



# Earthquake Emergency Response in Syria 2023-2024

**ChildFund**  
Alliance

**we**  
**World**  
Member of ChildFund Alliance



RESERVOIR DAMAGED BY THE CONFLICT IN RURAL ALEPPO, SEPTEMBER 2023  
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## The Syrian context

### WAR

**13**

YEARS OF WAR

**16,700,000**

PEOPLE IN NEED OF  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Specifically:

**70%**

OF THE TOTAL  
POPULATION

**3,500,000**

ONLY IN THE GOVERNORATE  
OF ALEPPO

**5,200,000**

PEOPLE REGISTERED AS  
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS  
IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

**7,200,000**

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE,  
MANY OF WHOM LIVING  
IN OVERCROWDED CAMPS

### EARTHQUAKES

**5,900**

PEOPLE DEATHS

**12,800**

PEOPLE INJURED

**2,260**

BUILDINGS DESTROYED

**32,000**

BUILDINGS DAMAGED

**97,400**

HOUSEHOLDS DISPLACED



WATER TRUCKING IN ALEPPO CITY, 14.02.2023  
©AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

**Thirteen years after the beginning of the conflict, Syria is regarded as one of the world's most serious and complex humanitarian emergencies.**

The consequences for the population are wide-ranging and profound, as it is estimated that 16.7 million Syrians are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance in 2024, up from 15.3 million in 2023. In addition to the consequences of the war, along with the economic and energy crisis affecting the country, last year's earthquakes devastated different areas of the territory, amplifying the already vulnerable condition in which the population had been living for the past 13 years.

Among the visible consequences of the conflict and the earthquake combined, is the destruction of crucial infrastructure needed to provide basic services, such as access to safe and sufficient water. Years of conflict had already heavily com-

promised access to water and sanitation, nonetheless, in the areas affected by the earthquake. In the Governorate of Aleppo for example, the seismic shocks caused the further collapse or deterioration of infrastructures such as water reservoirs, water towers, water stations, networks, and of sanitation facilities and systems.

**In the aftermaths of the earthquake, the related needs have been therefore exacerbated by the weaknesses of the water systems and the lack of access to safe and clean water by the Syrian population, exposing the population to the risk of infectious diseases, including cholera, among others, due to reduced access to WASH services following the earthquake.**



REHABILITATION OF THE AL TNANEER WATER NETWORK IN ALEPPO CITY, 28.02.2023  
©AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

**918,088**

PEOPLE IN NEED HAVE BEEN SERVED, THE LARGE MAJORITY BEING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

**5,427,663**

USD RAISED

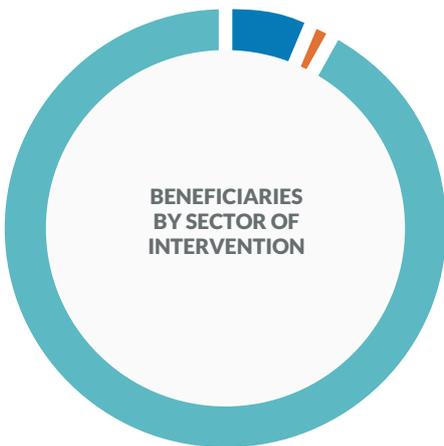
**14**

DONORS

## The immediate and mid-term Response

AREA OF INTERVENTION: ALEPPO CITY RURAL ALEPPO

PERIOD OF INTERVENTION: FEBRUARY-OCTOBER 2023



873.844

WASH



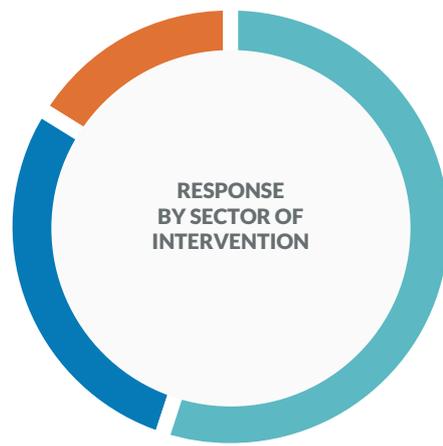
67.819

EDUCATION



6.925

SHELTER AND NFI



55%

WASH



29%

EDUCATION



16%

SHELTER AND NFI



WEWORLD'S STAFF DELIVERING WATER THROUGH TRUCKS IN ALEPPO CITY'S AFFECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS, 14.02.2023 ©AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

