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Final Report

Syria /MENA: Wildfires

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRSY005
Date of Issue: 31 August 2021	Glide number: FR-2020-000208-SYR
Operation start date: 23 October 2020	Operation end date: 31 May 2021
Host National Society: Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)	Operation budget: 510,650
Number of people affected: 200,000	Number of people assisted: 8,868
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The Movement partners have been supporting the SARC wildfire response multilaterally and bilaterally. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: UN Agencies such as WFP, International non-governmental organizations (INGOs), Local non-governmental organizations (LNGOs).	

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

<click [here](#) for the final financial report and [here](#) for contacts>

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Between 8 and 12 October 2020, the eastern basin of the Mediterranean Sea has witnessed mass-destructive wildfires which are becoming a recurring annual event due to climate change. While possible causes of these wildfires vary, enabling elements including high temperatures, the warm eastern winds that are active during this time of year, dried herbs and bushes, and low humid trees, coming together to cause massive wildfires devouring acres of lands beyond rapid control of overwhelmed local capacities.

One of the hardest-hit countries was Syria, where wildfires killed four people and left around 45 injured with breathing complications and skin burns. Wildfires were reported in 265 villages in Lattakia, Tartous, and Homs governorates in eastern Syria with around 50 and 60 main fire points, and tens of other locations were also affected. A total of 300 fire points and villages of varying damage were reported. Most of the rugged mountainous areas were obliterated in the western countryside of Homs province, the eastern countryside of Tartus, and the northern countryside of Lattakia. These fires caused material and environmental damage, burning homes of residents, agricultural crops, large parts of vegetation, forests, and nature reserves. In addition to that, it is estimated that the wildfire incidents burned more than 30,000 hectares of agricultural and forest land across the coastal region of Syria, affecting at least 27,000 families through the destruction and damage to homes and livelihoods assets, loss of power and water supply. It had a serious impact on some families, infrastructure and 2,765 families lost more than one source of their livelihoods.

The fires led to the temporary displacement of several people of some villages to neighboring areas, especially in Lattakia's countryside, as populated areas were surrounded by the fires. The displacement continued for a couple of days at the beginning of the emergency.



Figure 1: SARC detailed assessment team assessing damages caused by the wildfire in one of the governorates. Photo: SARC

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

SARC has a nationwide presence in Syria, with active branches in all severely affected four governorates – Latakia, Tartous, Homs, and Hama. SARC responded from the beginning by mobilizing its own resources and pre-positioned stocks effectively, supporting at early stages fire-fighter brigades on the front lines through the provision of food and water, mobile tanks, trucks equipped with tanks, and pumps to increase mobility, and first aid services. In coordination with the branches, SARC activated its emergency protocol and requested DREF from the IFRC.

For SARC response operations, the protection and safety of the staff and volunteers on the ground remained a top priority to minimize COVID-19 transmission. Local SARC branches in Latakia and Tartus were supported by personal protective equipment for volunteers to conduct assessments and relief distribution activities. Additionally, the volunteers conducted community awareness campaigns and activities related to rumours, misinformation, fear and provided information about preventive measures for the general public. Preventive security and safety measures for branches and warehouses were raised to mitigate the fire hazard, in addition to necessary trainings sought from specialized trainers in-field security and safety.

SARC deployed 634 volunteers to conduct the rapid assessment as well as to support the relief distribution in more than 300 distribution locations covering villages and districts. The rapid assessment was also conducted in all 300 locations, and specifically in 265 of the most damaged villages between 8 to 12 October 2020. SARC used relief items from its emergency stock supported by both the Movement and non-Movement partners whereas costs related to the distribution and volunteers' management were covered through DREF funds. With the support of the World Food Programme (WFP), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IFRC, Norwegian Red Cross, German Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross - SARC reached 46,834 families with urgent humanitarian assistance across four governorates (Homs, Hama, Latakia, and Tartous). The distribution activities were implemented between 12 October 2020 to 12 January 2021. The details of items distributed by SARC are given in the table below.

Table no. 1: Relief distribution by SARC to wildfire affected people in early October 2020

Sector	Items	Quantity	Unit	Number of families
Relief	Food parcel	489	Nos	17,434
	Canned parcel	16,985	Nos	
	Dates bar	141,225	Nos	
	Blanket	105	Nos	
	Jerry cans	24,445	Nos	
	Dates box	13,768	Nos	
	Hygiene Kit	16,916	Nos	
	Solar lump	12,280	Nos	
	Water bottle	636	Nos	
	Mattress	105	Nos	
	Sleeping bag	25	Nos	
WASH	Water tracking	3,769	m3	29,400
Total				46,834

In addition to relief distribution, SARC also provided health care support to the affected people through its mobile health units (MHUs) and first aid services.

