

IN SUPPORT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB RED CRESCENT



PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters
and crises



87,398

Health and
wellbeing



5,054,789

Values, power
and inclusion



303

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	256.7M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term Funding Requirement	38.2M
	Funding	Not reported
	Expenditure	Not reported
	Emergency Operations Funding Requirement	100M
	Funding	Not reported
	Expenditure	Not reported
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	18.5M
	Funding	1.1M
	Expenditure	2.4M
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	100M
	Funding	Not reported

Syrian Arab Red Crescent

Overview

Funding **4.2M**

Expenditure *Not reported*

Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat **4.2M**

Participating National Societies *Not reported*

HNS other funding sources *Not reported*


Appeal number **MAASY002**

*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRSY009 / Syria - Earthquake

Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services.	5.1M
Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services.	145,000
Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery.	85,000
Number of people reached with shelter support.	34,000
Number of people reached with livelihoods support	136
National Society increases the number of government led platforms in which they are actively participating to achieve humanitarian or development goals.	13
Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of.	5
National Society reports that they have integrated and institutionalised Community Engagement and Accountability in their policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks).	Yes
National Society is participating in IFRC-led campaigns.	Yes
National Society has strengthened their integrity risk mechanisms.	Yes
National Society has One National Society Development country plan created.	Yes
National Society has implemented a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy.	Yes
National Society has domestic advocacy strategies developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative).	Yes
National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors.	Yes
National Society has a functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions.	Yes
National Society develops and/or implements a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers.	Yes

<p>Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of.</p>	 5
<p>National Society is participating in IFRC-led campaigns.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National Society has strengthened their integrity risk mechanisms.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National Society has One National Society Development country plan created.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National Society has implemented a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National Society has domestic advocacy strategies developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative).</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National Society has a functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National Society develops and/or implements a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	National Society is supported in developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks.	Yes
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery.	87,000
	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	745
	Number of people reached with shelter support.	34,000
Health and wellbeing	Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services.	271,000
	Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services.	5.1M
Values, power and inclusion	National Society reports that they have integrated and institutionalised Community Engagement and Accountability in their policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks).	Yes
	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming.	303

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	National Society increases the number of government led platforms in which they are actively participating to achieve humanitarian or development goals.	13
	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of.	5
National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers.	Yes
	National Society develops and/or implements a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	National Society has One National Society Development country plan created.	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society has domestic advocacy strategies developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
	National Society is participating in IFRC-led campaigns.	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society has a functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions.	Yes
	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors.	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative).	Yes
	National Society has implemented a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy.	Yes
	National Society has strengthened their integrity risk mechanisms.	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Bilateral Support					
		Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Danish Red Cross		●	●	●		●	●
Finnish Red Cross				●		●	
German Red Cross			●	●		●	●
Italian Red Cross	1.1M						
Netherlands Red Cross	703,000						
Swedish Red Cross	1.7M			●		●	●
Swiss Red Cross			●	●		●	

Total Funding Reported **CHF 3.5M**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

In March 2024, the Syrian crisis entered its 13th year, marking another grim milestone for Syrians throughout the region. The country remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies, where 7.2 million people are internally displaced, and 90 per cent of the population is now estimated to be living below the poverty line. Syria's estimated population reached 23 million in 2023, and its human development index (HDI) declined from 0.644 in 2010 to 0.567 in 2020, ranking it 151 out of 189 countries.

In 2024, 16.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, the largest number since the beginning of the crisis in 2011. More than 2.4 million children are out of school, with 46 per cent being girls and 54 per cent boys and over a million more at risk of dropping out. The longer these children stay out of school, the less likely it is that they will return. Overall, 13.56 million people need water, sanitation and hygiene assistance in Syria. The food security situation in the country continues to deteriorate, with an estimated 15.4 million people in need of food or livelihood support and agricultural assistance, or assistance from national safety nets.

Macroeconomic conditions continued to deteriorate in the first half of 2024 and appear to be worsening. The combined effects of currency depreciation, soaring prices, reduced fiscal revenue, increasing domestic debt and widespread losses in livelihoods have plunged additional segments of the population into humanitarian need, most notably in areas historically less affected by hostilities and displacement.

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), a measure to count the cost of living, for a household of five members, has quadrupled in just two years. The monthly minimum wage covers only 10 per cent of the monthly minimum expenditure basket. Despite the rising costs of essential goods, income levels remained low, with the Syrian pound depreciating by a staggering 73 per cent over two years. The impact is disproportionate with the already vulnerable and poor bearing the consequences leaving them with limited strategies to cope.

After briefly rebounding in the wake of the February 2023 earthquake, aid flows to Syria have declined and access to humanitarian assistance has become more challenging. The Brussels Conference "Supporting the future of Syria and the region" in May 2024 resulted in grants and pledges of 7.5 billion Euros, a decline of 20 per cent compared to 2023. The World Food Programme (WFP) in 2023 discontinued its broad-based monthly food assistance programme in Syria, and the monthly assistance was reduced by 80 per cent compared to early 2023. The assistance cuts have led to significant deterioration in food consumption and a rapid and immediate increase in households' resilience on negative coping strategies to meet their food needs.

Tensions in the Middle East also escalated due to the conflict in Gaza. While the initial weeks of the conflict were highly unpredictable, the spill over of the conflict into Syria has largely been contained. However, targeted strikes continue in the southern and central parts of the country, with an increased number of strikes and aggressive actions unfolding in various regions, including in residential areas in Damascus and Homs.

