



SUPPORT THE EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN NORTHWEST



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CONTEXT UPDATES

Northwest Syria Security Update:

Between February and April 2023, northwest Syria witnessed 123 military attacks that resulted in nine deaths and 40 injuries, including 11 women and 15 children. The attacks have been focused on the Idlib governorate, particularly locations near the front line in direct contact with Syrian regime forces and their allies. According to reports by the White Helmets, the majority of the targeted areas were crops, with 73 instances of crop damage. 33 residential houses were also targeted, while 15 other locations such as markets, roads, and public facilities were attacked. On other hand, Syria recorded seven NGO incidents in February, in line with the average monthly volume. HTS members apprehended a suspected criminal in Idleb by firing small arms near an ongoing NGO distribution at an IDP camp, killing one civilian in the process. As a result, the NGO in question halted the distribution event. While the specifics of the incident are unknown.

Earthquake Disaster



A powerful earthquake struck southeast Turkey and the northwest region of Syria on February 6, 2023, leaving millions of people in urgent need of necessities such as shelter, food, clean water, and sanitation.

The devastating earthquake, which had a magnitude of 7.8, occurred near the Turkey-Syria border in the early hours of Monday, February 6, 2023, followed by another almost as strong. These earthquakes caused one of the largest disasters to hit the region in recent times, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and injuries, the collapse of thousands of buildings, and leaving countless people exposed to unforgiving winter conditions. Additionally, schools and hospitals were destroyed. The earthquakes occurred while the humanitarian crisis in northwest Syria was already at its highest level since the conflict began, with 4.1 million people relying on humanitarian assistance to survive.



Health

Due to the devastation caused by the earthquakes, people in the affected region are facing challenges in accessing safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, which has increased their risk of infecting water-borne diseases, such as cholera. According to the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) and health cluster, there were over 1,740 admitted cases during February, April, and March 2023. To address this, an oral cholera vaccination campaign was launched in mid-March, which successfully reached 1.7 million people in northern Syria, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The White Helmets have also taken steps to respond to the outbreak, including rehabilitating the sanitation and water network and launching awareness campaigns to promote healthy behaviors. Moreover, out of 48 ambulances in whole NWS, the WH is operating 19 ambulances (40% of the Cholera referral system) to transfer infected patients to the specialized health facilities.

Earthquake Response

A total of over 3,000 White Helmets members actively participated in various operations, comprising 2,500 male and 300 female volunteers, along with 200 administrative staff. The operations involved the complete mobilization of heavy machinery and necessary equipment. The dedicated search and rescue teams of White Helmets successfully rescued 2,950 people from under the rubble, while also recovering 2,171 deceased bodies from 182 different locations spread across 60 communities. The teams also removed a staggering 418K cubic meters of rubble from 126 different communities. Additionally, the teams conducted 254 operations related to demolishing collapsible buildings, which produced over 24K cubic meters of rubble in 99 different communities. Furthermore, the teams opened up 162 kilometers of roads that were previously closed due to the rubble. Moreover, the strategic awareness team introduced a new topic, "Preparedness, Safety, and Prevention of Earthquake," which aims to provide guidance on how to deal with an earthquake before, during, and after it occurs.



The White Helmets have been working according to a three-phase plan of action to respond to the earthquake. The first phase involved emergency response efforts, which included searching for survivors and recovering the bodies of victims. The second and third phases of the response are being implemented through the institution's community resilience program. In the second phase, the focus is on opening roads and securing walls that pose a threat to civilians' lives, facilitating emergency response operations, and reopening lifelines that were closed by rubble. The third phase involves the removal of rubble, which is a critical step towards reviving affected communities and restoring infrastructure, allowing the population to begin rebuilding their lives.



Regrettably, the White Helmets have suffered a significant loss due to the recent earthquake, with four of their volunteers and their families losing their lives under the rubble. Moreover, over 350 volunteers have been impacted by the disaster, having lost their loved ones and property. The White Helmets are actively working to provide compensation to those affected by this tragedy.

FACT SHEET

Project name	Support the earthquake response in NWS		
Donor Help Syria,	The Promise International NGO		
Implementer	The White Helmets		
Start Date	06.02.2023	Total Budget	242,000 \$

THE GRANT PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENT

The timing of the grant was crucial for the White Helmets, as it coincided with a devastating earthquake in northwestern Syria. At that time, and during the first days of the disaster, the White Helmets were facing several challenges like securing the needed tools, heavy vehicles, spare parts, fuel etc. This grant provided essential support to the White Helmets, enabling them to continue their response to the earthquake by procuring the ambulances equipment and search and rescue vehicles. This support was part of a comprehensive emergency plan implemented in two phases.

During phase 1, in the two weeks following the earthquake, all available White Helmets and community resources were dedicated to saving as many lives as possible. The initial 72 hours were particularly critical, as the team tirelessly dug through the rubble to rescue individuals. Remarkably, the White Helmets managed to save 2,950 people trapped under the debris. Alongside search and rescue efforts, the White Helmets' fleet of ambulances provided emergency medical services, transporting the injured to nearby healthcare facilities. This grant played a vital role in this phase by securing the needed medical equipment for the White Helmets' ambulances, ensuring their operations could continue at full capacity.