To identify livelihoods and other needs of the affected people, SARC conducted a detailed multi-sector assessment in Homs, Hama, Tartous, and Lattakia between December 2020 to February 2021, in coordination with the branches.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in-country

SARC carried out its humanitarian response operations in the affected governorates, in coordination with the partners of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and adjusted planning and implementation strategy taking into account relief, livelihoods, health and psychological support needs on the ground. SARC responded to the needs of affected people from wildfires in coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through this DREF response operation. Other Partner National Societies (PNSs) such as the Danish, German, Norwegian, Swedish, and Swiss Red Cross provided funding to SARC for in-kind assistance and multi-purpose cash grants based on needs identified through the detailed assessment.

Also, in coordination with ICRC, SARC provided emergency relief items including canned food parcels (ready-to-eat) and solar lamps, in addition to other WASH activities such as water trucking to those affected by the wildfires.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in-country

SARC coordinates with international NGOs and UN agencies as the main partner in carrying out activities while maintaining their mandate without compromising the basic principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. UN agencies including WFP and UNHCR have provided items such as hygiene kits and jerry cans, also some food items (dates) to the affected families.

Furthermore, SARC coordinated with the relevant authorities/government officials and national organizations that provided humanitarian assistance to affected families through its relevant channels in order to join efforts in the response to wildfires, avoid overlaps and meet gaps.

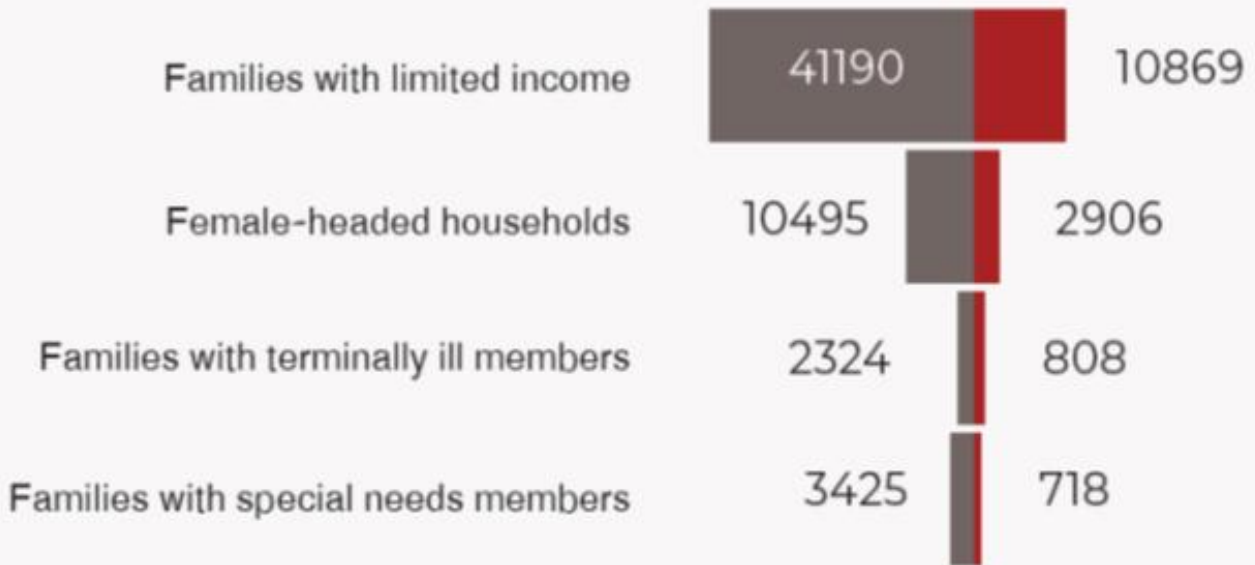
Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

A detailed multi-sector assessment was carried out in the affected areas to identify needs in terms of livelihoods and damages to agricultural crops in four governorates. The assessment was completed between December 2020 to February 2021, including focused group discussion and household data collection, and secondary information sources. Some of the key findings from the assessment are presented below

