

UPU Emergency and Solidarity Fund response report – supporting Syrian Post following the 2023 earthquake

In 2023, the same earthquake that devastated Türkiye also severely impacted the northern region of the Syrian Arab Rep., causing 676 deaths, 1,192 injuries and damage to approximately 4,000 buildings. Many postal facilities were damaged or destroyed, threatening Syrian Post's ability to maintain services in a region already challenged by ongoing conflict and displacement.

UPU Emergency and Solidarity Fund responds

The UPU quickly activated its Emergency and Solidarity Fund to support Syrian Post's urgent recovery needs. Recognizing the critical requirement for emergency equipment, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and Japan Post allocated 30,000 CHF from their regular budget to fund the procurement of essential tools, such as generators, communication devices and postal vehicles.

Global solidarity in action: support from the UPU

While external donations were limited, the UPU's direct allocation ensured that Syrian Post could rapidly respond to operational challenges and continue serving communities in need. This support was vital for facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid, including food parcels, blankets and hygiene kits distributed by organizations like the Qatar Red Crescent Society, which responded quickly to the crisis.

Conclusion

The 2023 earthquake posed significant challenges to postal services in northern Syria. Thanks to the swift activation of the UPU Emergency and Solidarity Fund and the dedicated funding from Japan's MIC and Japan Post, Syrian Post was able to recover essential operations and continue serving communities in urgent need. This collaboration highlights the importance of sustained international solidarity and the role of the UPU in supporting postal resilience during crises.