The photo shows medical equipment (monitor and suction) which were procured through this grant.

Phase 2, the search teams conducted operations to locate missing and disappeared individuals who were inaccessible during Phase 1. These operations involved searching damaged buildings and sites. The total number of bodies recovered by the search and rescue teams exceeded 5,000. Additionally, the team provided ongoing emergency medical services and initiated the rehabilitation of essential roads to ensure access for emergency healthcare and humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, they assisted displaced individuals affected by the earthquake by setting up tents and addressing storm-related issues. In the meantime, there was a critical challenge related to the delay in the logistical supply of equipment and energy sources to charge the devices. This grant will enhance the capacity of the WH's search and rescue team regarding implementing timely and effective response to all types of disasters through procuring three equipped vehicles for logistic support of the search and rescue operations.

THE GRANT'S COMPONENTS

This grant included two main components:

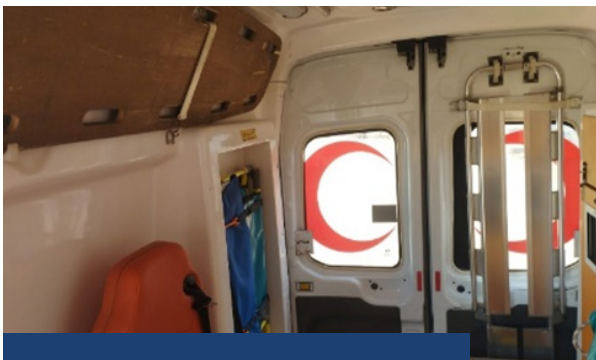
The first component: Restore the capacity of the WH's ambulances to achieve better response to affected people by the earthquake.

The grant provided crucial support to the White Helmet organization by funding the procurement of the medical equipment of the ambulances to be able to deliver emergency medical services EMS. The equipment were procured and distributed on 50 ambulances which cover whole NWS 24/7. The total cost of the medical equipment was \$ 185,362.

The following table shows the list of medical equipment of the ambulances (Annex 2):

#	Item / Service name	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price \$	Total \$
1	Monitor	Pcs	42	421.00	17,682.00
2	Suction Apparatus	Pcs	50	181.00	9,050.00
3	Emergency ventilator/transport/	Pcs	12	1,733.00	20,796.00
4	Folding stretchers	Pcs	50	100.00	5,000.00
5	Impervious backboard	Pcs	40	125.00	5,000.00
6	First aid bandage kit	Pcs	50	124.00	6,200.00
7	DESK & WALL ANEROID SPHYGMOMANOMETER	Pcs	100	27.00	2,700.00
8	Mercury sphygmomanometer for adult	Pcs	60	28.00	1,680.00
9	Mercury sphygmomanometer for pediatric	Pcs	50	28.00	1,400.00
10	Blood glucose meter	Pcs	50	5.75	287.50
11	Laryngoscope	Pcs	60	50.00	3,000.00
12	Perfusor	Pcs	50	250.00	12,500.00
13	Head Immobilization device	Pcs	132	62.00	8,184.00
14	Emergency air Splint ki	Pcs	132	39.00	5,148.00
15	Scoop stretcher	Pcs	30	270.00	8,100.00
16	Vacuum stretcher	Pcs	120	175.00	21,000.00
Total					127,727.50

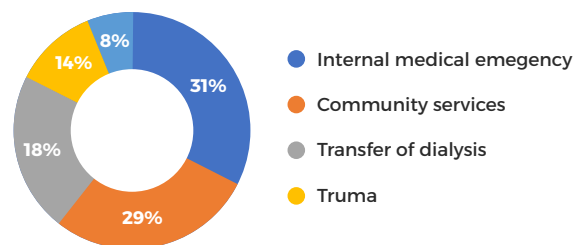
The equipment were shipped to the WH's warehouse inside Syria on March 17th and they were distributed on the 50th ambulances.



Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Operation:

As a result of the devastating earthquake, the WH's ambulances transferred 2950 injuries and 2171 body transfer. During February, March, and April, the White Helmets paramedics offered consultations to a total of 14,673 individuals. The EMS teams successfully reached a larger proportion of female beneficiaries and internally displaced persons (IDPs), with females comprising nearly 54% of all EMS beneficiaries.

EMS operations Disaggregation based on type of emergency







[Lift] WH transport a woman that seriously injured in an explosion f a fire projectile from remant of war in Balyoun, Idleb. [Center] WH transport injury resulted by traffic accidents in Idleb. [Right] A person was killed by a missile strike from an unidentified drone on the outskirts of the town of Killi, north of Idlib, Syria.

The second Component: Elevating the responsiveness of the WH in effectively managing the disaster caused by the earthquake.

In response to the earthquake, the WH are in need of equipment, vehicle spare parts, fuel, safety tools, and other necessities.