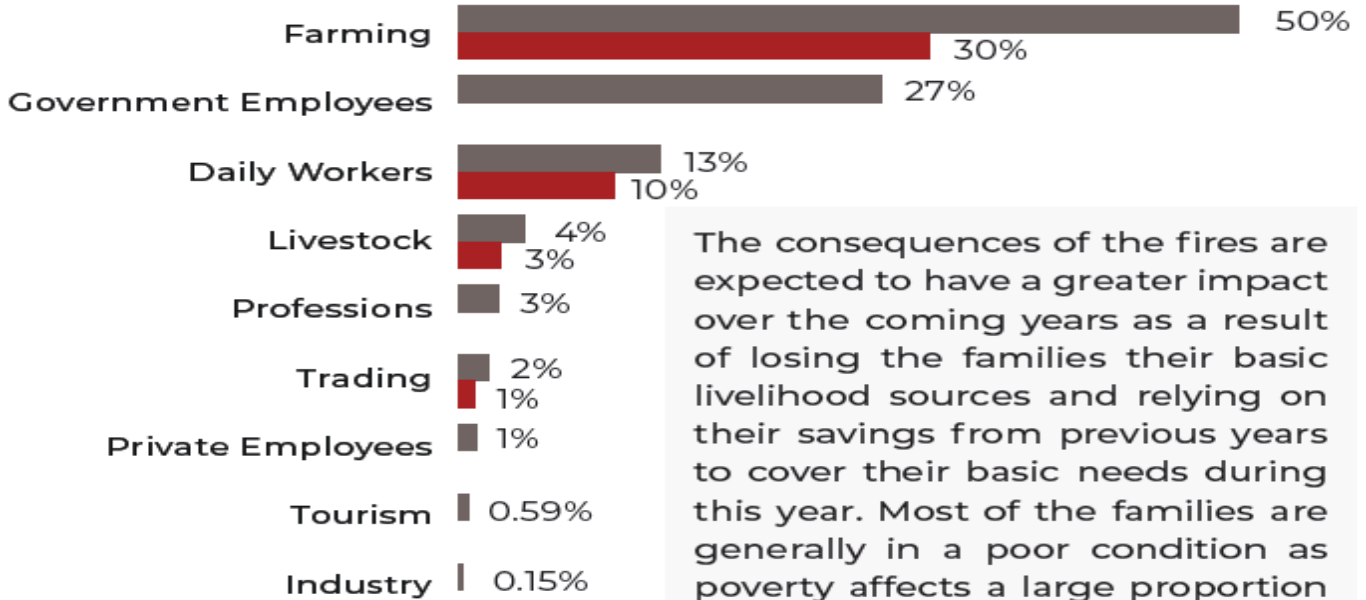
Most Vulnerable Families

● Total ● Affected



Percentage of Damage According to the Source of Income

● Total Percentage ● Affected Percentage



The consequences of the fires are expected to have a greater impact over the coming years as a result of losing the families their basic livelihood sources and relying on their savings from previous years to cover their basic needs during this year. Most of the families are generally in a poor condition as poverty affects a large proportion of families.

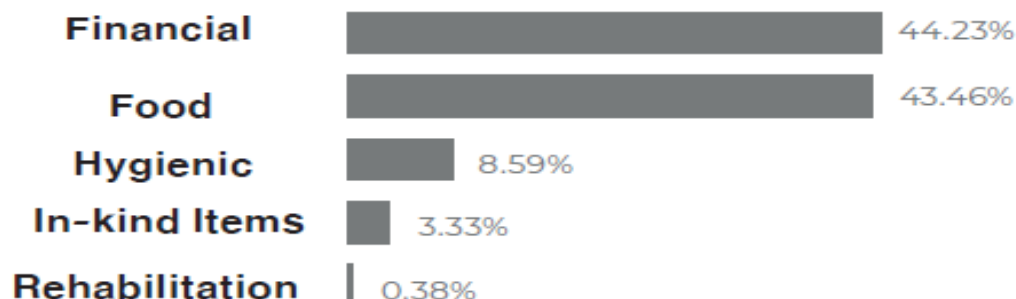
The average percentage of those depending on cash transfers: 0.432%

In the wildfire outbreak, 18,800 poultry, 9,400 bee cells, and 300 sheep and cows died. The majority of families who lost their assets in the wildfire reported that they are adopting negative coping mechanisms such as buying less expensive food (52.45%), borrowing money (36.98%), selling productive assets (7.17%), and taking out students from school to work (3.4%).

Most of the affected communities are from remote areas and living in chronic poverty, and wildfire resulted in the complete loss of livelihoods assets for many. Some families uprooted the burnt olives and sold them as firewood.

During the detailed assessment, among the respondents, 44.23% identified the need for direct financial assistance, and 43.46% mentioned food parcels as their priority. Further details on identified urgent priorities are given in the graph below.

Type of interventions



More information is available in the detailed assessment report, available [here](#)

Operation Risk Assessment

The DREF operation, the needs assessment, and its operational strategy considered the risks related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and was aligned with the IFRC global Emergency Appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The DREF activities also followed the Ministry of Health (MOH) and World Health Organization (WHO) regulations on hygiene and social distancing especially during the distribution of household items and cash grants.

The table below indicates the potential impact of the pandemic on this DREF operation and how SARC responded to the situation.