# WASH



## ACTIVITIES

DISTRIBUTION OF **2,033 M<sup>3</sup>** OF DRINKING AND CLEAN WATER

THE RESTORATION OF ACCESS TO WATER FOLLOWING ASSESSMENTS AND REHABILITATIONS OF **206** MALFUNCTIONING POINTS

REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF **1** PUMPING STATION

HE CIVIL REHABILITATION WORKS OF **1** PUMPING STATION CONNECTED TO **40** COMMUNITIES THAT WAS KICKED OFF IN OCTOBER

DISTRIBUTION OF **1,835** HYGIENE KITS AND **1,835** MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

DISTRIBUTION OF CLEANING KITS IN **16** COLLECTIVE SHELTERS

ASSESSMENT OF HOUSEHOLDS FOR THE RECEPTION OF HYGIENE KITS, MHM KITS, AND DIAPERS KITS

## BENEFICIARIES

**40,950** PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE DAMAGES TO THE WATER NETWORK IN **23** NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE CITY OF ALEPPO

**229,600** PEOPLE IN ALEPPO CITY

**80,000** INDIVIDUALS

**40,000** INDIVIDUALS

**16,028** INDIVIDUALS IN COLLECTIVE SHELTERS AND HOSTING COMMUNITIES

**2,266** INDIVIDUALS IN COLLECTIVE SHELTERS

**5,000** AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS



EARTHQUAKE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS SESSION IN SCHOOL,  
ALEPPO CITY, 16.10.2023  
©AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

## EDUCATION



### ACTIVITIES

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION SESSIONS TO CATCH UP AFTER THE INTERRUPTIONS DUE TO THE EARTHQUAKE, AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT SESSIONS

REPARATION AND REHABILITATION OF 22 SCHOOLS AND PROVISION OF FURNITURE TO REPLACE ITEMS DAMAGED BY THE EARTHQUAKE

ACTIVATION OF 14 TEMPORARY LEARNING CENTERS FOCUSING ON CATCH UP CLASSES, HOMEWORK CAFES, AND SUMMER CLUBS WERE ACTIVATED AND RUN

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT, AND AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS

TRAININGS ON EARTHQUAKE BEHAVIOR AND LIFE-SAVING MESSAGES, SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING, AND BASIC PEDAGOGICAL SKILLS

### BENEFICIARIES

**2,000** STUDENTS

**20,231** GIRLS AND BOYS

**2,137** CHILDREN WHOSE LEARNING WAS INTERRUPTED DUE TO THE EARTHQUAKE

**12,760** CHILDREN,  
**400** PARENTS, AND  
**100** TEACHERS

**191** TEACHERS

**All the schools and children targeted were supported with teaching and learning material, also including stationery and recreational kits.**



MATTRESSES AND BLANKETS DISTRIBUTION IN ACCOMODATION CENTERS  
IN ALEPPO CITY, 13.02.2023  
©AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

## NFI and SHELTER



### ACTIVITIES

DISTRIBUTION OF:

**2,450** MATTRESSES AND

**2,450** BLANKETS

**135** HYGIENE MATERIALS (JERRY CANS)

**3,600** PACKS OF BABY DIAPERS

**600** PACKS OF ELDERLY DIAPERS

**500** FAMILY HYGIENE KITS AND

**500** DIGNITY KITS

### BENEFICIARIES

**6,925** PEOPLE IN  
ACCOMMODATION SHELTERS

## ERL

**5** vocational schools and their surrounding communities were assessed, and projects were developed and confirmed for funding to strengthen vocational training opportunities and entrance to the job market for vulnerable affected youth and people with disabilities.



BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN, HANANO, ALEPPO, 17.04.2023  
©AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

**WeWorld ensured that the overall midterm emergency response was integrated and harmonized among the different funding streams:**

- » Schools were rehabilitated in areas where WeWorld repaired water networks and provided water trucking immediately after the shock.
- » Stationery, furniture, awareness sessions, recreational events, and trainings were provided to the same children and teachers who were targeted by the rehabilitation works.
- » Hygiene and Dignity kits were provided to the school's surrounding communities. WeWorld also directed its regular programming under Education in Emergency to support children in communities benefiting from the same intervention under the Earthquake response.

**This chain of interventions conducted, or planned, will eventually exponentially elevate the impact of each single intervention and ensure the resumption of basic services interrupted by the earthquake is achieved.**



ABDUL RAZZAQ HAJ HASSAN, BENEFICIARY OF THE WATER INTERVENTIONS OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT, RURAL ALEPPO, JANUARY 2024  
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## The long-term Response

Among the long-term response, there is the project “**WASH life-saving response in earthquake-affected areas of Aleppo**” which objective has been to restore access to sufficient safe drinking water and promote good hygiene practices preventing diseases outbreaks within earthquake-affected areas of Aleppo City and rural Aleppo.

Fatima Al-Khalaf, a 60 years old widow and mother lives in the rural area of Aleppo targeted by the project. She explained the situation related to the access to water before the intervention: “After the earthquake in February, the situation is bad.

