community halls and Diakonal institutions.

Over 200 schools have been damaged in eight Governorates (the majority in Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Lattakia). As of 7 February, 92 schools are reportedly being used as collective shelters (85 in Aleppo and 7 in Lattakia). The Ministry of Education requested support to repair damaged schools and ensure the safe return of children to education and avoid further interruptions to their learning. The need for informal education classes and psycho-social support for children was also highlighted.<sup>5</sup>

As of 7 February, 92 schools are reportedly being used as collective shelters (85 in Aleppo and 7 in Lattakia).

<sup>1</sup> UN news, 08 Feb

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR Syria Emergency Response to Earthquake: Flash Update #3

<sup>3</sup> MOH, 09 Feb

<sup>4</sup> News.un, 08 Feb

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, Syria Emergency Response to Earthquake: Flash Update #3

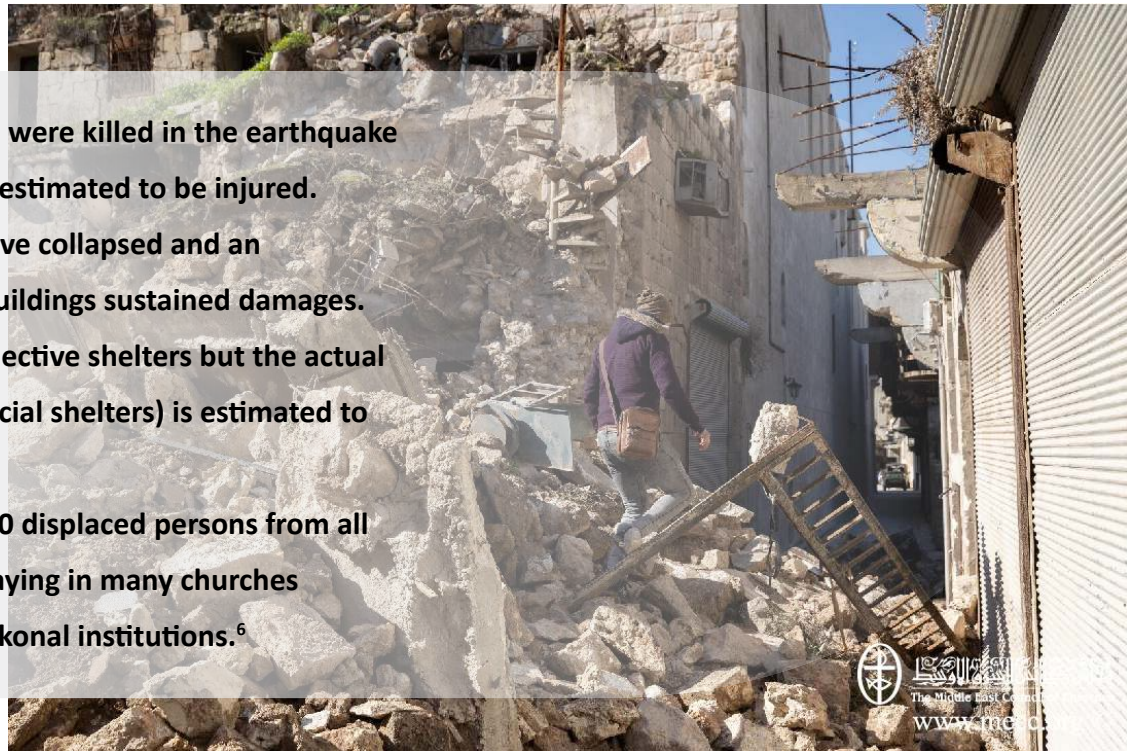
## 01 ALEPPO

An estimated 255 people were killed in the earthquake and over 600 people are estimated to be injured.

A total of 52 buildings have collapsed and an unspecified number of buildings sustained damages.

There are 126 official collective shelters but the actual number (including unofficial shelters) is estimated to be higher.

There are more than 8000 displaced persons from all religious backgrounds staying in many churches community halls and Diakonal institutions.<sup>6</sup>



## 02 HOMS AND HAMA

As of 8 February, approximately 100 people are reported to have been received in collective shelters in the area.

## 03 TARTOUS/LATAKIA GOVERNORATES

- In the coastal area (Tartous and Latakia Governorates), at least three tremors/ aftershocks were felt between 18:34 pm on 7th February and 09:10 am on 8 February.
- Reported damages include the collapse of 109 houses and 18 partially damaged buildings in Mislun in Al-Haffa resulting in displacement of 200 individuals. Other structural damages were reported in Dahr Safra in rural Tartous.
- The number of families in the “Sports City” collective shelter (Latakia Governorate) has reached 190 households.
- In rural areas of Latakia and Tartous Governorates. Buildings and homes have collapsed across a number of areas.

<sup>6</sup> MECC team, Aleppo

<sup>7</sup> UNHCR, Syria Emergency Response to Earthquake: Flash Update #3

# MECC PREPARATION TOWARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Middle East Council of Churches is finalizing its emergency action with its partners and discussing different activity modalities needed in different phases for the coming months. Acknowledging the emergency lifesaving items are very much needed for the time being, the council will join hands with other actors on the ground in order to meet the people 'needs by targeting places that are hosting many displaced survivors who are still using different faith based facilities as temporarily shelters.

Needs on the grounds cannot be met by only humanitarian organizations, but rather by the solidarity of the international communities, hence the middle East Council of Churches is discussing with its potential partners to plan for the near future' interventions where people are in need of early recovery and rehabilitation of their homes and businesses.

Education needs is in the central of the council's plan in order to keep students in schools and not to witness again a lost generation



# SNAPSHOTS ON AFFECTED PLACES IN ALEPPO FROM THE MECC LENS



Survivors from the earthquake are using churches halls as shelters



Serving food by volunteers to people



Damaged buildings inside Aleppo city



Schools are used as shelters to host survivors from the earthquake

# SNAPSHOTS ON AFFECTED PLACES IN ALEPPO FROM THE MECC LENS



Churches are opened as shelter for all people



Damaged buildings in the old city of Aleppo nearby rehabilitated churches



# SNAPSHOTS ON AFFECTED PLACES IN ALEPPO FROM THE MECC LENS