COVID-19 measures	Standard epidemic control measures	Temporary lockdown of society (schools, shops, public functions)	Sustained lockdown and restriction of movement during implementation period
Likelihood	High	High	Low
Impact on operation	No impact on the operation. SARC adhered to the epidemic control measures in place.	SARC worked in close coordination with the local Government and SARC was able to operate even in the event of a temporary lockdown.	Lockdown measures became more flexible from early June 2020 onwards and were not reinstated during the response, so no major impact on the operation.
Mitigating measures	As the epidemic control measures were already in place before the wildfires the operation was designed to adhere to the measures. Trainings were conducted in small groups, with due respect to social distancing measures. Distribution activities were done in adherence to social distancing norms	Same as under standard epidemic control measures. Some delays were experienced with procurements of PPEs due to shortages in global supply. This was resolved by buying the PPEs locally in Syria.	Same as under standard epidemic control measures and temporary lockdowns of society.

All areas were considered "easy to access" for SARC teams, despite the geographical distance of the areas and the difficult roads conditions that lead to the countryside. As a standard procedure, volunteers and staff teams disseminated information about SARC and its mandate as an impartial, neutral and independent organization to gain the trust and acceptance among the affected communities. These measures facilitated access and acceptance of SARC to these very remote areas with a high level of poverty and limited access to basic services.

Please refer to the original DREF plan of action for details on the need analysis and scenario planning, available [here](#).

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this operation was to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to 12,500 people affected as a result of wildfire disasters in the worst-affected governorates of Latakia, Tartous, and Homs through Cash Assistance. This proposal was based on the provision of a one-off unconditional and unrestricted multi-purpose cash transfer through remittance companies to support the most vulnerable people affected by the wildfires to meet their basic needs. SARC completed the tendering process following its new procurement procedures which are in line with the IFRC standards.


Monitoring, evaluation and learning

SARC monitored the intervention to ensure detailed feedback on the modality of the assistance, usage of the cash grants, the level of contentment of the disbursement process through the financial service provider, and the overall satisfaction level of the project among the people that received cash grants in Lattakia and Tartous. The monitoring and evaluation activities include:

- Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) including satisfaction survey.
- Hotlines: Dedicated hotlines managed by SARC staff and volunteers that the people affected can contract with their questions, feedback and raise possible concerns for SARC actions. SARC has Complaint Response Mechanism in each governorate with dedicated staff.
- Filed visits and home visits by volunteers.
- Supervision and follow-up with the finance service provider for encashment to the selected families.

Please refer to the original DREF plan of action for details on the intervention strategy, available [here](#).

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Livelihoods and basic needs</p> <p>People reached: 8,868</p> <p>Male: 4,036</p> <p>Female: 4,832</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of families received vouchers / cash assistance		2,500	2,079
Output 1.1: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of families received vouchers / cash assistance		2,500	2,079
Narrative description of achievements			
The unconditional cash transfer project is the first of its kind to be implemented by the SARC in Lattakia and Tartous.			

Following the completion of the data collection and analysis of the multi-sectoral need assessment, a beneficiary verification tool was designed in collaboration with SARC's cash team and converted to ODK by the information management team. A total of 58 disaster management volunteers were trained in the use of the tool and conducted house-to-house visits to affected households to collect impact and vulnerability data required for final beneficiary selection. Information was collected from a total of 5,797 affected households in Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, and Homs through household visits.

Based on the beneficiary verification, the selection criteria were set as follows: female-headed households, households with members with special needs, families with two or more members under 18 years. The criteria also considered whether the permanent residency of the families and whether their main source of livelihoods was gained from their property or agricultural land damaged by the wildfires.



Figure 2: SARC volunteers conducting beneficiary verification. Photo: SARC

In April 2021, SARC signed a Framework Agreement with a Financial Service Provider (FSP) “Al Haram” for cash-based interventions, following a thorough procurement process with technical support from IFRC and the British Red Cross. This Framework Agreement enabled the rapid implementation of multipurpose cash grants as a modality to deliver relief assistance.

The cash transfer value was set at SYP 250,000 and calculated based on the national cash technical working group's minimum expenditure basket (MEB) as of February 2021 for the coastal areas. This amount corresponds to 70% of the MEB gap for a family of five persons for one month. This transfer value is SYP 50,000 higher than the value set at the start of the operation. However, an amount less than SYP 250,000 would not have constituted meaningful assistance for the targeted households based on the analysis at the time of deciding the transfer value. The reason for the adjustment is the sharp increase in prices of basic commodities between October 2020 and February 2021 of more than 100% due to the severe economic crisis in Syria. With the higher than planned cash transfer value, SARC reached 2,079 (8,868 people) of the most affected households in Lattakia and Tartous. To partially fill this gap, a total of CHF 10,000 was reallocated from other budget lines based on the expenditure projection. While this closed the gap. This is below the target set at 2,500 households. With funding from the Danish Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, and the Swiss Red Cross, SARC will be able to cover up to an additional 2,900 families with cash assistance in Lattakia, Hama, Homs, and Tartous. This second phase of the operation started in June 2021.

