February 2024

# AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES:

## An update on Humanitarian Coalition response in Türkiye and Syria

## REEMA'S STORY

**"I was reborn." said 14-year-old Reema after receiving a new prosthetic leg thanks to support from the Canadian government through Humanitarian Coalition member Humanity and Inclusion.**

Reema was trapped underneath the rubble of her demolished home in Jenderis after the earthquakes struck northern Syria in February 2023. After being rescued, she was rushed to the hospital where one of her legs was amputated below the knee.

After receiving medical care and intensive rehabilitation, she got a new lower leg. The first time she used it, Reema realized she was at the start of a new life where she could achieve her dreams. "It is an indescribable feeling that I was finally able to return to school," she said. "I was reborn."



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Despite all the challenges she has faced, today Reema gets around without any limitations—thanks to the new leg, and also to the psychosocial support she received from Humanity and Inclusion.

"I thank you all from the bottom of my heart," she said of the support she received. "My dream for the future is to continue my education and to be a doctor."

**Reema is just one of more than 470,000 people being assisted by members of the Humanitarian Coalition. Together, the Humanitarian Coalition raised over $23 million to support earthquake response in Türkiye and northern Syria, including a $10 million matching fund from the Government of Canada. Funds are being used to provide food, health services, medical supplies, non-food relief items, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH) for people affected by the earthquakes.**

In partnership with Canada




## ABOUT THE EARTHQUAKES

In the early morning hours of February 6, 2023, two powerful earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.5 magnitude struck southern Türkiye near the border of northwest Syria with devastating impact. More than 50,000 people were killed and 100,000 injured and millions displaced. In Syria, where people had already endured 12 years of conflict and displacement, the earthquake compounded an existing humanitarian crisis. At least 8.8 million people in that country were affected by the earthquakes, with about 6,000 killed, over 12,000 injured and over 100,000 households displaced. More than 10,000 buildings were completely or partially destroyed.

## OUR RESPONSE

All 12 members of the Humanitarian Coalition responded to this crisis:

HUMANITARIAN COALITION
Together saving more lives

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER · Canadian Foodgrains Bank · Canadian Lutheran World Relief · care · Doctors of the World · humanity & inclusion · Islamic Relief · OXFAM Canada · OXFAM Québec · PLAN INTERNATIONAL · Save the Children · World Vision




**Our members are still active on the ground. Some highlights of member activities to date include:**

## HEALTH

- Providing medicine and medical supplies to 11 primary healthcare facilities in northwest Syria, reaching 27,775 people, as well as mobilizing 30 community health workers to provide community-level malnutrition screening and health education on preventing cholera.
- Distributing 4,499 assistive and mobility devices like wheelchairs, crutches, walkers etc. to people affected by trauma or disability and suffering various types of injuries as a result of the earthquake, including fractures and amputations.
- Providing basic primary health care and nutrition services for 81,066 people through four primary health-care centres and a mobile health clinic in Idleb, northwest Syria, including rehabilitating centres damage by the earthquakes, establishing safe spaces for women to rest and breastfeed, upgrading lighting and installing solar energy systems to ensure continuous power supply.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- Distributing 600 hygiene kits and installation of prefabricated bathing and toilet facilities in collective shelters benefiting 2,685 people.
- Providing primary health-care services, medicines and medical supplies for 79,971 earthquake-affected people, including first aid, basic trauma management and treatment of chronic conditions, alongside training of healthcare workers on physical and mental health.
- Delivering safe, clean and sufficient water supply through the water trucking of 281,073 cubic litres of water to 73 sites, providing 35 litres of water per day and benefitting 57,862 people.
- Providing 1,276 500-litre water tanks to 48 different sites, and 247 1,000-litre water tanks to 41 sites, benefiting 20,930 people.
- Installing of 436 latrines at 54 sites (including 10 emergency latrines at Saed Mashed Ruhin camp as a response to displacement following a military escalation in early October 2023), benefiting 37,565 people; needed maintenance work on 86 septic tanks across 18 camps, benefiting 8,967 people.




## FOOD

- Distributing monthly food parcels for 6,072 beneficiaries. Parcels included 10 kg rice, 10 kg pasta, 4 kg lentils, 4 L vegetable oil, 1 L olive oil, 4 kg sugar, 250 g tea, 1 kg tomato paste, 1 kg halva and 1.6 kg canned chicken.

## SHELTER AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Providing kitchen kits to 100 households including items like cooking pots, frying pans, bowls, plates, cups, cutlery and kitchen knives; shelter kits including tarpaulins, rope and fixing nails, alongside shelter repair assistance to 1,170 people in 337 households in Adiyman province in Türkiye.
- Rehabilitating housing units through a cash-for-shelter approach for 7,520 people, including building upgrades, repairs, electrical works, and other things.

## CASH

- Providing multi-purpose cash assistance to 1,315 households (6,611 individuals) to meet their basic needs for food, hygiene items, shelter and health, while prioritizing the most vulnerable people affected by the earthquake (like children and female-headed households, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups).




# BASEL'S STORY

## Facing his fears through drawing

Basel likes to draw. He recently drew a picture of his house — the one that was badly damaged by the February 6 earthquake that rocked parts of Türkiye and northern Syria, where he lives. The six-year-old boy has already seen his share of challenges. His family was displaced by war when he was a baby, and then the two-storey house where the family of six — his parents and three siblings — was damaged by the earthquake.

As the building began to crack around them, Basel and his family fled. Now they are living in a temporary shelter where, his mother said, the children get scared by any loud noise that reminds them of the earthquake.

To help him and his siblings cope with the trauma of that event, our member Save the Children's partner Hurras is operating psychosocial support and recreational activities that provide a way for children to name and deal with their fears; that's where Basel drew the picture of his house. Through things like drawing, children like Basel can face their fears and perhaps find ways to cope. Or, at least, leave those fears behind for a few hours.