



SARC volunteers participating in search and rescue efforts beneath a collapsed building in Aleppo.

Photo: Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

Appeal No: MDRSY009	To be assisted: 2.5 million people	Appeal launched: 07/02/2023
Glide No: EQ-2023-000015-SYR	DREF allocated: CHF 2,000,000	Disaster Categorization: RED
Operation start date: 06/02/2023	Operation end date: 28/02/2025	

IFRC Secretariat Funding requirement: CHF 100 million
Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 200 million

TIMELINE



6 February 2023: Syria has been struck with 2 earthquakes, one of 7.7 magnitude originating from Gaziantep (Turkey) at 04:17 and another of 7.5 magnitude from Kharamanmaras (Turkey) at 13:24

7 February 2023: 2 million CHF allocated from IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the immediate response of Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to the earthquake affected people.

8 February 2023: IFRC Surge Capacity deployed Head of Emergency Operations (HEOps) and Health Coordinator. Shelter Coordinator, Communication Coordinator, PMER Coordinator, and Supply Chain Coordinator in pipeline.

16 February 2023: The Emergency Appeal was revised and scaled up to CHF 200 million Federation-wide funding requirement, extended to 24 months, to reach 2.5 million affected people.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Scope and Scale

On 6 February 2023, at 04:17 am, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck southern and central Turkey and northern and western Syria. A second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude followed at 13:24. As a result, many buildings collapsed amidst already vulnerable living situations and very harsh weather conditions. As of 21 February 2023, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported that 1,414 people lost their lives, 2,357 people were injured, and more than six million people are affected in Syria, including more than 300,000 displaced people. Major infrastructure damage has been witnessed with 276 destroyed buildings and more than 300 partially damaged, in addition to the complete destruction of 248 schools. Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (SARC) also suffered some losses where 1 of their facilities was destroyed and 8 were partially damaged.¹ The earthquakes have already impacted local markets (supply, accessibility, etc.), and prices of basic goods are increasing.

The impacted areas are affected by the long-standing crises that have majorly affected Syria's infrastructure, provision of essential services, and economic status with a very vulnerable population that has already limited resilience to withstand an emergency of this scale. The local economy is plummeting and the capacity of all public services and sectors (including health and civil defense) as well as the resources in-country are limited and unable to tackle such a large-scale emergency.

The Government's civil defense, health services and critical infrastructure such as water and sanitation are overwhelmed or unable to function at full capacity. Urban areas have also been severely damaged, with already collapsed infrastructure and substandard housing stocks to host the vast population needing safe accommodation in small and medium-scale cities. This is resulting in population movement between governorates and into governorates not directly affected by the earthquake.

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 significant electricity,

fuel, and water shortages in the aftermath of a 12-year-long protracted crisis. A devastating economic and financial situation, also exacerbated by imposed sanctions, led to spiraling inflation and a currency plunge which left most of the Syrian population unable to provide for their basic needs. This includes the many communities that are hosting people displaced by the earthquake and whose coping capacities and resilience are being further depleted due to the compound multiple crises.

Additionally, the northern and northwestern areas of Syria were the hotspots of a large-scale Cholera outbreak in September 2022. The outbreak has been largely attributed to a very fragile infrastructure system and a large gap in the capacities of the health system to cope with increasing and newly emerging vulnerabilities.

Severity of humanitarian conditions

The Syrian crisis is considered one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies, with a significant percentage of the population suffering from multiple vulnerabilities with several acute crises on top of the 12-year protracted crises. This protracted crisis and economic collapse have left more than 15.3 million people in constant need of humanitarian assistance.

Around 293,000 people living in the affected area have lost access to a safe and adequate shelter due to the earthquakes. The majority had their house destroyed or damaged, as well as loss of their winter clothes and all household items.

Therefore, these people are being exposed to below-zero degrees Celsius temperature with a high likelihood to be affected by sickness. Crowded community shelters may be lacking sufficient water and sanitation facilities which could lead to further health risks.

Most of those who lost their houses are now hosted by family or community households, with a risk of overcrowding and loss of privacy, or in collective shelters such as schools, with lack of access to basic services, or still live in their houses at risk of collapses.

¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/2/12/turkey-syria-earthquake-live-news-death-toll-tops-29000>

Food and immediate needs

Most affected households need food and non-food items (NFIs) basic household items as their priority needs. While food insecurity pre-dated the earthquake, the situation has worsened as the earthquake left thousands of households unable to access food and livelihoods. As such, the provision of food and assistance for basic needs remains a priority.

Health

In addition to some 1,414 people who lost their lives, the earthquake left more than 2,357 people injured, some severely (21/2/2023). The need for emergency health services is critical, including the deployment of health teams to provide services in affected locations and referring serious cases to better-equipped facilities in other locations. There is also a need to provide health teams and health facilities with medicines, medical supplies, and equipment. Initial analysis indicates that some health facilities have been damaged with those still functioning, overwhelmed with patients as they were already operating at a limited capacity due to pre-existing challenges. Overcrowded shelters and disruption of essential health services due to damage and destruction of health facilities are increasing the risk of acute watery diarrhea/cholera considering the already active outbreak before the earthquakes, COVID-19, and other respiratory infections, waterborne diseases, measles, and non-communicable diseases. There is also increased morbidity and risk of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth due to interrupted obstetric and neonatal services. Therefore, there is a need to support the rehabilitation and equipment of health facilities.

Signs of acute distress, fear, grief, survivor guilt, and panic among the affected people were noticed by the SARC psychosocial teams including women and children. The earthquake did not only cause severe mental anguish to affected people who lost their close family members, homes, and livelihoods, but also to those whose underlying psychosocial issues have been escalated by the disaster/emergency. People who have experienced extremely distressing events or repeated stress are more likely to have long-lasting impacts for months or even years to come unless more mental health and psychosocial support services including referral to specialized services as needed are urgently provided alongside humanitarian assistance.

Water and sanitation

Initial reports indicate that water and sanitation facilities and pipelines of houses in areas affected by high-intensity shock are either damaged or destroyed. The earthquake has also damaged community water and sanitation facilities. As such, the provision of safe water (including via water trucking to shelters for persons displaced or establishing water points where surface water is easily accessible) closer to the affected locations is needed in the immediate term. There is also a need for emergency sanitation facilities at some community shelters. In the medium-term, support for rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities will be crucial to enabling a swift recovery and resilience strengthening. There is also a need to provide affected households with water storage containers, water purification tablets (for household water treatment, where necessary), and hygiene items that meet the needs of all groups, including the provision of appropriate sanitary materials for menstrual hygiene management. The risk of communicable diseases, such as the spread of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD), is elevated in the context where water and sanitation facilities have been damaged and people are living in camp-like conditions. It is crucial that hygiene promotion efforts, linked to health awareness, be increased.

Shelter, Housing and Settlements

Assessments show that approximately 276 buildings have been destroyed or damaged (till 16/2/2023). Observations by the Red Cross Red Crescent multisector team deployed to affected areas also point a significant impact on houses, with shelter repair projected to form a major part of the operation. There is a need for emergency shelter assistance in the immediate term to ensure that survivors are protected from other elements. This includes support to households hosting those who have been displaced by the earthquake. Host families may be outside areas most affected by the quake. Support for repairs and recovery needs to be provided alongside emergency shelter assistance as winter continues for the coming month. Urban areas have also faced significant damage. Currently, debris and rubble removal from collapsed buildings and restoring full access to humanitarian services are among the top priority needs (OCHA 26/02/2023). In the city of Aleppo, seven neighborhoods withstand damages to 11-20% of their built areas and eight neighborhoods bear damages of 5-11% (WFP 14/02/2023). Furthermore, collective shelters face multiple challenges, including overcrowding, unsafe

building infrastructure, lack of electricity and lighting in latrines, security, and privacy concerns, lack of gender-separated toilets, poor access to energy, and severe damage to water and sewage networks.