Further details on the number of people reached with multi-purpose cash grants assistance are given in the graph (right) and table below, as well.

Table no. 2: People reached with DREF cash grants

Governorate	Families	Men 18 years and above	Women 18 years and above	Girls under 18 years	Boys under 18 years
Lattakia	1,572	1,652	2,336	1,244	1,188
Tartous	507	615	675	577	581
Total	2,079	2,267	3,011	1,821	1,769

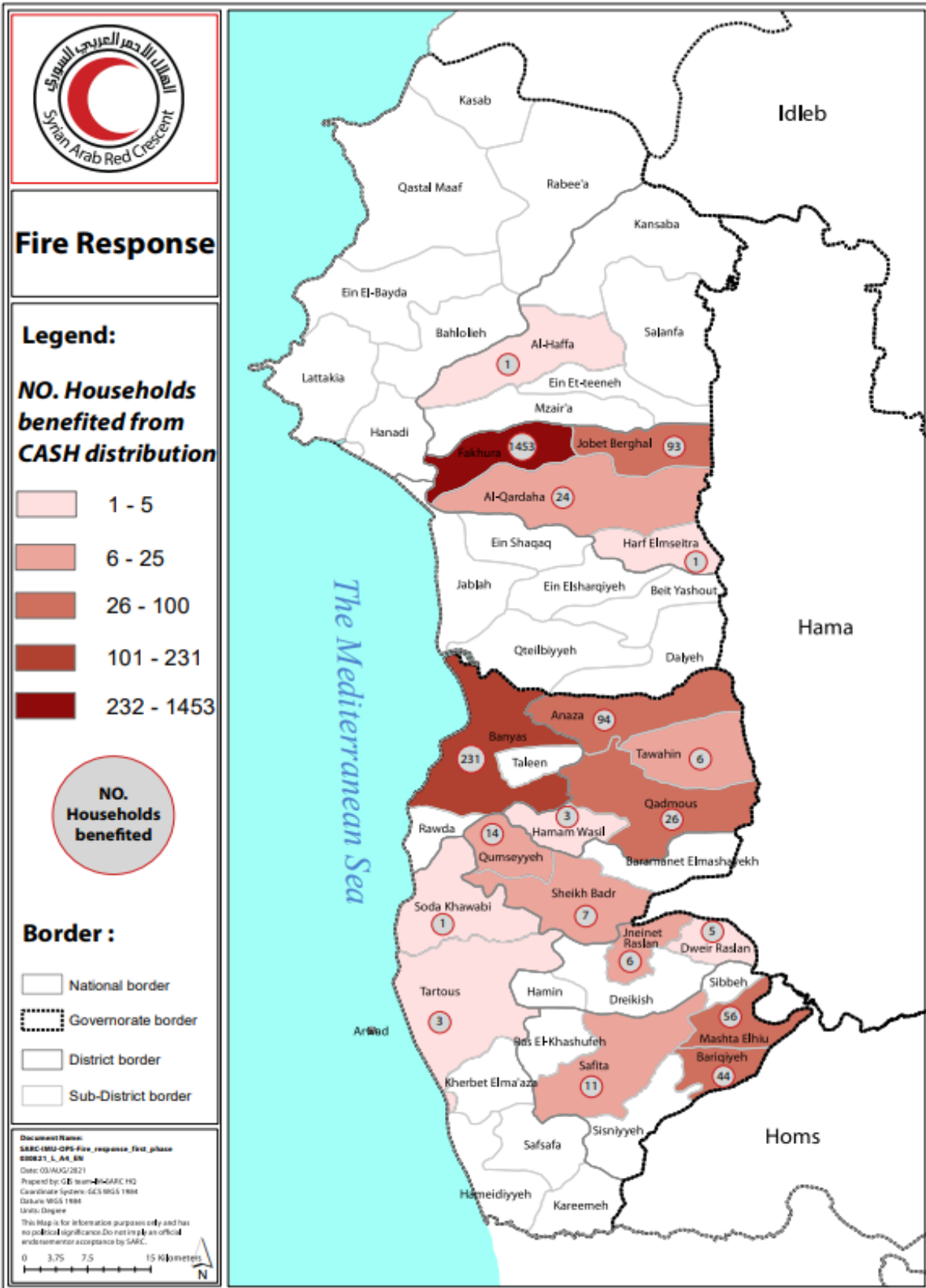


Figure 3: Map showing the geographical concentration of the cash grant distribution.