WH, through this grant, has taken significant steps to strengthen its response capacity in addressing the escalating requirements resulting from the earthquake. One of the key measures taken involves the procurement of three logistic equipped vehicles, aimed at bolstering the effectiveness and efficiency of the response efforts.

The presence of vehicles equipped with all the equipment used in search and rescue operations is a necessary need, and this need appeared clearly after the devastating earthquake that hit the area and the difficulties that the teams faced with the delay in the logistical supply of equipment and energy sources to charge the devices. These equipped vehicles will move easily and speedy to the sites which face emergencies and need search and rescue operations. Where through having these equipped vehicles, there is no need to procure the needed equipment in each site to response to emergencies.

In alignment with our objectives, WH has undertaken a comprehensive procurement process that adheres to our established policies. Currently, the procurement process has reached the contraction phase with the supplier. And within next July, it is expected to receive the three equipped vehicles inside Syria.

Procuring those three logistic vehicles will help the WH:

- The rapid response of the necessary equipment to work sites, thus saving lives as quickly as possible.
- Keeping the equipment in good condition and periodically checking its readiness at the vehicle site.
- The possibility of performing light maintenance within the vehicle site for the equipment that was damaged at the work site and returning it to the work site after making sure that it is ready.
- Charging the spare batteries required for some equipment within the vehicle.
- The possibility of choosing the appropriate site to cover several work sites and the ease of changing the site as needed.
- The vehicle is a mobile equipment warehouse in addition to its effective role as a main operations room that supervises the distribution of teams.
- Ease of communication if the location of the mechanism is close to the work sites due to the state of the communication system that relies on wireless communication devices that operate within a limited geographical range.

The search and rescue team will have three logistic vehicles, two of them are light trucks and one heavy search and rescue vehicle.

The following table shows more details about the three vehicles:

Material	Technical specification	Quantity
Truck van	<p>The Box designed to has Both Side realistic roll up doors Door tuck with lift gate Length [in mm] about 6600 Width [in mm] about 2100 Height [in mm] about 3000 Foldable fender steps 148 hp and 490 Nm of torque engine or similar</p>	2
heavy duty cabinet with draws heavy duty	<p>heavy-duty tool cabinets are made to withstand everything a tough industrial load. The tool cabinet is 500mm width, 900 mm long and 1800 mm height with four drawers from up to down: one at 300 mm high, second at about 400mm high, third at about 500mm and fourth at about 600mm high. An interconnected lock means all drawers can be locked or unlocked at the same time, and a safety clip on each drawer ensures locked drawers will not open when other drawers are in use. The cabinet's smooth, rounded edges guard against cuts and scratches. Drawer design come without any prominent handles Powder coated galvanized steel body is heavy duty and chip proof. Drawers made of 1.2 mm cold rolled steel, which is phosphate-treated and power-coated for better resistance. Smooth, rounded edges ensure user safety. Safety clips prevent closed drawers from sliding out. Heavy-duty telescopic slides with double extensions withstand up to 350 kg per pair. Top drawer includes adjustable square organizer boxes. protect cabinet base. Material: Steel Color: Black Body with Dark Gray Drawers</p>	32



Photos show the type of small vehicle

Initially, the idea was to secure three logistical support mechanisms to ensure the provision of all necessary equipment for multiple intervention teams immediately, especially in the response to major disasters such as earthquakes, floods, bombings, and extensive destruction.

The proposed vehicles included two medium logistical support vehicles (two small trucks equipped with all types of necessary gear and consumables) and a professional heavy logistical support machine (a heavy-duty logistical support machine equipped with all types of professional heavy equipment, 4-wheel drive, crane, maintenance units, and cleaning units).

A total amount of \$80,000 was secured from the Korean grant to cover this project. This amount can only cover the two small trucks. They were purchased without being equipped with the necessary storage equipment and tools required for this mechanism. Two small trucks, Hyundai HD78 brand, were purchased at a cost of \$75,532 for both trucks and were received in Syria in July 2023 under the Korean grant.

In another project we secured the storage equipment and tools (generators, breathing compressors and others), we just need to secure the main service bodies (boxes) for this trucks.

Hopefully this year we are going to secure the boxes, then the trucks will be ready to serve in the field.



Search and Rescue Operations:

The first moments of the earthquake, the White Helmets teams declared a state of extreme emergency, the teams worked day and night for two weeks to be able to reach as many people as possible trapped under the rubble.

The response statistics made by White Helmets teams to the victims of the devastating earthquake on February 6th in northwestern Syria amounted to 2,171 deaths, and they rescued about 2,950 injured people.



The teams documented the collapse of more than 550 buildings, while more than 1,570 buildings were partially damaged, and thousands of buildings and houses were cracked throughout the areas hit by the earthquake.

In parallel to the response to the earthquake disaster, the search and rescue team continued implementing the other services. where during February, March, and April, the search and rescue team conducted 1,172 operations in response to several emergencies like firefighting, responding to military escalation, traffic accident, etc.

The total number of deaths is 2,192, 2171 of them were died because of the earthquake.



Annex

Annex 1: The financial report.

Annex 2: Photos of the medical equipment.



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HELPSYRIA



Syria Civil Defense
The White Helmets