Livelihoods

The major destruction and damage to houses, buildings and infrastructure have limited the access to livelihoods among affected populations. People who were already in debt will struggle to repay due to a reduced means of income. There is, therefore, a need to support the re-establishment of livelihoods utilizing in-kind or Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA).

Education

Initial analysis indicates that many schools, and their water and sanitation facilities, have been damaged. Consequently, there is a need to support the rehabilitation and equipment of education facilities. Support for items that will enable boys and girls to attend lessons while considering their unique needs, such as menstrual hygiene management items for girls, is also necessary.

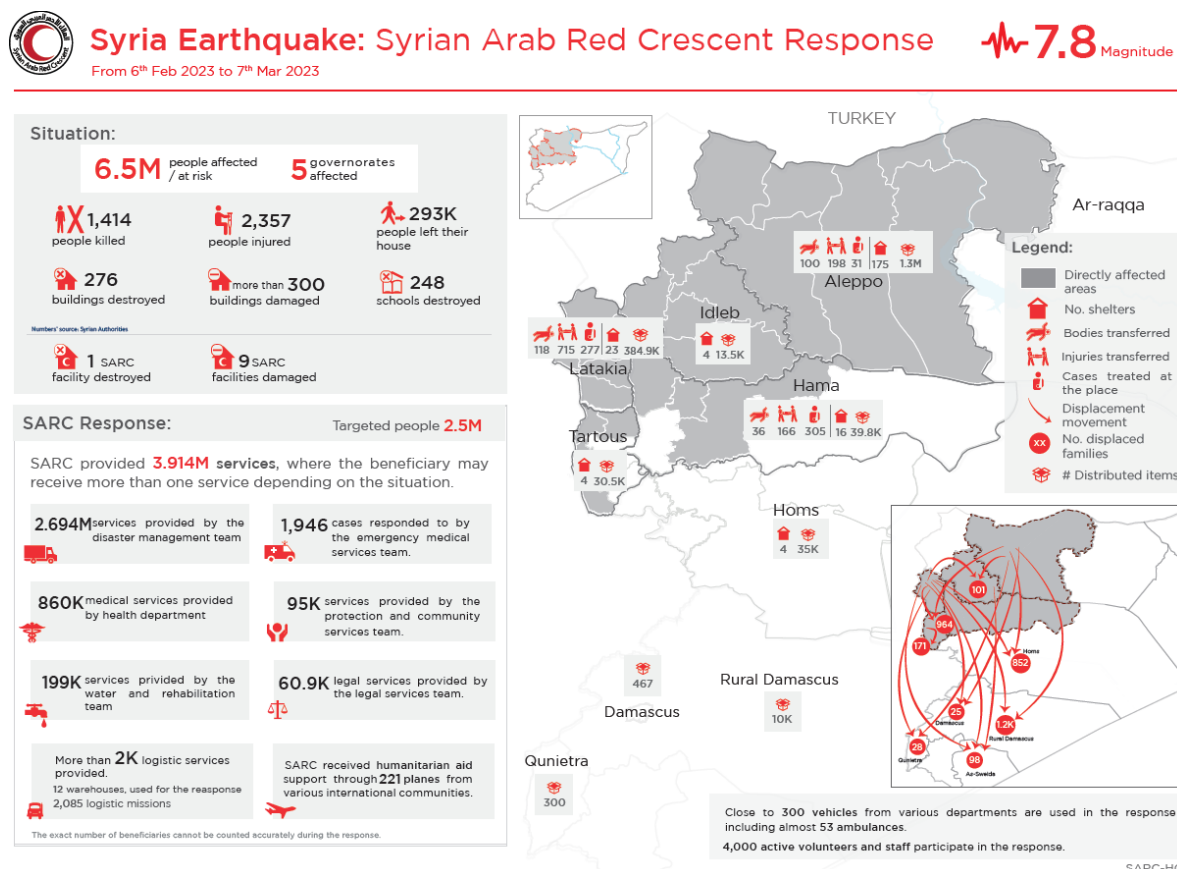
Preparedness and strengthening local response capacity.

The earthquake struck after 04:10 local time when people were asleep. The first responders came from the affected communities and included community members, the local business community, local authorities, staff, and volunteers of SARC-affected branches, and community-based organisations, among others. The earthquake is a jolting reminder of the need to invest in readiness. As such, in addition to addressing the immediate, medium-term, and recovery needs of affected communities within their wider resilience needs, it is of paramount importance that a portion of resources obtained for the operation is allocated to preparedness and strengthening local response capacity.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

1. National Society response capacity

1.1 National Society capacity and ongoing response



SARC, headquartered in Damascus, has a network of 14 branches across all the governorates of Syria and 94 sub-branches, of which 73 is active, operated by 5,818 staff and 12,239 active volunteers. SARC has expertise in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Disaster Management (DM), Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), and Rehabilitation, Health, Protection and Community Services. Since 2011, SARC has scaled up its work in response to the protracted crisis and provides humanitarian assistance to more than five million internally displaced people, affected communities, refugees, and returnees annually. As auxiliary to the public authorities, SARC serves as the lead humanitarian agency in the country, as agreed upon by the Movement's partners in a signed Letter of Understanding in 2012, as well as by Syria's national coordinator for humanitarian aid, mandated by the Government of Syria in 2008. SARC is well recognized by the public authorities and is one of the key members of the National Humanitarian and Disaster Response Committee both at the national as well as provincial levels. As the lead humanitarian actor in Syria, SARC is working closely with the line ministries of the government. Together with Movement partners, United Nations agencies, and international and local non-governmental organizations, SARC through a network of 146 static and mobile health facilities provided life-saving health services to up to two million patients in 2021. SARC has also been able to reach 80% of the Syrian population with safe and clean water through the treatment and maintenance of damaged water infrastructure.

SARC began responding to the needs of the affected population immediately after the earthquake, supported by a swift allocation of two million Swiss Francs by the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Between 6th and 10 March, SARC provided 4.198 million various services covering humanitarian needs. In addition to supporting search and rescue and the evacuation of people from collapsed and unsafe buildings, SARC has distributed (505,857) non-food items (NFIs), provided nutrition screening (311,165), WASH (349,701 services/items), and food (634,359 items). EMS teams have provided treatment and medical transfer to (1,910 people); and provided treatment by mobile health units to (38,573 people) and outreach by reproductive health teams, health and first aid sessions, as well as safety awareness messaging on earthquakes. The Restoring Family Links services received 46 cases of which 30 were successfully closed, and there has been the provision of psychological support, especially for children, in hospitals and shelters. There has been an ongoing assessment of shelter needs and maintenance for the provision of safe shelters in addition to rapid assessments of water and sanitation infrastructure. Protection and community services were provided services for 50,186 people in the affected governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Latakia, Tartous, and Idleb. SARC received humanitarian aid support from more than 200 planes from various international communities and has deployed 300 vehicles including 53 ambulances with 4,000 volunteers and staff actively engaged in the response across the affected areas where SARC has access.

Between 2021-2022, SARC conducted a Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) Analysis in Aleppo, Hama, Quneitra, Homs, Tartous, and Latakia and developed the Branch Development Roadmap, the Strategic Plan 2020-2022, and the draft Strategy for 2023-2027, to be approved this year. The National Society has already identified the PER's response mechanism for strengthening the National Society in some of these branches affected by earthquakes.

SARC Branches Development Steering Committee has identified focus components related to the roadmap and the characteristics of a well-functioning branch, held several internal discussions, and identified focus components for the in-depth evidence gathering at HQ and branches. The complementarities of methodologies and purposes of Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification, Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment, NSD, and DRM capacity strengthening processes of SARC have strategically involved key stakeholders that were currently supporting the NS Capacity Strengthening process.