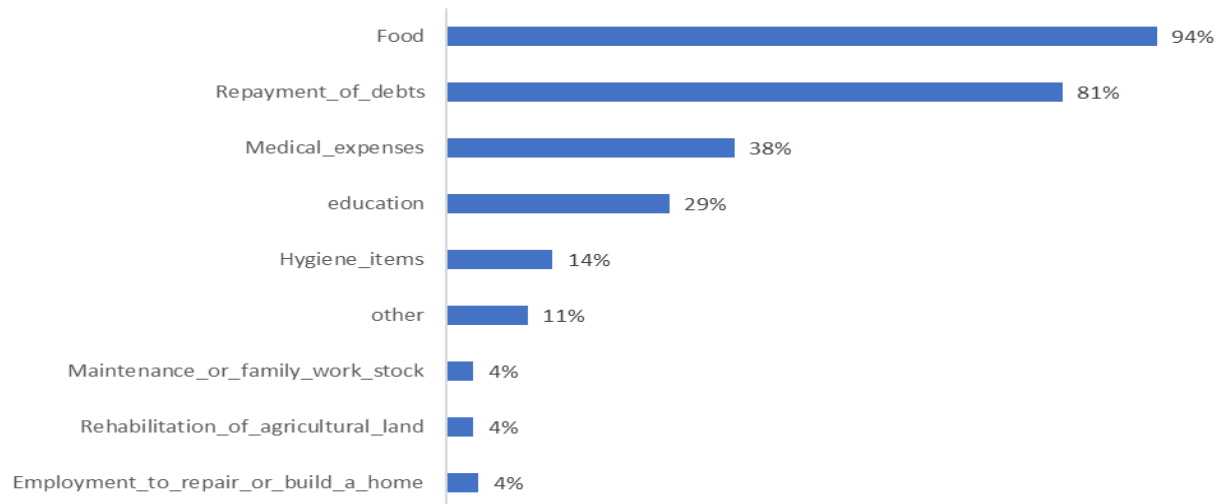
The process by the FSP “Al Haram” was in short as follows: after the selection of beneficiaries, the list was sent to Al Haram with the amount to be transferred per beneficiary and the total amount of money was transferred. After this, Al Haram sent an SMS with a code to each beneficiary. Showing this code in Al Haram office, the beneficiary received the money.

Al Haram sent out SMSs to the eligible households a couple of days before the actual encashment at the local Al Haram office. Al Haram operates 6 offices in Lattakia and 11 offices in Tartous and in order to avoid overcrowding at the local offices, designated time slots were provided to each household in advance. SARC also sent out reminder SMS messages to the households prior to the encashment including information about how to contact SARC in case they need assistance. During the encashment dates, SARC volunteers were present at Al Haram offices to support the process and address any issue arising to receive the full amount of the cash grants.



Figure 4: SARC volunteers conducting beneficiary verification. Photo: SARC

Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of cash grants: SARC conducted a post-distribution survey among 337 households that had received cash grants in Lattakia and Tartous. The survey was designed in coordination between the disaster management and cash team with support from the IFRC. Half of the interviews were conducted over the phone and half through household visits. Out of the 337 respondents, 98% reported that they had received a cash grant of SYP 250,000, the correct amount. 54% of respondents reported that they were aware of the process for receiving the cash grant and 25% reported that they were informed by SARC about the amount of money they would receive. The top three categories mentioned by the respondents for the use of the cash grants were food (97%), repayment of debts (81%), and medical expenses (38%). The fact that one of the largest expenditures goes to meet the need for food shows the fragility of the beneficiaries' livelihoods and the insufficiency of their income to meet the essential needs of the household. Further detail on the use of cash grants is given in the graph below.



Regarding questions related to CEA, a total of 60% of respondents reported that they were aware of the beneficiary selection criteria. Of those that reported being aware of the selection criteria, the most commonly mentioned criteria were “affected by wildfire” (73%). The other mentioned criteria were “the family has at least three children (10%), “female-headed household” (9%), and “family member with a disability” (7%).

Among the respondents, 84% said that they were informed about how they can report a problem or ask for help while 16% reported that they were not. SARC’s hotline was mentioned by almost all the respondents that said they knew how to report a problem. None of the respondents reported that they would have felt unsafe or experienced a security problem as recipients of the cash grant.

Regarding the relevance of the assistance, among the respondents, 95% reported that they overall were satisfied with the distribution process while 5% reported that they were somewhat satisfied. A 99% of the respondents felt they were treated with respect during the project stages.

In relation to future assistance, most of the respondents (99%) reported that their preferred modality to receive humanitarian assistance in the future would be through unconditional multipurpose cash grants.

In summary, the cash assistance through DREF operation was useful to support the basic humanitarian needs among the poorest and most vulnerable families who were directly affected and lost their livelihoods and other productive assets during the wildfire outbreak. The multi-purpose unconditional cash assistance helped them to meet their basic needs in a dignified manner based on their choice and priorities.


