

EMERGENCY APPEAL (REVISED)

Syria, MENA | Syria Earthquakes



SARC teams were the first on the ground, responding to the earthquake and rescuing people in the buildings that collapsed in Aleppo.
 Photo: Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

Appeal No: MDRSY009	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 100 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 200 million	
Glide No: EQ-2023-000015-SYR	People [affected/at risk]: 6,000,000 people	People to be assisted: 2,500,000 people
DREF loan: CHF 2.0 million	Appeal launched: 07/02/2023	Appeal ends: 28/02/2025
Appeal Revision:	Revision #1	Date: 16/02/2023

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 6 February 2023, Syria was struck by two earthquakes, one at a magnitude of 7.7 originating in Gaziantep (Turkey) at 04:17 and another at a 7.6 magnitude in Kharamanmaras (Turkey) at 13:24. Multiple aftershocks were reported following the earthquakes. According to the Syrian Arab Republic Red Crescent (SARC), damages were caused in the north, central and coastal parts of Syria, specifically in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama, and Idlib governorates. The first estimates indicated that more than six million people were affected, including two million severely affected by the earthquake. As of 12 February, the number of confirmed deaths in Syria stood at 1,414, with more than 2,349 injured. Reports from the whole of Syria suggest a higher death and injury toll as many people were reported missing by their relatives. The earthquake hit amid a very harsh winter with some areas in the northern part of the country hitting sub-zero temperatures. At a time when people are facing huge electricity, fuel, and water shortages, around 293,000 people have fled their collapsed and damaged houses seeking shelter at emergency centres and host communities, while the number of displaced people remains unclear as some of the affected have moved into the homes of extended families or to rented houses.

In the context of this acute disaster, the Syrian crisis is today even more critical than ever, with a multitude of challenges that makes it one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies. A decade of protracted crisis and economic collapse has left more than 15.3 million people in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. SARC also suffered some losses and damage to their infrastructure. A warehouse in Latakia has completely collapsed and another eight SARC facilities were damaged. Another Primary Health Care Centre (PHC) in Hama was also affected and needed to be immediately evacuated, while some Mobile Health Units were unable to move.

EMERGENCY APPEAL REVISION

Since 7 February, when the initial International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Emergency Appeal (EA) was published, humanitarian needs have risen exponentially. Based on these revised needs estimates, this Federation-wide Emergency Appeal has been increased to a total funding ask of CHF 200 million, and its timeframe extended to 28 February 2025 to effectively and consistently respond to the ongoing, immediate, and anticipated needs on the ground.

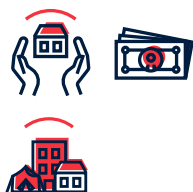
TARGETING

SARC initial assessment and analysis identified five governorates that were directly affected by the disaster: Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Idlib, and Tartous. The affected population in these five governorates is estimated to be 6.1 million people. Of these, SARC will be targeting 2.5 million through their response plan. Many people were displaced to other areas, extending the geographic reach beyond the affected areas to other governorates, such as Damascus. Targeting of the affected population in this operation and its activities will prioritize the most vulnerable groups, such as separated families, female-headed households, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly among other groups with special needs.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

The strategy of the IFRC response will be to help respond to the emerging needs of the 2.5 million affected people including women, men, children, and the elderly in the affected areas and surroundings for a period of 24 months and will focus on the following areas:

Integrated assistance



- In-kind distributions which help people meet their essential needs – including food and household items (HHIs) and shelter support to affected people, including the displaced (IDPs) and host communities.
- Provide multipurpose unconditional cash assistance for basic assistance/relief objectives.
- Restore livelihoods, and strengthen resilience and coping through the provision of cash assistance and in-kind items where necessary (seeds, tools, and other materials), as determined through engagement with the communities.
- Engage with communities/local first responders to strengthen their preparedness in the response.
- Risk reduction activities (early warning and early action, disaster risk reduction).
- Support the early recovery and recovery activities, including strengthening the disrupted livelihoods of the affected population based on assessments related to food security and job opportunities during the response and recovery while adhering to relevant environmental considerations.



Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Provide health services responding to the immediate needs of the affected populations, including health and psychological well-being covering emergency medical services (EMS), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), and other health services at SARC mobile and static health facilities.
- Provide WASH services, including targeted support for access to clean and safe water, sanitation facilities, and the rehabilitation of infrastructure, together with hygiene promotion services, including the distribution of essential hygiene-related materials, considering culturally appropriate feminine hygiene products to women and girls.



Protection and Prevention

- Encourage safe and equitable access to basic services by considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors, such as disability and impairment, through protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI)-informed multi-sector needs assessments to identify and address gender and specific needs and protection risks.
- Strengthen the provision of restoring family links (RFL) services, and community-based care and protection activities for unaccompanied and separated children, and other persons with special needs.

- Interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and support for safeguarding mechanisms.
- Ensure the integration of community engagement and accountability (CEA) early on in the response to ascertain the needs and priorities, and actively engage affected communities throughout the operation.
- Adherence to the duty of care for volunteers through insurance coverage and solidarity mechanism, and other safety provisions, such as protective clothing and equipment to ensure access and safety.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

Coordination and Partnerships



- Coordination of the response through a Federation-wide approach, including reporting, management, and technical services.
- Strengthen coordination and partnerships within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and with relevant external actors, including the private sector, foundations, governments, and UN agencies.