In the end of January 2023, SARC went through the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) health check assessment and Digital Transformation maturity QuickScan, focusing on the HQ operational capacities for the IT infrastructure, business continuity, policies, and data protection measures, as well as data and information management. Through this activity, several components were under focus for hindering and impacting SARC operations and business continuity, and a remediation plan was developed with the support of IFRC country and

regional delegations to eliminate single points of failure, reduce operational risks, implement data protection measures and policies and to enhance the inter-department cooperation by reviewing IT department roles and responsibilities and upskilling its human resources capacities and knowledge.

SARC has been supporting the affected Syrian people with Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in more than eight out of fourteen governorates since 2019, and cash programmes have been active through different delivery mechanisms (cash through remittance company, cash on bank counter, paper voucher, and E-voucher). SARC's Cash and Voucher Assistance Unit has ongoing CVA operations in Aleppo, Homs, and Rural Damascus and has previously responded to large-scale natural disasters (wildfires) in Latakia, Tartus, and Homs. Moreover, CVA capacity building is still ongoing, alongside more than 20 projects with CVA components implemented in the last couple of years, reaching more than 50 000 families in different sectors (Livelihoods, protection, education, food, and MPC).

1.2 Capacity and response at national level

Since the onset of the emergency, the Government of Syria has set up an emergency operation centre, and regular meetings are being held with the active involvement of the main humanitarian actors to coordinate the emergency response operations. The role of the SARC as an auxiliary to the public authorities is embedded within the national emergency response operations. SARC carries out its work as Syria's national coordinator for humanitarian aid and is engaged in the coordination mechanism. SARC response operations are developed in coordination with the government, complementing and contributing directly to the government's response plan with the support of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, UN agencies, governments of different countries, the private sector, etc. According to official estimates, five million affected people are at risk and require support to cope with the consequences of the devastating earthquake in Syria, in addition to the impacts of the protracted crisis.

2. International capacity and response

2.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

IFRC membership

The IFRC has been present in Syria supporting SARC in the implementation of its humanitarian work since the mid-1990s and established a permanent representation office in 2007. Over the course of the last two decades, IFRC has provided technical support to SARC in implementing its programmes.

IFRC supports SARC in its lead role within the Movement through the implementation of regular coordination meetings. Regular sectoral coordination meetings also take place ensuring solid technical coordination. On-demand, IFRC's Global Humanitarian Services, and Supply Chain Management are providing international procurement services to Participating National Societies (PNS) through its established supply chain.

The IFRC mandate is to strengthen SARC's operational and structural capacity for a continued and efficient humanitarian response through technical support, as well as long-term sustainability through capacity building and organizational development for SARC's headquarters and branches. IFRC Syria Country Delegation maintains close collaboration with SARC and aims to continue the provision of technical support to SARC's range of services including disaster management, livelihoods, health, water and sanitation, community services, community engagement, inclusiveness, and accountability (CEA), and NSD. The Country Delegation also coordinates and collaborates closely in a Movement context which is complementary to the IFRC membership coordination. The Membership Coordination Meetings, where ICRC has observer status, take place daily bringing together representatives of SARC, IFRC, and in-country Participating National Societies, to ensure good sharing of information, joint planning, efficient coordination of resources and aligned strategies related to partners' support to SARC's.

Currently, 8 Participating National Societies are present in Syria including the British, Canadian, Danish, French, German, Norwegian, Swedish, and Swiss Red Cross Societies. Furthermore, before the earthquake, the Austrian, Australian, Finnish, Italian, Japanese, and Netherlands Red Cross Societies also engaged through the IFRC, or remotely from regional representations in Beirut and their headquarters.

ICRC

Present in Syria since 1967, the ICRC is a neutral, impartial, and independent organization with an exclusively humanitarian mission. The ICRC works closely with and supports SARC to meet the food, water, and health needs of people and communities affected by the escalating violence and hostilities in both emergencies and to help them start rebuilding their lives. They work together to raise awareness about the risks of mines and other explosive remnants. The ICRC works to restore links between families who have been separated by conflict and migration, visits prisons, and promotes respect for international humanitarian law. The ICRC also provides advice and support to local authorities and forensics practitioners in managing human remains with respect and dignity. The ICRC's operation in Syria is one of the largest in the world, with approximately 850 staff working in its offices in Damascus, Aleppo, Hassakeh, Homs, and Tartous.

In cooperation with SARC, the ICRC teams have responded to the immediate needs of those affected by the earthquake in Aleppo, Latakia, and Hama. The ICRC has provided safe and clean water and canned food, blankets, mattresses, and hygiene kits to collective shelters, and rehabilitation of shelters. In terms of health response, the ICRC has supplied some hospitals in the earthquake-affected areas with surgical materials and medical equipment.

Movement Coordination

The Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) initiative is applied by all Movement partners in Syria. The objective of SMCC is to improve the way Movement partners work together and enhance coordination and cooperation, especially in response to large-scale emergencies.

In line with Seville Agreement 2.0, SARC has entrusted the role of convener for all aspects of the response and has the central role in co-creating, delivering, and coordinating the Movement's collective response, in accordance with its operational plans and capacity. In that essence, a mini-summit was convened on 2 March.

SARC, IFRC, and ICRC are making efforts to implement the SMCC for a coherent and complementary response to humanitarian needs arising from multiple factors including economic crises, drought, COVID-19, acute watery diarrhea, armed conflict, and now the earthquakes. This includes promoting common planning and analysis, coordinated activities, and utilizing the specific expertise of respective Movement components to optimize the reach and quality of humanitarian assistance.

2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response

Preceding the earthquake, several humanitarian agencies were present in Syria with established coordination mechanisms through a clustering system covering the whole of Syria from the ongoing protracted crisis, including the recent cholera outbreak response. SARC is the main humanitarian partner for the UN and other organizations, implementing the majority of the humanitarian services throughout the country. The UN Flash Appeal outlines the main efforts of the agencies and the Humanitarian. SARC sits in most of the clustering groups as a co-leading or main strategic implementing partner to ensure strong coordination and collaboration.

3. Gaps in the response

The impact of the earthquake is an emergency within a wider catastrophic humanitarian crisis affecting Syria. The earthquake has added an additional layer of a shock to communities that were already struggling to cope. The authorities and humanitarian organizations mounted a swift response to the earthquake. With search and rescue efforts concluded, the gaps are in immediate needs including food assistance, cash assistance, emergency

shelter, essential household items, emergency health, Mental Health and community-based psychosocial support, emergency WASH support, and addressing the protection needs of children and women. Gaps in medium-term needs include support for shelter repair and rebuilding, livelihoods recovery, and supporting rehabilitation as well as equipment for education, health, and WASH facilities, not forgetting the food security and basic needs for the families and communities till they start to recover and restore their own resilience.

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

1. Economy

The depreciation of the Syrian pound, high inflation, and increases in the prices of commodities (for example an 87% increase in the price of the average food basket last year and a Minimum Expenditure Basket 11 times more than the minimum wage in December 2022) will increase the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance. Severe electricity and fuel shortages and very high transportation costs are additional challenge for the operation.

2. Access

A big part of the most impacted areas is in the regions of Northwest Syria, which have difficult access to many heavily affected communities due to the hostilities. Accordingly, it is challenging to assess the full extent of the damage and to understand the needs. SARC continues its physical and operational presence in the areas of Idlib under the control of the Syrian Government. Accessing hard-to-reach areas is under negotiation to facilitate crossline relief. Access to the earthquake-affected areas is challenging due to damaged roads and infrastructure and winter conditions. This is compounded by the lack of availability of transportation, fuel, and machinery for excavation, and has further hampered search and rescue efforts and the distribution and transfer of needed items and personnel.