Challenges

- The sharp increase in prices of basic commodities and goods reduced the purchasing value of the cash grants among the beneficiary households. The value of the cash transfer was adjusted to SYP 250,000 from SYP 200,000 but this increase did not make up for the steep price hike.
- During the encashment dates, the mobile networks of MTN and SyriaTel were over congested resulting in SMS not being delivered on time to some of the households. This resulted in slight crowding at the Al Haram local branches during the first two days of the encashment, as the beneficiaries were not able to follow the indicated date and time slots due to the late delivery of the SMS.
- Finalization of the procurement process for the FSP and framework agreement took more time than anticipated resulting in an extension of the DREF operation timeframe for an additional three months. The process was very robust and involved analysis of national office coverage and reach in Syria of various FSPs and thorough negotiations with the selected FSP on the contractual terms and conditions. SARC updated its tendering procedures to comply with Movement standards procedures during the Wildfire operation and this caused a delay in the tendering process for the FSP. However, it guaranteed a robust and detailed tendering process.
- Severe fuel shortages in Syria started at the start of the year with quotas set for how many liters of fuel could be accessed by car and by month. This resulted in SARC having to prioritize the use of fuel for its various programmes and operations and consequently, there were some delays in the deployment of volunteers for the beneficiary verification process. The affected areas are remote and sparsely populated requiring long travel distances.

- A delay in completing the detailed assessment was caused by COVID-19 pandemic restriction measures and security concerns that affected the deployments to the field to make the assessment on time.

Lessons Learned

- This was the first multi-purpose cash grant relief operation by SARC, as previously humanitarian assistance has been in the form of NFIs and food parcels. The PDM indicates that this was a welcomed modality among the beneficiaries as close to 100% of the respondents prefer multi-purpose cash grants.
- Albeit the cash grants are distributed later than planned, the timing will still meet basic needs among the affected families. The main effects on livelihoods among the affected households are now being felt with the upcoming harvesting season from the agricultural lands such as olive tree plantations will yield very few crops due to the damaged trees.
- Albeit it took time, the signing of a three-year framework agreement with an FSP allows SARC to use the same service provider for all cash-based interventions over the next years speeding up implementation as a tendering process will not be necessary.
- Through joint efforts by SARC and resource mobilization among Movement partners SARC will be able to reach all verified households that meet the selection criteria.

	<h3 style="color: red;">Disaster Risk Reduction</h3> <p>People reached: 3,000 Male: N/A Female: N/A</p>		
<p>Outcome 1: Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster</p>			
<p>Indicators:</p>		<p>Target</p>	<p>Actual</p>
<p># of EPoA developed</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.</p>			
<p>Indicators:</p>		<p>Target</p>	<p>Actual</p>
<p># of community members who participated in awareness sessions</p>		<p>3,000</p>	<p>3,000</p>
<p>Narrative description of achievements</p>			
<p>SARC conducted coordination meetings with stakeholders (Ministry of Agriculture, relief committee, and Agriculture Directorates), and based on the discussions, SARC developed key messages to raise community awareness that reached approximately 3,000 people. It was found that the community can't buy equipment to clean their land and pay for the running costs due to their poor economic situation.</p>			
<p>Target areas selected by SARC for the DREF were remote and the level of chronic poverty remained very high. SARC undertook thorough community engagement and accountability, dissemination of SARC's role and mandate to community leaders, stakeholders, and population to gain acceptance. This was done in parallel with and during the multi-sector needs assessment through FGDs and is vital to explain the criteria for the beneficiary selection in a context where the operation can only cover a proportion of those severely affected.</p>			
<p>The complaints and feedback mechanism operated by SARC during the response included a dedicated 'hot-line' for each branch. Beneficiaries also provided feedback directly in person to SARC volunteers and staff and at SARC branch offices. The majority of the feedback and complaints related to 1) unclarity in the beneficiary selection criteria, and 2) household members not being at home during the beneficiary registration visits by the volunteers while should be considered for falling within the selection criteria. All feedback and complaints received were logged by SARC and responses were provided within one day either by the volunteers or staff. Volunteers revisited households in the cases where it was not clear whether the household fell within the eligibility criteria.</p>			
<p>Challenges</p>			
<p>See challenges section above for livelihoods and basic needs outcome</p>			
<p>Lessons Learned</p>			

- Through thorough and respectful communication and engagement from the very start of the operation with the affected communities, SARC established sound cooperation and trust with the community leaders. This in turn facilitated uninterrupted access and acceptance in these remote and rural areas that are seldom reached by humanitarian assistance. No security situations occurred during the operation in the more sensitive areas.
- SARC was able to address the feedback and questions in particular related to beneficiary selection criteria that were accepted by those that requested clarification. By systematically addressing and responding to each feedback SARC demonstrated the importance it places on accountability to beneficiaries.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that are debriefed and protected	634	634

Output 1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge deployments	1	0

Output 1.2: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of communication products	n/a	n/a

Output 1.3: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of produced reports Include LL WS report	1	0

Narrative description of achievements

SARC mobilized 634 staff and volunteers who were actively engaged in the various phases of the operation from relief distributions and the rapid assessments to being present at Al Harem during encashment days and post-distribution monitoring. Prior to the detailed assessment, SARC conducted a two-day workshop from 22 to 23 December 2020 and trained 86 volunteers on data collection tools and processes developed for the operation and the use of ODK.