**Water** here comes once a week, and we need diesel to generate energy to deliver water to the tanks. The water from the wells is not drinkable, but sometimes we are forced to drink it and wash our clothes with it.”

**The project has foreseen the following activities:**



MASKANAH PIPELINE REHABILITATION UNDER THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT,  
RURAL ALEPPO, JANUARY 2024  
©AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

## 1\_Rehabilitation and repair of water infrastructures affected by the earthquake in Aleppo

The action has targeted essential water infrastructure, already damaged, due to the 12-year conflict, and further impacted by the earthquake, in order to restore the provision of safe water to households and communities in vulnerable areas of Aleppo.

The infrastructures repaired:

### **Abu Jrin Al-Safira pipeline, Aleppo City – length of 7 km**

10% of the residents received insufficient water through the network, with a very low pressure, while the remaining 90% did not have access to water at all, relying majorly on unmonitored and expensive water trucking.

### **Eastern Maskana main pipeline, Maskana – length of 1.5 km**

The pipeline had incurred heavy damages across two main segments of its length preventing the water from reaching to the 40,000 residents connected to it.

### **Bab El Hadid Pipeline, Aleppo City – length of 1 km**

The pipeline water directly to 6 neighborhoods: Bab Al-Hadid, Jeb Alkebba, Jdaida, Aqyoul, Bab Al-Nasr, Haret Alreish and it is also used as a main pipeline that delivers water to other parts of the city reaching a total of around 400,000 individuals. It had incurred heavy damages across its length causing huge water losses.



WATER BOARD STAFF TRAINING, DECEMBER 2023,  
ALEPPO GOVERNATORATE ©AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD  
HYGIENE KIT DISTRIBUTIONS, MARCH 2024,  
RURAL ALEPPO ©WEWORLD

## **2\_Capacity building to 11 Water Board technical staff on operations and maintenance of water infrastructure**

## **3\_Community-based hygiene promotion campaigns in earthquake-affected areas of Aleppo infrastructure**

Due to the earthquake, in Aleppo, a high percentage of the population are relying on unsafe and costly alternatives to meet or complement their water needs. Moreover, water shortages, lack of sanitation items and poor hygiene practices among the population pose high risks of outbreaks of communicable diseases, thus having a serious impact on their public health. In 2022, Aleppo was amongst the most affected governorates in Syria by the cholera outbreak. The campaigns are being con-

ducted at community level with awareness-raising sessions, and focus group discussion events.

## **4\_Provision of customized hygiene kits to affected households in Aleppo**

With special focus on women, children and elderly: reaching 4.000 households, for a total of around 20.000 individuals.



HAMOUD AL-YOUSSEF, BENEFICIARY OF THE WATER INTERVENTIONS OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT, RURAL ALEPPO, JANUARY 2024  
©AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

FATIMA AL-YOUSSEF, BENEFICIARY OF THE WATER INTERVENTIONS OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT, RURAL ALEPPO, JANUARY 2024  
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## Success story

WeWorld interviewed **Abeer Al Sheikh**, civil engineer and Director of Planning, International Cooperation, and Plan Preparation for the Water Institution in the Aleppo Governorate. She serves as the coordinator between international organizations and the communities' needs.

The Water Institution is a very large organization in need of significant support, mainly because the primary water source for the Aleppo Governorate is 100 km away, needing the construction of many stations along the pipeline. These stations require generators, equipment, among other things and interventions. Since the Water Institution was established in 1958, the infrastructure requires maintenance due to its old materials, leading to the need for repairs and proper maintenance. This prompted the institution to reach out to organizations because water was no longer reaching the communities.

*“The major challenge we face is that Aleppo's water network system is extensive, and repairs are conducted using modern devices and new water networks that are not suitable for installation on an old system. This situation left us puzzled, so we contacted WeWorld.*

*The Organization recommended a specialist in water network systems to work on a scientific material through which we could enhance the expertise of water institution engineers to address the complexities encountered in our periodic maintenance work.*

*Moreover, WeWorld opened an educational course to educate the institution's engineers to increase their practical experience so that they could work with confidence and more efficiently. The course included theoretical and practical sections, and the many topics enabled engineers to develop and adapt the water institution's system.*

*At the end of the educational course, the trainees were very pleased because they were able to increase their expertise and transfer it to the institution. This has motivated us to undertake any preventive role to avoid problems that may arise in the future.*



ABDUL RAZZAQ HAJ HASSAN, BENEFICIARY OF THE WATER INTERVENTIONS OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT, RURAL ALEPPO, JANUARY 2024 @AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

FATIMA AL-KHALAF, BENEFICIARY OF THE WATER INTERVENTIONS OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT, RURAL ALEPPO, JANUARY 2024 @AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