3. Security

In areas affected by the earthquakes, localized (unruly) discontent with the disaster/humanitarian response may occur, as aid may not be timely reaching each affected individual or community in addition to the fact that it is hard to distinguish between people affected from the earthquakes and those affected by the 12 years of conflict. Further, safety-related issues may arise due to damaged infrastructure such as roads, bridges, buildings, water supply, and healthcare facilities. Road safety presents a considerable concern because of road conditions, weather conditions, vehicle road worthiness, and driving habits. The earthquakes have rendered many buildings and bridges in the affected areas unsafe for habitation. Also, other infrastructure has been negatively impacted by the tremors.

4. Sanctions

The ongoing sanctions in Syria may have an adverse impact on the humanitarian response and present challenges in the procurement of goods and services. Current sanctions have put humanitarian activities and principles under pressure; however, some exemptions have been granted for humanitarian response to the earthquake. It may be necessary to obtain authorizations for the import of certain goods, and IFRC hopes that the relevant arrangements will be expedited to facilitate a rapid response. The U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued Syria General License (GL) 23, which authorizes for 180 days all transactions related to earthquake relief that would be otherwise prohibited by the Syrian Sanctions Regulations (SySR). OFAC's GL 23 provides the broad authorization necessary to support immediate disaster relief efforts in Syria. UK's Export Control Joint Unit's (ECJU) General License will extend the protection offered by the current humanitarian exception to petroleum prohibitions for UK-funded persons to all those conducting earthquake relief efforts in Syria and Turkey. This covers persons delivering the specified activities and their service providers. The EU has also amended restrictive measures in place regarding Syria to facilitate the speedy delivery of humanitarian aid, that applies for a period of 6 months.

5. SARC Response Capacity

SARC suffered some losses to physical infrastructure and assets in the affected areas, including one destroyed facility and eight partially damaged facilities. As SARC is pursuing its auxiliary role to the Government and its mandated role as an implementing partner for international and national organizations, this acute crisis further stretched SARC's financial and human resources. SARC's capacity to scale up this response is essential but also to recover existing capacities at the branch level. Therefore, IFRC supports SARC in coordination, technical, and logistical capacities to ensure scaling up of operations and response to this crisis including having the necessary human resources (staff and volunteers) in place. Furthermore, IFRC supports national society development and strengthening of SARC including to restore, build, recover and improve its own capacities.

FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH

The Emergency Appeal is part of a **Federation-Wide approach**, based on the response priorities of SARC and in consultation with all Federation members contributing to it, integrating holistic planning within the operational strategy, taking into consideration the programmatic sectorial experiences of in-country Partner National Societies with SARC, and assigning lead coordination positioning, in addition to utilizing surge personnel with relevant technical role profiles through the Rapid Response mechanism. The approach will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and will assist to leverage the capacities of all members of the IFRC network in the country, to maximize the collective humanitarian impact integrated under one plan. Furthermore, the approach will enhance a collective humanitarian diplomacy, and resource development by engaging the Membership in a spirit of shared leadership. This is in line with the Agenda for Renewal that places an increased emphasis on making the IFRC a more effective platform for international coordination of emergency operations, collective representation of the IFRC, policy discussions, and National Society development and capacity strengthening. The IFRC Syria Country Delegation and the MENA Regional Delegation in Beirut will provide qualified membership coordination and support effective Movement Coordination to reinforce the Red Pillar actions. The provision of front-line support to SARC will be strengthened to make the National Society more resilient and stronger in volunteering and its national network of branches and systems, including the development of financial capacities to sustain quality and relevant services in Syria after the response.

The Federation-wide funding requirement for this Emergency Appeal comprises of all support and funding to be channeled to the Operating National Society in the response to the emergency event. This includes the operating National Society's domestic fundraising ask, the fundraising ask of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the funding ask of the IFRC secretariat.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Vision

The IFRC is taking on a key supporting coordinating role in the Syria earthquake response, harmonizing the implementation support of multiple member National Societies with in-country presence and long-term programming. This coordination role will enable strong technical support in the emergency phase and in the transition to longer-term resilience building. IFRC as per the mandate is also supporting SARC to enhance its response capacities and strengthen the organization.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is the leading humanitarian organization in Syria responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people in times of crises and emergencies. In addition, SARC supports affected people in recovering from the effects of crises and emergencies according to the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross

and Red Crescent Movement using the latest methods in governance and accountability towards affected populations and donors.

The Emergency Appeal is connected to the IFRC unified plan, and at the end of 2023, the two operational plans will begin harmonizing into one country plan. SARC's long-term priorities are within the earthquake response plan, and the IFRC Emergency Appeal reflects this, and in 2024, the country plan will reflect the earthquake long term resilience activities. At the end of 2024, the operation will transition to one country plan.

Anticipated climate-related risks and adjustments in operation

Key climate-related risks in northern Syria include riverine and overland flooding, landslides, water scarcity, extreme heat, and wildfires.

In the short-term, low temperatures are anticipated (night-time temperatures below 10 C) until mid-April. Spring rainfall creates a risk potential for flooding and landslides. The strategy will then have to shift to managing extreme summer temperatures that could pose a risk to the elderly, pregnant women, infants, and those with compromised health. Low precipitation and high temperatures increase the risk of wildfires and exacerbate the drought conditions already being experienced in the region.

Given the vulnerability of the impacted population, the large geography of the operation, climate change making seasonal hazards more difficult to anticipate, and ongoing and localized hazards, a vulnerability and risk assessment are required. IFRC and SARC will design their interventions with a climate-smart approach and integrate climate and disaster risk assessments including the protection of the environment throughout planned operations.

Targeting

1. People to be assisted

SARC serves a diverse range of communities with a focus on addressing the vital needs of those hardest to reach and most affected groups. In general, the main target groups for this response include, but are not limited to, displaced people in displacement centres and host communities (including host communities in governorates not directly affected by the earthquake), and those who experienced a loss of services due to the disaster or the displacement it caused, including flexibility to support families/communities in extreme poverty not linked directly to the earthquake. The assistance includes relief goods, food, NFI, health, livelihoods, cash, shelter solutions, and WASH.

2. Considerations for protection, gender and inclusion

Protection issues disproportionately affect women, children, adolescent boys and girls, older persons, people living with disabilities (almost 24% of the overall Syrian population), marginalized and socially excluded people and groups. These groups also faced barriers to accessing services before the current emergency. Prior to this emergency, approximately 74% of people in need of humanitarian assistance were women and children. Where gender, age and disability intersect, these protection risks are compounded. Growing poverty across Syria has put a strain on families and households and has led to an increase in harmful coping mechanisms.


3. Community engagement and accountability

While responding to a crisis, agencies do not always prioritize fundamental approaches in delivering rapid aid such as **community engagement, quality of services and accountability**. SARC and IFRC will ensure that communities are involved in the full project management cycle including needs assessments, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Community engagement and accountability tools such as feedback


mechanisms, communication, and ensuring the inclusion of marginalized groups will be mainstreamed in all appeal approaches ensuring that interventions are tailored to community needs and address practical needs, and that they evolve over time in line with the expressed needs of the supported communities.


