



Until we are all equal



Right: Dina, 12, plays with toys at a rehabilitated learning centre for children with special needs. Below: Hygiene kits are delivered to a shelter.

# Syria Appeal

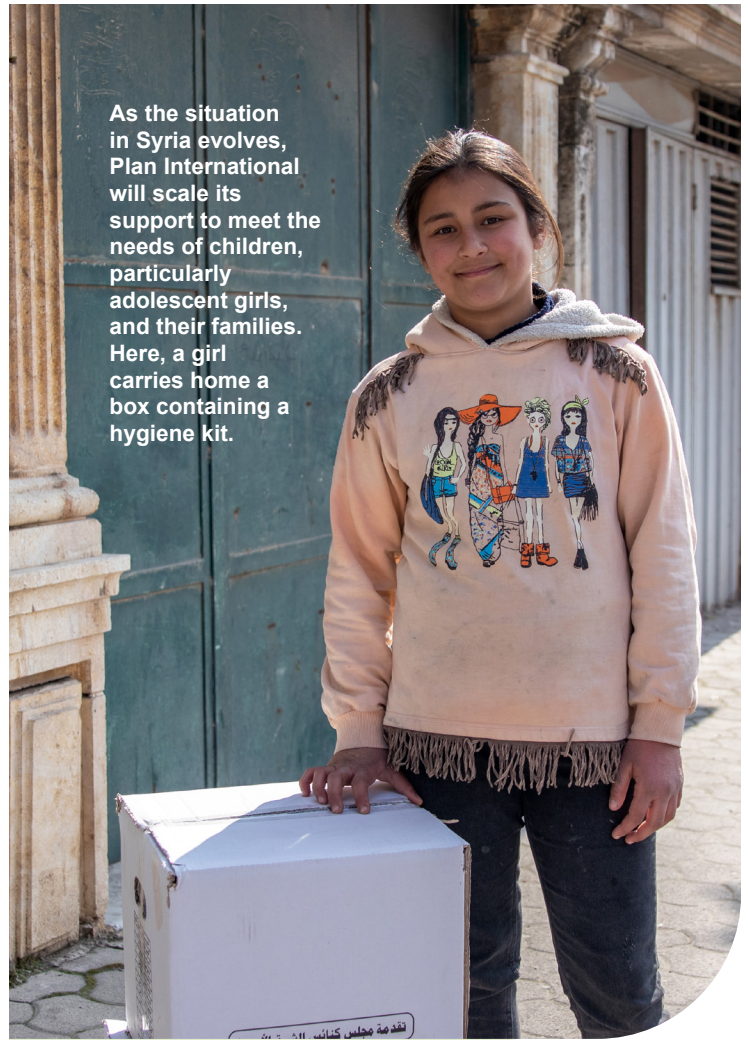
Highlights from our humanitarian response

In the year after a series of devastating earthquakes shook northwest Syria, Plan International reached 1,275,667 people with critical support.





As the situation in Syria evolves, Plan International will scale its support to meet the needs of children, particularly adolescent girls, and their families. Here, a girl carries home a box containing a hygiene kit.



## Project Summary

The earthquakes were the latest in a string of crises facing Syria.

One year after a series of earthquakes and 13 years since the start of the civil war in Syria, the situation in the country remains dire. According to UN estimates, 16.7 million people are in need, of whom 7.5 million are children.

We are seeing a growing mental-health crisis among Syria's young people. Many are experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological challenges. Limited access to essential humanitarian assistance, medical services and education is amplifying their distress.

In Syria, there is also a critical need for educational support, as more than 7,000 schools were damaged or destroyed, impacting about 2 million children. Many of them have never been to school and may face future challenges in enrolling and adapting to formal education, which could affect their long-term development and opportunities.

### APPEAL'S PURPOSE

**WHAT:** Plan International appealed to donors to support our emergency humanitarian response.

#### AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES:

- **6.8 million** people were internally displaced, **3.7 million** of them children.
- More than **12 million** people faced food insecurity.
- **10,600** buildings were destroyed or partially destroyed.
- **2,140+** schools were damaged.
- **13 million** people were in need of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance.
- **90%** of the population was living below the poverty line.

**ONE SURVIVOR'S POV:** "Twelve years of war hasn't scared us as much as this earthquake. During wars, we used to know it's coming and we go hide in shelters. But with earthquakes, where do you hide?" shared Shahed, 15, from Aleppo.

BY THE NUMBERS

## Appeal Highlights

“

Tens of thousands of children have suffered unthinkable losses and stress. They need to be kept safe and given access to psychological first aid and mental-health care.”

– Dr. Unni Krishnan, global humanitarian director at Plan International



Children learn in a refurbished classroom. Through the provision of safe learning environments, we are working to help children resume their education and regain a sense of normalcy.

**1M+** people have received essential food parcels and household and personal hygiene kits.

**11** water networks have been rehabilitated, along with new WASH facilities in shelters.

**2,427** women and girls have been provided with cash assistance.

**4,868** people have been reached through child-protection initiatives, including psychosocial support, training for service providers and the rehabilitation of five child-friendly spaces.

**6** schools have been rehabilitated, benefiting 4,000 children in Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Idlib.