*I would like to thank WeWorld, ChildFund Korea and the Korean Chest Community for helping us attend and organize this training course because through it, we are now also able to disseminate information to other governorates' institutions: the problems we faced exist for all water institutions throughout the country.*

*We hope to conduct these courses regularly on other water-related topics to increase our expertise and be updated, because the crisis and the war have left us cut off from education and experience in our field of work."*

Given the tough situation that the Syrians are experiencing, the outputs of the project are driven by a long-term vision. It respects the principle of sustainability of the interventions in ensuring a long-term improved access to safe drinking and domestic water in the earthquake-affected areas, and the promotion of safe hygiene practices, while maintaining an holistic, multi-sectoral, area based, and community engaging approach. Thus, it paves the way to better living conditions for the population afflicted by the consequences of both an endless war and a terrible earthquake. WeWorld, with the support of ChildFund Korea (CFK) together with its institutional donor the Community Chest of Korea (CCK) has responded to the needs of the earthquake-affected population and will continue to do so until basic services are restored and essential infrastructure of water systems are rehabilitated or repaired. Moreover, WeWorld have, and will continue to, ensure the merger and integration of the completed and ongoing Earthquake response with the regular programming and strategy of the Syria Mission.



ABDUL GHANI SAEED, BENEFICIARY OF THE WATER INTERVENTIONS OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT, ABU GREEN VILLAGE, RURAL ALEPPO, JANUARY 2024 @AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD  
 ALI AL-FULAIFEL, BENEFICIARY OF THE WATER INTERVENTIONS OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT, ABU GREEN VILLAGE, RURAL ALEPPO, JANUARY 2024 @AHMAD ABDULMANNAN/WEWORLD

Through a multi-sectoral, area based, and community engaging approach, the Organization is able to provide immediate life-saving assistance and develop strategies for a long-term early recovery programming enhancing the resilience of the targeted communities to future shocks.

## The numbers of the impact

**440,000** DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

**2,200,000** INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Specifically:

**8,000** PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM THE REHABILITATION OF THE ABU JRIN AL-SAFIRA PIPELINE

**40,000** PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM THE REHABILITATION OF THE EASTERN MASKANA PIPELINE

**400,000** PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM THE REHABILITATION OF THE BAB EL HADID PIPELINE WITH AN OVERALL REDUCTION OF THE RISK OF STRUCTURAL INSTABILITY OF TENS OF BUILDINGS ACROSS THE NEIGHBORHOODS

**20,000** PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM THE PROVISION OF HYGIENE KITS AND AWARENESS RAISING SESSIONS ON HYGIENE PROMOTION

## **LONG-TERM WAY FORWARD / nexus earthquake needs-previous needs.**

In Syria, the majority of the population remains reliant on life-saving humanitarian assistance that does not adequately meet the most basic needs and poses challenges in terms of sustainability and cost effectiveness of the interventions. Investing in early recovery and resilience-building programming could enable WeWorld to adopt a longer-term approach and promote more durable support for the affected population, thus reducing aid dependency and empowering local communities.

WeWorld aims to enhance an area-based integrated and multi-sectoral approach within its programming in line with the Nexus, establishing and promoting linkages among all activities and stronger complementarity and synergies. Engagement and participation of local communities shall be kept as a critical component in any intervention, to ensure that Syrian people become agents of their own recovery and can count on more resilient local support systems. Inclusion of people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, such as women, will be mainstreamed across WeWorld's longer-term actions across all sectors.

## **The WASH Programme**

needs to address the raising needs of the vulnerable population who is experiencing decreased access to safe drinking water and that is exposed to widespread health risks and water-borne diseases. WeWorld intends to mobilize resources to address gaps in the rehabilitation, operation, and maintenance of essential infrastructure of water systems, from the source to the end user, also reinforcing water quality testing and monitoring. Innovation technology could also be introduced to support water

quality assurance, operation and maintenance of water supply systems Strengthening capacities of local actors and water authorities, along with promotion of hygiene and behavioral change within local communities, remain the priority objectives of WeWorld's WASH strategy in the country.

## **The Education Programme**

in Syria will continue focusing on three main pillars: Access, Quality and Resilience, which envisage both (a) Education in Emergency and (b) Education for Employability. Resources are needed to ensure that children have access to safe and protective learning spaces, well equipped with education materials.

Capacitating teachers and promoting quality education services is another crucial component that WeWorld aims to address.

## **The Early Recovery and Livelihood (ERL) Programme**

will remain linked to Education and will keep aiming to provide to vulnerable youth the opportunity to gain agency in their own lives, to acquire basic technical competences, and to have access to employment and business opportunities.