PLANNED OPERATIONS

INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

 Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 13,601,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	Total target: 2.5 million
Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emergency phase: Communities in crisis-affected areas restore and strengthen their safety through emergency shelter and household items provision. 2. Resilience building: Meet the medium-term shelter needs and urban resilience in line with principles of dignity, protection, and an integrated approach. 		
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct emergency needs assessments and multi-sectoral needs assessments to inform response options and strategies. 2. Coordinate rapid damage assessments with the authorities and qualified structural experts on key intervention areas and on the SARC-supported collective centers hosting affected people. 3. Provide winterization and relief household items based on priorities identified such as thermal blankets, kitchen sets, and heating stoves/heaters, bedding units/mattresses, clothing for both winter and summer conditions. 4. Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys on the support provided when the situation allows. 5. Provide emergency shelter solutions for both rural and urban areas, based on the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cash for accommodation/cash for rent/ utilities only if housing units have been identified/vetted as safe; light repairs of collective shelters and materials and kits to erect internal partitions in collective centres for privacy/protection and heating inside collective centres. b. Improvement of collective accommodation, shelter kits+ roofing materials for repairable buildings. 6. Conduct a market assessment of the rental accommodations available in the targeted location. 7. Define the cash for rent/repair strategy and modalities and development of templates. 8. Improve temporary and adapted shelter solutions for people who are severely injured/referred by hospitals or persons with disabilities. 9. Coordinate with shelter cluster agencies and governorate-level local high relief committees on shelter strategy/solutions and actions. 		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Raise awareness and train volunteers, staff, and affected populations in the best use of in-kind assistance (repair materials) and in safe sheltering practices. 11. Replenish and pre-position shelter and non-food items distributed from existing SARC stocks in order to maintain readiness to respond to crises and disasters. 12. Improve and increase collaboration with communities, development actors, and coordination with local authorities in priority urban areas. 13. Minor repair and improvement of collective centers and buildings/flats allocated to IDPs.
--	--

 Livelihoods	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	23,175,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	Total target: 2.5 million
Objective:	Communities in crisis-affected areas and the displaced can cover their immediate food needs, and protect and build resilient livelihoods		
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide food assistance in the form of ready to eat meals and standard food parcels. 2. Replenish and pre-position standard and ready to eat food parcels distributed from existing SARC stocks in order to maintain response readiness. 3. Undertake livelihood assessment to assess the impact of the disaster and the response options. 4. Enhance SARC capacity improving their skills and train the volunteers involved in the response in livelihoods programming. 5. Support affected households to protect their livelihoods and/or replace productive assets to recover their source of income (potentially through CVA assistance based on feasibility study). 6. Integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into livelihoods protection and strengthening interventions to build the longer-term resilience of the affected population. 7. Coordination with Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Movement, and non-Movement partners and IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre. 8. Conduct monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning actions that ensure effectiveness and relevance of the interventions such as baselines, post distribution monitoring and end lines. 9. Provide SARC Livelihoods Unit with resources and technical support at HQ and branch level to develop livelihoods interventions complementing SARC strategic priorities and wider humanitarian response. 		

 Multi-purpose Cash	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 16,039,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	Total target: 500,000
Objective:	The affected households are provided with unconditional multipurpose cash assistance to address their basic needs (life-saving and longer-term) in an accountable and participatory manner.		
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate on the national level with the national Cash Working Group (CGW) and other humanitarian actors regarding CVA programming (transfer value, installment, etc.) 2. Continuous capacity assessment of Financial Service Providers (FSP), market assessment and continuous market monitoring (liquidity and resources in affected areas). 3. Support registration of the affected population for the centralized database to inform future programming and avoid duplication. 4. Distribute multipurpose cash assistance for the affected population to meet basic needs. 5. Monitoring and evaluation of CVA activities (PDM, endline). 6. Integrate risk communication and community engagement (key messages) with affected populations into CVA programming and facilitate referrals to other SARC services such as health and protection. 7. Build the capacity of SARC volunteers and staff on CVA and Rapid Market Assessment (RAM). 		

HEALTH & CARE INCLUDING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

 Health & Care <i>(MHPSS / Community and Public Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 10,863,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	Total target: 2.5 million
Objective:	Restored access of affected populations to essential health care services (emergency, primary, secondary, community/public health) including mental health and psychosocial support.		
Priority Actions:	Emergency health preparedness and response at the community level <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and improve public health of the affected and host populations through targeted community-based health activities. 2. Establish and ensure consistency of community-based health and first aid committees in communal shelters to identify and reduce public health risks. 3. Promote social and behaviour change to improve health and prevent diseases in affected communities. 		

4. Prevent, detect, and respond to diseases with epidemic potential in coordination with the Ministry of Health and other health actors.

Improve access to primary and secondary health services

5. Provide primary health care services to displaced and host populations through medical outreach services, including through mobile health units (MHU) and mobile medical teams (MMT).
6. Provide primary health care services to the affected population through existing SARC health facilities and expand services and/or health centres based on needs and gaps assessment.
7. Provide essential medicines and medical consumables for primary and secondary health care services delivery.
8. Extend integrated health programmes (e.g., nutrition; reproductive, maternal, and child health; and epidemic/pandemic-related health care services) to populations affected by the crisis.
9. Provide quality secondary healthcare services to all people in affected governorates via field hospitals or other modalities such as targeted cash and voucher assistance.
10. Improve the capacity of SARC hospitals to provide specialized medical services with required medical equipment.

Provide Emergency Medical Services

11. Improve the capacity of SARC Emergency Medical Services to deliver services in affected communities through training, equipment, hardware, and software.

Improve access to MHPSS services

12. Provide mental health services through SARC health facilities and strengthen referral pathways to specialized psychosocial support services.
13. Provide basic and focused psychosocial support services for men, women, boys and girls, including educational services to children and case management in community centers, in shelters, and through mobile teams.

Support physical rehabilitation for people living with disabilities.

14. Support physical rehabilitation of people with injuries and other disabilities in the earthquake-affected area.

Medical Logistics

15. Enhance SARC medical logistics capacities including support for the further modification/development of SARC's Pharmacy Health Information System.


Health Information System (HIS)


16. Improve running and oversight of health services by improving, where necessary the SARC health facilities' health information system.

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 5,964,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	Total target: 2.5 million
Objective:	Reduced the risk of waterborne diseases and ensured the dignity of the affected population through the provision of inclusive WASH services.		
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake a continuous assessment of WASH needs in coordination with other sectors. 2. Deliver hygiene promotion activities awareness raising and sensitizing the affected population on water-borne diseases and cholera prevention. 3. Distribute essential WASH items including hygiene kits, dignity kits, cleaning kits, and culturally appropriate Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits. 4. Provide access to lifesaving/emergency water, sanitation, solid waste management and vector control in designated shelters and facilities. 5. Ensure access to safe drinking water via water trucking services and distribution of water bottles in the areas where the water infrastructure has suffered damages. 6. Repair, rehabilitate and provide operational support to water systems, sanitation/sewage systems and solid waste management systems. Include GBV and PSEA risk mitigation are well addressed in wash facilities. 7. Support to WASH facilities and services including medical waste management in health care facilities, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH). 8. Support WASH facilities and services in schools, in close coordination with Ministry of Education (MoE). 9. Enhance capacities of SARC staff and volunteers on emergency WASH topics including assessments, hygiene promotion, and different WASH interventions via various capacity building modalities. 10. Coordinate WASH interventions with the relevant ministries and through the clusters, technical working groups and other agencies. 		


PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

(PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA), MIGRATION, RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RECOVERY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, EDUCATION)


 Protection, Gender, and Inclusion	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 1,715,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	Total target: 2.5 million
Objective:	To ensure that Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) is considered a safe and inclusive response, by strengthening SARC's PGI capacities, mainstreaming of PGI and safeguarding in relevant technical sectors, and strengthening of protection services.		
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate SARC's policies to its staff and volunteers (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Child Safeguarding, Code of Conduct) and support the application of PGI principles to respond to sensitive complaints during emergency response. 2. Conduct safeguarding assessments, PSEA assessments and Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis, and ensure referrals related to safeguarding allegations are survivor-centered, safe, and confidential through an updated referral pathway. 3. Provide essential protection services (such as case management, child protection, referral pathway mapping and restoring family links), to identify most vulnerable groups including child-headed households, unaccompanied and separated children, persons with disabilities, and female-headed households. 4. Support all units/sectors to ensure actions are informed by minimum PGI standards in emergencies (incl. the Standardization of SARC PGI-related tools, e. g. DAPS), and that planning measures respond to protection risks among elderly, persons and children with disabilities, lactating mothers, women and girls of reproductive age, ethnic and religious minorities, children in street situations, unaccompanied and separated children. 5. Enhance SARC's coordination with other Protection actors for the purpose of having a more synchronized approach and strengthening SARC's referrals systems. 		