The surge deployment was not activated as originally planned. SARC's disaster management department led the operation with technical expertise from its cash team and support service units. IFRC's Syria team including the Livelihoods Delegate and Procurement Delegate provided technical and managerial support to SARC as requested. The British Red Cross Cash Voucher Assistance – Programme Manager also provided technical inputs to the operation.

SARC's communication team updated its official Facebook page with photos and updates on the wildfire response. SARC's staff and volunteers directly involved in the response took photos and short messages for social media. SARC used its existing MEAL and IM teams to assist the disaster management team in monitoring the cash assistance intervention, including the PDM, volunteers visit, FGDs, consultation, and feedbacks as per SARC humanitarian assistance principles. SARC trained 58 disaster management volunteers through 2-day training sessions to conduct household visits and also to support the PDM in Lattakia and Tartous.

SARC management wants to ensure the collection of learnings and lessons from the wildfire operation in order to further strengthen SARC's cash response readiness, systems, and procedures including coordination among departments for the future. A lesson learnt exercise will be conducted after completion of the operation and cash transfers are still being provided in the second phase of the operation expected to reach an additional 2,900 families with funding from the Danish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross.

Challenges

Please see challenges reported under sections above.

Lessons Learned

The lessons learnt workshop will be organised after the completion of the ongoing cash transfers distribution for additional 2,900 families with the support of other in-country partners. However, some preliminary reflections from the operation include the following:

- Strengthen and expand the technical support for assessment teams through training and workshops to increase their expertise in the assessment process.
- Share the experiences and knowledge gained through this operation with essential support service units and sectoral departments about the step-by-step process and required interactions between technical departments and support units.
- Strong community engagement and dissemination, communication activities with various stakeholders and communities from the start of the operation about SARC, its mandate and principles and values ensured uninterrupted access to the remote and highly vulnerable areas.

The lessons learnt workshop is expected to yield valuable feedback and recommendations from volunteers, sub-branch and branch staff as well as multiple support service units and technical disaster management teams. These findings will serve to further strengthen SARC's cash readiness for the future – a response modality of high priority among SARC's Senior management and future investment.

D. Financial Report

The operating budget and response activities remain unchanged. IFRC provided CHF 510,650, out of which CHF 493,971 (97%) was spent. The balance amount of CHF 16,679 will be returned to the DREF pot. The balance of funds related to the following activities: international surge was not deployed for the operation (CHF 10,000), communications materials were collected by SARC's staff and volunteer teams in the branches and sub-branches and the acute shortage of fuel resulted in the prioritization of travel from the headquarters to focus on live-saving activities. The lessons learnt workshop will be conducted with funds from other sources.

The detailed financial report is available below.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/10-2021/07	Operation	MDRSY005
Budget Timeframe	2020/10-2021/07	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 23/Aug/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRSY005 - Syria - Wildfires

Operating Timeframe: 22 Oct 2020 to 31 May 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	510,650
DREF Allocations	510,650
Expenditure	-493,971
Closing Balance	16,679

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	393,500	404,141	-10,641
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	393,500	404,141	-10,641
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	117,150	89,830	27,320
SF12 - Effective international disaster management			0
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total	117,150	89,830	27,320
Grand Total	510,650	493,971	16,679

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRSY005 - Syria - Wildfires

Operating Timeframe: 22 Oct 2020 to 31 May 2021

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Prepared on 23/Aug/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	369,484	385,708	-16,224
Food		6,232	-6,232
Cash Disbursement	369,484	379,475	-9,992
Logistics, Transport & Storage		9,210	-9,210
Storage		1,854	-1,854
Transport & Vehicles Costs		7,356	-7,356
Personnel	85,000	53,375	31,625
International Staff	10,000		10,000
National Society Staff		64	-64
Volunteers	75,000	53,311	21,689
Workshops & Training	20,000	2,707	17,293
Workshops & Training	20,000	2,707	17,293
General Expenditure	5,000	12,823	-7,823
Travel		10,662	-10,662
Information & Public Relations		451	-451
Office Costs		1,670	-1,670
Communications	5,000		5,000
Financial Charges		40	-40
Indirect Costs	31,166	30,148	1,018
Programme & Services Support Recover	31,166	30,148	1,018
Grand Total	510,650	493,971	16,679

Contact Information

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [DREF Operations update](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.