IFRC Secretariat Services



- Ensure the smooth operation of corporate services in a coordinated manner, (Finance, Administration, Human Resources, Legal, Information Technology and Digital Transformation, Logistics and Procurement, Business Continuity, and Security), while supporting the National Society's plan.
- Provision and coordination of surge deployments of technical role profiles (Rapid Response) and support by emergency response units (ERU) as per the identified operational needs.
- Advocate for the needs of those affected through humanitarian diplomacy in different international forums.
- Ensure adherence to the IFRC's standards for quality assurance, accountability, and evidence-based operations management with a focus on risk mitigation.

National Society Strengthening



- Lead Federation-wide plans for National Society development, including preparedness and response capacities – such as contingency planning, simulation exercises, and prepositioning of stocks with relevant partners through the implementation of the operation response capacity (PER in operations based on the operational capacity of the National Society).
- Resource critical disaster management requirements within the National Society (headquarters, branches, and sub-branches) in order to ensure appropriate that emergency response systems and procedures in place, including equipment and facilities, business

continuity, contingency planning, emergency operations centre (EOC), and national response team (NRT), among others.

- Strengthen the preparedness and response capacity of SARC branches based on preparedness for effective response (PER) assessments and a plan of action.
- Enhance the capacities and mechanisms on information management, monitoring and evaluation, data collection and analysis, and risk management.
- Ensure a continuation of support to the SARC operational capacity to sustain the response on the ground, covering human resources, logistics, warehousing, supply chain, office, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) capacities.
- Enhance the approach to managing volunteering in emergencies – through rapid onboarding and by ensuring that there is proper care for volunteers and staff in action.
- Strengthen PGI and safeguarding practices through the Code of Conduct and safeguarding policies; orientation of staff and volunteers; and the sensitization of communities.
- This response is informed by the minimum standards of PGI.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal revision. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY



Syrian Arab Red Crescent

Core areas of operation



SARC has expertise in emergency medical services, disaster management, water and sanitation, health and medical services, including primary health care, livelihoods, and early recovery, and in protection and community services, including psychological support. Since 2011, SARC has scaled up its work considerably in response to the protracted crisis and maintains a presence across most of the country. SARC remains the largest humanitarian actor, providing services and humanitarian assistance to more than six million internally displaced persons, affected host communities, and returnees annually. In 2021, around 80% of the Syrian population benefited from at least one of SARC's services,

Number of staff:	5,818
Number of volunteers:	12,239
Number of branches	14

for example, SARC has reached about 10 million people through its WASH activities and has also provided food assistance to 5.4 million people and essential household items to 1.5 million

people. SARC network of 229 health facilities has become a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of people.

IFRC Membership coordination

The PNSs present both inside and outside Syria are committed to supporting SARC emergency response operations by providing available in-country funding for an immediate response. Many of the in-country PNSs have launched emergency fundraising campaigns and offered support in the form of human resources, in-kind assistance, and ERUs, in addition to financial and technical support. Many National Societies from the MENA and other regions continue to send aid: financial, in-kind, and human resources, to support SARC's direct emergency response.

In 2023, seven PNSs were present in Syria: The British, Canadian, Danish, German, Norwegian, Swedish, and Swiss Red Cross Societies. Thematic working groups have been established comprised of the IFRC and in-country PNSs to provide technical support and humanitarian advocacy to support the SARC in their response plan, integrated through a Federation-wide Operational Strategy. The Australian, Finnish, Italian, Japanese, and Netherlands Red Cross Societies engage through the IFRC, or remotely from regional representations in Beirut and their headquarters.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination

The ICRC, in addition to the assistance it has already provided in Syria, and with respect to its respective mandate, also showed its readiness to support SARC with whatever they might need for their response.

External coordination

The High Relief Committee (HRC) and the newly assigned national committee headed by the prime minister were established to coordinate the ongoing response, of which SARC is a part. Additionally, on behalf of Movement partners, SARC is coordinating with UN agencies, INGOs, and the national authorities for a seamless operation to ensure an effective response, avoid duplications, and maximize synergies. The IFRC is also holding talks with ECHO on possible support.

In addition, the IFRC participates alongside SARC in interagency cluster meetings and working groups, including health, shelter, household items, livelihoods, and information management.

After 28 February 2025, response activities to this disaster will continue under the IFRC Syria Country Plan for 2025. The IFRC Country Plans will show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's action. This process aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due time, should there be a need for an extension of the response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

At the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society:

- **Secretary General:** Khaled Erksoussi, email Khaled.erksoussi@sarc-sy.org, phone +963 958 500 800
- **Head of Operations:** Tammam Muhrez, email tammam.muhrez@sarc-sy.org, phone +963 953 666 635

At the IFRC:

- **IFRC Regional Office for MENA:**
 - Dr. Hosam Faysal, Regional Head of Health, Disasters, Climate & Crises (HDCC) Unit, email hosam.faysal@ifrc.org, phone +961 71 802 916
 - Nader Bin Shamlan, Operations Coordinator, email Nader.BINSHAMLAN@ifrc.org, phone +961 81 131 074
- **IFRC Syria Country Delegation:** Mads Brinch Hansen, Head of Delegation, email mads.brinch@ifrc.org, phone: +963 959 999 869
- **IFRC Geneva:** Rena Igarashi, Operations Coordination Senior Officer, email rena.igarashi@ifrc.org, phone +41 79 960 2532

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for MENA:** Francesco Volpe, Regional Head of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships, email francesco.volpe@ifrc.org, phone +961 70 146 103

For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Global Logistics Services:** Goran Boljanovic, Head of Unit, Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management (GHS & SCM), MENA, email goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org, phone +36 20 453 6960

Reference



Click here for:

- [Link to IFRC Emergency landing page](#)