 Community Engagement and Accountability	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 1,065,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	Total target: 2.5 million
Objective:	To support SARC emergency response operations are built on a thorough understanding of needs, priorities, and context while		

	providing ways to collaborate closely with affected people by integrating meaningful community engagement, timely and transparent communication, and feedback mechanisms for effective response.
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate the CEA approach across SARC response operations. 2. Improve the knowledge and capacity of staff and volunteers for effective engagement with affected people through trainings in CEA mechanisms, and digital feed-back solutions integrated with IM. 3. Establish a feedback mechanism (feedback desks, phone and internet-based channels) for the response operation in consultation with affected people, branch staff, and volunteer leaders. 4. Ensure a constant flow of information to the affected population through community committees, SARC staff and volunteers, about the response operations, plans, progress, activities, selection criteria, distribution processes, delays, challenges, and their entitlements. 5. Analyze, respond and act on feedback, adjust, and improve operations. 6. Update standard operational procedures for community feedback and management to guide CEA integration in the operations. 7. Involve communities in real-time and end-line evaluations.

 Migration	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 75,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	Total target: 100,000
Objective:	To reduce the vulnerability of the displaced and host communities, by providing assistance and protection through the existing and new SARC community centers/humanitarian service points (HSPs) and mobile teams as well as to finding durable solutions to ensure their safety and dignity for a resilient and sustainable future.		
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build the capacities of staff and volunteers to improve and strengthen their response to deliver assistance through community centers/Humanitarian Service Points (HSP) and mobile teams in line with the commitments of the IFRC Global Migration Strategy and Movement Frameworks. 2. Provide SARC with technical and financial support to scale up assistance for the displaced and host communities through SARC's existing and new community centers. 3. Support and facilitate access for the displaced and host communities to multi-sectoral assistance through referrals between SARC community centers and other SARC services such as health care, relief, WASH, 		

	<p>livelihoods including child protection, trafficking in persons), MHPSS, legal support, etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Ensure children on the move have access to protection and humanitarian assistance by responding to their priority needs and rights. 5. Strengthen the collaboration with local authorities, and humanitarian actors to provide a coordinated and comprehensive response (e.g., referral pathways). 6. Undertake assessment of IDPs movement and needs in coordination with other sectors.
--	---

	Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and Recovery	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 768,000 ²
		Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	Total target: TBD
Objective:		Strengthen resilience and capacities of disaster and crisis-affected communities through climate-smart community-based risk reduction actions informed by enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessments and advanced planning.		
Priority Actions:		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strengthen the capacity for Disaster Risk Management including disaster risk reduction, resilience building, and climate change adaptation.2. Engage with SARC in developing relevant scenarios to inform response/resilience planning and procedures, risk management, business continuity, and preparedness plans/agreements.3. DRR hazard, risk, and vulnerability assessment to inform response operations (with health, Shelter, PGI, and Ops)4. Support and develop plans for disaster management and preparedness by enhancing early warning systems and early action mechanisms.5. Analysis of hazard risk context and identifying high-risk areas.6. Develop intervention scenarios and contingency planning with local communities and testing.		

	Environmental Sustainability	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 107,000
		Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	
Objective:		The environmental impact of the operation is reduced with a focus on greener supply chain practices and procurement of locally produced items, effective waste management and		

² Disaster Risk Reduction measures and actions are mainstreamed in various sectors such as livelihoods and community led interventions.

	recycling, and environmental screening of longer-term sectoral interventions.
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train SARC staff and volunteers on the use of the NEAT+ (Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool) and Green Response Approach. 2. Procurement will prioritize local purchase and production as much as possible, to reduce the carbon footprint from transportation. Consideration will be given to reducing waste as much as possible, optimizing packaging and reducing single-use plastics.

Enabling approaches

 National Society Strengthening	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 14,910,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	
Objective:	<p>To reinforce SARC HQ and branch capacities to respond to the operation (repair structures) and enhance volunteer and staff competencies in preparedness and response and continued service delivery in an inclusive manner.</p> <p>SARC responds effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and its auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well-defined and recognized.</p>		
Priority Actions:	<p>SARC disaster management and operational capacity to respond to the emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen human (staff and volunteers), on finance, information management and logistics operational capacities of disaster management structures sub-branches and branches to ensure a timely and effective response. ▪ Support communities and households by raising awareness about disaster management and preparedness and support for small-scale disaster risk reduction measures. ▪ Strengthen and support SARC's disaster management and response capacities and take critical actions to enable immediate service delivery including establishment/support for Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and coordination. ▪ Enable SARC to implement branch Plan of Action based on Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessments, adjusted as needed to meet ongoing priorities of the emergency operation. ▪ Strengthening preparedness and branch-level activities in coordination with local urban authorities (evacuation, site selection & site planning, EWEA) 		


- Provide resources for critical DM needs across NS (HQ and Branch level) including systems and procedures equipment, and HR based on self-identified priorities and lessons learned from previous operations.
- Support SARC HQ and branches to ensure contingency planning, business continuity, and scenario planning are reviewed/updated as needed and relevant to the operational context.
- Contribute to re-building and equipping select branches.

NS Capacity Strengthening

- Strengthen HQ and Branch capacities relating to infrastructure (repair and maintenance, assets, systems) and IT and HR/Telecom.
- Support and strengthen the SARC's logistics capacity in terms of warehousing facilities and fleet, procurement, and overall supply chain management.
- Support SARC to further strengthen its IM functions into a comprehensive digitalized information management solutions that link services delivered and people reached with CEA and PMER.
- Support SARC to produce accurate and timely analyses at various levels (internal, Movement wide, partner specific etc.) to inform decision-making and reporting through the production of maps, charts, infographics, etc.
- Enhance financial management and reporting through necessary systems and trained personnel.
- Support resource mobilization and donor engagement (Resource Mobilisation strategy and plan, CRM system, core cost policy).
- HR support to SARC support services (IM, MEAL, Finance & Admin.) and CEA, RM necessary for the response.
- Establish and operate a centralized database for registration, targeting, the capture of needs assessment findings and information management, and improved referrals for persons assisted to multiple SARC services based on their individual needs.
- Develop an integration strategy for emergency response incorporating and adapting existing procedures to transition to resilience and aligning to the new SARC Strategic Plan 2023-2027.
- Activate the business continuity plan including areas related to SARC IT capacities, policy/procedures and reducing infrastructure risks, and protecting organizational data.

Volunteer Management

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit new volunteers as required and provide training including, Welcome SARC, CoC, First Aid, Safety and Security, PSEA etc. Standardize the volunteer management system incl reimbursement, online database, training of volunteers. Ensure volunteers' duty of care with insurance coverage, provision of equipment, protective clothing, and activation and expansion of volunteer solidarity mechanism. <p>Staff and volunteer well-being and duty of care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SARC staff and volunteers receive targeted MHPSS services to reduce the risk of negative social and mental health impacts of the work they carry out. Personnel wellbeing approaches are developed to provide ongoing support to frontline personnel and other responders.
--	--

 Coordination and Partnerships			CHF 1,068,000
Objective:	Ensure a well-coordinated emergency operation and availability of funding.		
Priority Actions:	<p>IFRC Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the IFRC membership in order to ensure a well-coordinated response to the earthquake. A Federation-wide approach will be maintained throughout planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation. Capture Bilateral and Multilateral support to SARC. Ensure the funding and implementation of the IFRC appeal and regularly produce information material, in close collaboration with IFRC Regional Offices as well as the Geneva Headquarters SEP department. <p>Movement Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen existing Movement Coordination mechanisms. <p>Fundraising and Engagement with external partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Joint Resource Mobilization Plan, in coordination with IFRC MENA, Europe and Geneva offices. Mobilize outreach to a wide range of movement and non-movement partners, including governments, the private sector, foundations, high-net-worth individuals and general public inside Syria, across ,MENA and internationally. 		

