

**Jesuits Mission Australia launches Syria Earthquake Response Appeal**

On 6 February Syria and Turkey were hit by two catastrophic earthquakes that have claimed the lives of thousands of people.

In response to the rising death toll and devastation left behind, Jesuit Mission Australia has launched a Syria Earthquake Response Appeal to provide immediate assistance to those people most affected living in Aleppo.

The appeal will provide emergency support to people who have lost homes and their loved ones, made possible thanks to a partnership between Jesuit Mission Australia, Xavier Network and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Syria.

“Our hearts break seeing the suffering of our sisters and brothers in Syria. Any donation towards the Jesuits’ emergency efforts will help earthquake survivors overcome this trauma,” said Helen Forde CEO of Jesuit Mission Australia.

The Jesuits are standing in solidarity with earthquake survivors and have opened their building in Aziziyé, which was declared safe, where displaced people can find shelter and support.

JRS Syria reports that there is significant damage in Aleppo, with thousands of houses and hospitals collapsing and becoming uninhabitable.

Vulnerable people are now homeless, shaken and frightened. Many people prefer to remain outdoors in the cold and rain fearing the aftershocks.

In addition, the people of Syria have long been suffering from decades of conflict that has displaced millions of people. Combined with the trauma of the earthquake, JRS Syria will also provide long-term psychosocial and mental health support for survivors.

*“We pray for the swift and safe recovery of all those who have been injured and for the comfort of those who have been impacted by this disaster,”* said Fr Arturo Sosa SJ, Superior General.

Jesuit Mission Australia stands in solidarity with the devastated families in Syria, and urges supporters to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. To make a donation to Jesuit Mission Australia’s Earthquake Response Appeal go to <https://jesuitmission.org.au/earthquake/> or call 02 8918 4109.

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**Supporting Links:**

Syria Earthquake Response Appeal

<https://jesuitmission.org.au/earthquake/>

**About Jesuit Mission Australia**

Jesuit Mission Australia works in over 14 countries across Asia and Africa to uphold the innate dignity of people living with the effects of poverty, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable. Funds from our supporters:

- Break cycles of poverty through teaching and education
- Protect the health of communities by providing medical care and programs that improve access to clean water and toilets
- Develop independent, sustainable communities through livelihood training and income-generating projects
- Provide vulnerable individuals with pastoral care, social inclusion and advocacy
- Support refugees in crisis
- Enable effective disaster response and relief.