**4** affected schools were provided with solar panels, desks, chairs, blackboards and fans.

**173** teachers have received training on education in emergencies, classroom management and inclusive education.

**524** children in Aleppo, Hama and Idlib have been reached through non-formal education programs, including remedial and catch-up classes.

A STORY OF CHANGE

## A Chance to Catch Up

Displaced by the earthquake, Hasan found a way back to school.

**H**asan is the eldest among his siblings, and though he is only 11 years old, he has been tasked with helping support the family. They live in a village in Hama, in central Syria, and rely on seasonal agricultural work for income.

“My parents work hard, but it’s not enough,” he says. “We struggle to buy food, clothes and school supplies. I have five younger sisters, and I want them to have a good life.”

Hasan longed to be in class, but he left for the fields instead, spending his mornings looking after livestock.

When the earthquake hit, his family was forced to relocate not once but several times, and with each move, their needs became more acute. In the upheaval, Hasan couldn’t see a way back to school and began to quietly let that dream go.

“That’s when I heard about the

remedial classes from my friends,” he says. “They told me how it helps them learn and catch up.”

As part of our Education in Emergencies program, Plan International and our partner INTERSOS established a mobile education team to conduct remedial classes in the village where Hasan was living with his family. Though timid at first, Hasan was eager to learn and attended classes every day.

In just one month, he went from struggling with reading and writing to constructing full sentences in Arabic. With educational and psychosocial support, Hasan improved not only his academic skills but also his morale and sense of well-being.

“The classes make me happy, and I feel more confident,” he says. “I like going there every day. I want to learn more and be good at school.”



“I simply want to have something to eat so I can go to school with a full stomach and focus better on my studies. I love my school and specifically science. My dream is to become a doctor.”

– Sama, 15, an earthquake survivor



Hasan, 11, takes part in a remedial class, part of Plan International’s Education in Emergencies and child-protection project in the Hama and Idlib governorates, delivered in partnership with INTERSOS.



SPOTLIGHT

## Emergency Response

In the aftermath of the earthquakes in Syria, Plan International prioritized life-saving and child-protection interventions, working urgently to reach children and their families in Aleppo and Lattakia, two of the worst-affected regions. In coordination with our partners in the region, we provided food, water and emergency shelter amid near-freezing temperatures while meeting the needs of women and girls, including providing menstrual-health kits.

Young people who are separated from their families or living with disabilities are at higher risk for violence and exploitation – especially girls, who face increasing rates of early and forced marriage. The protection and safety of children, particularly girls, is a top priority.

Plan International works closely with four humanitarian organizations in the region: the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), AVSI Foundation and INTERSOS. We collaborate to provide urgent interventions and longer-term support to children and families. Our multi-faceted approach is helping communities recover and rebuild.

“Relief and recovery efforts are more meaningful when they reflect the concerns and aspirations of survivors,” says Dr. Unni Krishnan (pictured below), Plan’s global humanitarian director. “As a humanitarian organization, we are committed to bringing the voices of children and girls to our response efforts in Syria.”



Sara washes her hands in new wash facilities at a communal shelter.

### ONGOING SUPPORT

After an earthquake, children bear physical wounds and deep psychological scars. Many show signs of trauma, including sleeplessness, fear of returning home, anxiety, panic attacks, depression and the lingering effects of post-earthquake dizziness syndrome.

“Children need food, clothes, medical assistance, clean water and a safe place to stay,” Krishnan says. “They also need emotional care.” We are working with our partners to provide children with psychosocial support to help restore a sense of hope and normalcy.

### Thank you for your support.

Plan International is providing emergency humanitarian response to thousands of families in Syria. Thank you for your generous support.



Click or scan the QR code to learn how you can support girls until we are all equal.

## WHAT'S NEW AT PLAN

# Our Shared Dream

**W**e see the world as it is and the world as it could be. No matter how complex the challenges, a better future is possible.

It takes **determination**.

It takes **optimism**.

It takes **vision**.

Our “moon shot” vision is equality for girls everywhere. Improving the lives of girls improves the lives of everyone in the family and the community. That understanding, which we know you share, is at the heart of our fundraising campaign, Until We Are All Equal. When you support this campaign, you’re trusting us to identify the greatest threats to equality, especially for girls, and respond to them as they arise.

Just going to school every day is impossible for many girls, with one in six living in a conflict zone. That’s why, right now, about 120 million girls are missing out on an education. What’s more, many girls – 12 million every year – are forced into early marriage, placing them at a heightened risk of dying from complications of early pregnancy or childbirth.

There are 500 million girls alive on our planet today, each filled with promise and potential and with their whole futures ahead of them. How do you transform the world? Start by investing in girls.



## About Plan International Canada

Plan International Canada is a member of a global organization dedicated to advancing children’s rights and equality for girls. Plan International has been building powerful partnerships with and for children for over 85 years and is now active in more than 80 countries. We stand with children, especially girls, wherever they are oppressed, exploited, left behind or not equally valued. We’re determined optimists, and we will continue to persevere until we are all equal.

**For more information, please contact:**  
[philanthropy@plancanada.ca](mailto:philanthropy@plancanada.ca)

**Plan International Canada**  
245 Eglinton Ave East, Suite 300  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 0B3

416-920-1654  
1-800-387-1418



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