- Dissemination of key messages with international partners, media agencies, and through IFRC platforms in coordination with the communications surge to promote the Emergency Appeal.

Interagency Coordination

- Support SARC's already existing engagement with country-level coordination structures, including the Humanitarian Country Teams, inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and various clusters/sector working groups that exist in order to ensure the identification of gaps and facilitation of collaboration at the national level.
- Engage with coordination structures for NWS response to inform assessments, gap analysis, and response.
- Engage at Geneva and New York levels with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee structures to address operational constraints and promote collaborative action.


Grants Management:

- Ensure adherence to donor's requirements and conditions.
- Responding to donors' queries and requests for clarification.
- Ensure quality and timely reporting to donors.
- Through SARC collaborate with UN agencies and other international humanitarian actors to identify priorities and establish country-level collaborations.

Humanitarian Diplomacy and influencing

- Support SARC to develop humanitarian diplomacy key messages containing components of influencing, negotiating, communicating, and advocating as an integral part of daily actions in and out of Syria.
- Engage at Brussels, Geneva, and New York levels with diplomatic missions to highlight needs and concerns and align across IFRC and with ICRC to coordinate and support effective humanitarian diplomacy by National Societies with their governments on the Syria crisis.
- Make its utmost endeavors to support SARC for the potential crossline operations to deliver aid to NW regions assisting quake-affected people.
- IFRC will support SARC to have humanitarian access to areas where its presence is limited. For years, the IFRC has made this point clear to all parties in Syria. IFRC continues to advocate for increased humanitarian access to match the needs of all Syrians in need.
- Ensure quality assurance and accountability including Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Information Management, Risk Management (RM), and Community Engagement and Accountability.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting and monitoring of the operation will be carried out under IFRC monitoring and reporting standards. Regular updates will be issued during the operation's timeframe, including a final report. • Establish a Federation Wide PMER/IM/CEA/RM regional coordination group with full engagement and participation with SARC.
--	---

 IFRC Secretariat Services	Female > 18: TBD	Female < 18: TBD	CHF 10,650,000
	Male > 18: TBD	Male < 18: TBD	
Objective:	<p>The IFRC is working as one organization, delivering what it promises to National Societies and volunteers, and leveraging the strength of the communities with which they work as effectively and efficiently as possible. The Secretariat provides strategic orientation, facilitation, and coordination considering long-term positioning and further capacity development of the National Society. This will be done by building on existing structures for large-scale programming, toward strong guardianship and accountability for all programming. The IFRC Secretariat will facilitate channeling global resources to sustain the localized response and recovery efforts</p>		
Priority Actions:	<p>Human Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the staffing needs are met through timely and fast-tracked recruitment, immediate surge support, contract management, and HR support to the delegation and operation. • Ensure the safety of IFRC personnel through acceptable and reliable protective measures and enhance access to affected persons and communities. <p>Resource Mobilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate a joint resource mobilization strategy to ensure that outreach to Movement and non Movement partners, as well as the tracking of pledges and development of fundraising materials, is shared effectively and efficiently. <p>Safety and Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on SARC and IFRC security arrangements, update and ensure compliance with Minimum Security Requirements and Duty of Care, including specific security guidelines for select regions as needed. • Using SARC security guidance, provide adequate security for all personnel, assets, and operations under IFRC responsibility by ensuring safety and security risks are identified and treated. 		

Administration and Corporate Services

- Together with SARC ensure the effective and efficient provision of administrative and welcome services (transport, accommodation, visas, IT, and office facilities, etc.).
- Delivery of high-quality legal advisory services to IFRC Syria Country Delegation, and National Society, if needed, including Lebanon Delegation as needed as well
- Oversee business continuity at IFRC Syria and Lebanon Country Delegations and facilitate advice to the National Society, as needed, including support from the Regional Office as needed.

Logistics and Supply Chain Management

- Secure purchase/importation of fuel from Jordan, and other potential sources, for the operational need, as well as spare parts, lubricants, and tires for heavy fleets used for transport and distribution of humanitarian assistance in light of the temporary easing of sanctions,
- In coordination with SARC, support the overall coordination and management of the country and regional supply chain activities in line with the Federation's GLS Strategy. Including Lebanon Delegation as needed if goods are shipped via Beirut.
- Ensure procurement objectives are met with the aim to optimize service quality and cost/commercial effectiveness, and make use of the suspension of some sanctions as some are time-limited.
- Ensure procurement of the items is done according to both National Society procedures and IFRC standards, in close coordination with IFRC Secretariat's Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management (GHS & SCM), utilizing if required IFRC GHS & SCM structures and existing regional arrangements.
- Support rapid light fleet deployment for IFRC/NS operations with the aim to facilitate the movement of operational staff through the provision of IFRC VRP services or the provision of locally rented vehicles. This includes Syria and Lebanon, as delegates transit via Beirut airport.

Communications

- Developing a communications and visibility action plan that aligns with the priorities identified in this operational strategy including key messages that showcase the work of SARC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Including coordination with Lebanon Delegation when needed.
- Contribute to, influencing, and leading advocacy in media and social media platforms about SARCs and the Membership priorities and challenges.
- Enhance the capacity of SARC's communication team at HQ and Branch levels, through capacity-building (digital storytelling, media relations, strategic communications, etc.), and equipping them with the necessary equipment and means.

Quality Assurance and Accountability including Planning Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Information Management, Risk Management (RM) and Community Engagement and Accountability

- Reports are timely shared with relevant partners, and donors and disseminated among relevant stakeholders for revisions, approvals, and communication with donors and partners.
- Data collection is mainstreamed, knowledge is captured, and lessons learned are well documented and communicated.
- Capture evidence-based good practices across several thematic areas and undertake real-time evaluations to inform adjustments to the response strategy.
- Risk management matrix and registers are created and updated regularly for the disaster, Syria, and MENA Region.
- Create a comprehensive digitalized monitoring system that links CEA, IM, and PMER with the use of data collection applications and analysis platforms to provide accurate and timely analyses to inform decision-making.

Risk Management

Threats	Situation	Risk	Mitigation
Direct or indirect violent attacks	Multiple armed groups are still present in Syria, although the hazards and risks are reduced compared to previous years. In the earthquake operations area, there are no or limited direct threats.	Moderate risk	SARC access and acceptance is strong. Area-specific Security Risk Assessments are undertaken, and risk mitigation measures are put in place. Security regulations and procedures will be strictly followed.
Pandemic/O outbreak	Syria (and Lebanon) remains at high risk from the COVID-19 pandemic and Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD), with large amounts of its population in temporary and/or crowded accommodation, the escalating cost of living prices and deteriorating health standards the country is rife for a large outbreak. Lebanon is the same situation.	Moderate risk	Apply necessary health and hygiene practices, consume safe food and water (bottled water, well-cooked meals), and personal protective equipment including sanitization fluid and face masks available for staff and volunteers. All deployed staff are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and have up-to-date routine immunisations.
Stress	Syria is a high-pressure and complex operating environment, and this can take a toll on members of the deployed personnel in the Syria team.	High risk	Ensure that all staff are aware of the availability of the Psychological Support Programme (stress counselors) for them and adhere to rest and relaxation and annual leave regulations.
Reputational Issues	IFRC is required to respond to questions by partners/donors about SARC's activities in the High Relief Committee.	High risk	Continue to maintain key messages that address questions and reaffirm SARC's humanitarian mandate. Investigate reported cases. Explain the advantages of SARC's role as the focal point between humanitarian actors and government bodies and its membership in the High Relief Committee.

Lack of access	International staff may have limited or no access to visit some field locations of the response activities. Lebanon: what if borders are closed?	Moderate risk	The Government of Syria is expediting visas and field travel approvals for international staff following of the earthquake. Advance planning for field visits taking into account the required time for obtaining necessary permits. Ensure donors are aware of possible challenges with regard to access and therefore to reporting on field projects.
Safeguarding (Child Safeguarding and PSEA)	Forms of abuse, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation are heightened in the presence of power imbalances. Emergencies cause a breakdown in the protective social mechanisms and norms that govern behaviors, threaten basic livelihoods, and increase food insecurity, causing existing power inequalities (around gender, race, age, sexuality, and ethnicity) to be reinforced, which children and women being particularly vulnerable. The control of resources, services, information, and opportunities (which humanitarian workers often have or are perceived to have) is also a form of power, and is open to abuse by those humanitarian workers, especially those who make decisions about who can access aid or services, when they can access them, and how often.	Moderate Risk	SARC has recently adopted PSEA and Child safeguarding policies and are currently working with different partners to strengthen safeguarding systems, including handling sensitive complaints through the complaints and feedback mechanism, investigations, survivor support. IFRC policies, including confidential Integrity Line, provides the mechanism for reporting and follow-up.

Quality and accountability

As part of the IFRC mandate to ensure quality and accountability measures are in place at the National Societies level and with the rise of emergencies in MENA, IFRC globally, regionally, and on a country level, tailored its structure and strategy in a more quality and accountability focused approach through creating a coherent, complementary, and context-relevant system as a fundamental and critical requirement for National Societies. In the context of this scope, several priorities surfaced in Syria's earthquake response:

Performance and Quality Assurance

Will be mainstreamed throughout all operations. The complementarity among information management results monitoring, evaluation, reporting, risk management and community engagement will be ensured to achieve quality programming and accountability toward the communities.

1. Creating an Efficient Monitoring System

IFRC and Federation partners will support SARC in creating an efficient, effective and practical monitoring system to make sure that practical indicators are identified, verified relevantly, documented and communicated to relevant SARC units, partners and publicly when relevant.

2. Federation-Wide Wide Approach in Coordination with ICRC

The Appeal is an opportunity to reaffirm the need for a collective picture of the Federation and its Membership's contributions in response to the acute crisis and the need to have coherent, consistent and quality data on agreed indicators regularly.

The Federation Wide Approach will be coordinated in assessing, planning, monitoring and data management across all Federation partners for better planning, decision making and resource mobilization. With and through SARC, Federation partners will ensure knowledge creation, documentation of good practices and corrective actions and strategies when relevant.

This Federation-wide Approach in coordination with ICRC will provide a comprehensive overview of the Red Pillar's collective response to the Syria crisis with a general objective to serve as a positioning tool where all non-confidential Movement activities in Syria are well described while presenting the collective Movement Response to the Syria Crisis. Consequently, the mechanism aims to enhance coordinated strategic decision making for strong advocacy with other humanitarian actors and to bring more resources to the ongoing work of National Societies across the region.

3. SARC Capacities Strengthened

Federation partners will ensure that SARC has relevant resources and capacities to adhere to data management, generate knowledge, and reporting requirements and creation of a monitoring and evaluation framework.

PGI and Safeguarding. SARC has developed policies on the Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Child Protection, and Whistle-blower Protection, and has in place a Code of Conduct that is signed by the staff. SARC is currently piloting a community feedback mechanism that includes handling of sensitive complaints, which can be further strengthened in this response operation.

Federation-wide monitoring and reporting have been launched and will be ensured across all countries and Federation partners, with a harmonized list of indicators, regularly collected and reported to represent a complete picture of the IFRC network solidarity and response efforts. Regular internal reporting will be maintained, while adhering to IFRC standards in external reporting. IFRC PMER and IM teams will engage with all operating National Societies, for consultation and support in establishing/maintaining the necessary systems and practices for regular monitoring. Evaluation and learning will be ensured by conducting a cross-country final evaluation per country, and if feasible, Federation-wide, cross-country lessons learned workshops.

The Federation-wide list of indicators, defined for the initial phase of the operation is as follows (the list has been updated and will include new indicators as the operation evolves):

Sector/Area	Federation Wide Indicators	Target
Health	The number of people (disaggregated by gender, age, and disability) reached with primary health services and/or referral to public health institutions.	1,152,000
	Number of people (disaggregated by gender, age, and disability) reached by the National Society mental health and psychosocial support services.	7,200
	Number of people (F/M) trained in first aid.	975
	Number of local health facilities supported with staff, equipment and/or running costs for the provision of medical services in emergencies	146
	Number of people (disaggregated by gender, age, and disability) reached with health promotion as a response to an emergency	1,000,000
	Number of people (F/M) trained in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (including Psychological First Aid and other MHPSS related trainings)	27
WASH	Number of WASH situation assessments conducted in total	32
	Number of people (disaggregated by gender, age, and disability) reached by WASH assistance	2,500,000
	Number of people (disaggregated by gender, age, and disability) (and households) reached by hygiene promotion activities in the response period	2,500,000
	Number of people (disaggregated by gender, age, and disability) reached with hygiene supplies	132,936

Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Number of people assisted with collective temporary shelter/accommodation	115,648
	Number of people assisted with individual temporary shelter/accommodation per household	1,540
	Number of people reached with rental assistance	2,000,000
Livelihoods and Food Security	Number of people (disaggregated by gender, age, and disability) reached with relief assistance for basic needs	2,500,000
	Number of targeted households (and people) reached with essential services/information for employment opportunities, including self-employment	84
	Number of people (disaggregated by gender, age, and disability) reached with food	2,500,000
Multi-Purpose Cash	Number of people reached with conditional and/or unconditional cash and voucher assistance	500,000
	Amount of cash distributed	35,000,000
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Number of persons reached through SARC community centres with protection services.	102,500
	Number of people reached with PGI activities	300,000
	Number of staff, volunteers and associated personnel trained on Prevention and Protection of sexual exploitation and abuse and child safeguarding.	2,400
Migration	Number of displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection through community centers	100,000
	Number of community centers that provided services to refugees/displaced people	3
Community Engagement and Accountability	Number of information dissemination channel established by NS	5
	Number of community feedback comments collected	2,500,000
	Number of reports produced containing community feedback information	12
National Society Strengthening	Number of branches responding	5
	Number of staff and volunteers trained on specific disaster response topics. Topics can include PFA, distributions, coordination, and monitoring.	4,000
Coordination and Partnership	Number of Movement coordination meetings organized, and updates are provided to the Movement partners	96

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Federation-wide funding requirement*

<p>Federation Wide Funding Requirement including the National Society domestic target, IFRC Secretariat and the Partner National Society funding requirement</p> <p>200 million CHF</p>	<p>IFRC Secretarian Funding Requirement in support of the Federation Wide funding ask</p> <p>100 million CHF</p>
---	--

**For more information on Federation-Wide funding requirement, refer to section: Federation-wide Approach*

Breakdown of the IFRC secretariat funding requirement



OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

**MDRSY009 - Syrian Arab
Red Crescent
Syria Earthquake**

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Planned Operations	73,372,000
Shelter and Basic Household Items	13,601,000
Livelihoods	23,175,000
Multi-purpose Cash	16,039,000
Health	10,863,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	5,964,000
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	1,715,000
Education	0
Migration	75,000
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	768,000
Community Engagement and Accountability	1,065,000
Environmental Sustainability	107,000

Enabling Approaches	26,628,000
Coordination and Partnerships	1,068,000
Secretariat Services	10,650,000
National Society Strengthening	14,910,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	100,000,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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 +963 968 500 800
- **Operational coordination:** Tammam Muhrez, Head of Operations, 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, 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 Syria Country Delegation:** Chiran Livera, Head of Emergency Operations, email chiran.livera@ifrc.org, phone +1 613 882 5038
- **IFRC Geneva:** Rena Igarashi, Operations Coordination Senior Officer, email rena.igarashi@ifrc.org, phone +41 79 960 2532

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for MENA,** Francesco Volpe, Regional Head of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships, email francesco.volpe@ifrc.org, phone +961 70146103

For In-Kind Donations and Mobilization 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:

- [Revised EA](#)