Despite humanitarian efforts, the situation in Syria continues to remain dire and is at risk of worsening even further.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

Between January to June 2024, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent advanced several initiatives under climate and environment. It worked on building climate resilience for internally displaced people, refugees, and host communities through forecast-based action and strengthened early action mechanisms. The National Society also completed a feasibility study for a mini hydropower project aimed at addressing Syria's energy crisis by harnessing renewable energy from piped water systems, with plans to begin implementation in 2024.

Disasters and crises

In this reporting period, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent provided humanitarian support to over one million people, distributing relief items, livelihoods assistance to individuals and cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for affected people.

It facilitated secondary school exams for students in non-government-controlled areas, ensuring safe transport, legal aid, and essential supplies. The National Society also prepositioned food parcels and support earthquake-affected families with cash assistance, water shortage solutions and livelihood recovery programmes.

Health and wellbeing

Between January to June 2024, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent responded to the compounded healthcare crises caused by the February 2023 earthquakes by restoring essential healthcare services and deploying mobile health units to areas without functional facilities. The National Society provided primary healthcare, emergency medical services and community-based health interventions, reaching over one million people. Through its water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) services, the National Society restored water facilities and distributed hygiene supplies.

Migration and displacement

During this reporting period, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent supported returnees by providing relief items, health services, and referrals through its branches. The National Society facilitated safe evacuations from the Rukban camp and aided family reunifications between government-controlled and non-controlled areas. The National Society provided essential healthcare and livelihood service to internally displaced people and migrants in its response to the earthquake.

Values, power, and inclusion

In the first half of 2024, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent conducted protection and community services, addressing core issues such as sexual exploitation, child labour and early marriage. The National Society's community service and protection programmes, including mobile psychosocial support teams, extended to remote areas in Syria. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent also advanced its protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) efforts and trained volunteers on gender-based violence and child safeguarding. Additionally, it enhanced disability inclusion, improving access to healthcare and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities.

Enabling local actors

During this reporting period, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent prioritized resource mobilization, branch development, and [digital transformation](#) as part of its Strategy 2023-2027. The National Society expanded its branch development project, enhanced autonomy and capacity at the local level. It also implemented standardized volunteer management practices and launched an e-learning platform for staff training.

The National Society strengthened accountability and risk management by training staff in risk tools, creating a risk register, and improving its health information system. The National Society is now focused on unifying reporting systems, enhancing infrastructure, and ensuring data protection to support better decision-making. It also engaged in humanitarian diplomacy to reinforce its role and neutrality, promoting public trust and understanding of its work.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Syrian Arab Republic](#).

1.

Emergency Appeal name	Middle East Crisis 2023 MENA
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRS5002
People to be assisted	300,000 in Syria
Duration	26 months
Funding requirements	Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 200 million IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 185 million Federation-wide funding requirement for Syria: CHF 12 million IFRC Secretariat funding requirement for Syria: CHF 20 million
Link to revised Emergency Appeal	Middle East Crisis 2023 MENA
Link to revised Operational Strategy	Middle East Crisis 2023 Operational Strategy
Link to latest operations update	Operations Update No. 2
Link to Country Response Plan	Syria National Society response plan

Syria confronts an unparalleled array of challenges, marking it one of the world's most complex humanitarian crises after 13 years of unrelenting turmoil. The nation contends with the highest number of internally displaced people globally, standing at approximately 6.8 million people, and an escalating need for humanitarian aid. Deteriorating humanitarian and economic indicators, collapsing basic services, and the concurrent cholera outbreak and climatic shocks compound an already dire situation. Key civilian infrastructure, including schools, water supply systems, health facilities, and housing, bears extensive damage, with most governorates lacking restoration or repair. In regions where hostilities have abated, families grapple to secure necessities like clean water, food, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. In 2024, 16.7 million people need humanitarian assistance, the largest number ever since the beginning of the crisis in 2011.

This crisis is further compounded by the aftermath of multiple earthquakes that struck Syria and Turkey in February 2023, causing widespread devastation, and affecting up to eight million people. These quakes damaged critical service infrastructure and intensified the suffering of already vulnerable children and families, leaving countless individuals without access to food, water, shelter, and urgent medical and psychosocial support. Moreover, economic hardship erects additional barriers, particularly for the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, hindering their access to essential services. Faced with increasing economic difficulties and amidst various political and natural crises, fear continues to grip millions of Syrians who have experienced conflict, displacement, and disasters caused by natural events. Hence community resilience has diminished, and Syrian society is now grappling with the effects of a multifaceted crisis, incorporating all elements of family vulnerability. This presents a challenge in laying the groundwork for humanitarian efforts. The situation is further complicated by the risk of an escalation of the conflict in Palestine-Israel, which could result in additional waves of refugees and strained resources, cross-border tensions, and

overlapping emergency responses to events like the February 2023 earthquakes, summer 2023 wildfires, drought, and sporadic hostilities.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

This operational strategy aims to prepare for and respond to the humanitarian needs of people affected in the countries surrounding the occupied Palestinian territories, namely Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, especially in supplying humanitarian assistance to Gaza through the Egyptian and Jordanian corridors, and to support Palestinians who have been evacuated for medical support with their families, as well as those internally displaced in these four countries due to escalations and spillovers. This is done by increasing the supply chain capacities in Egypt and Jordan, as well as the readiness of the four National Societies to ensure that they can respond to potentially increased humanitarian needs.

Between the period March 2023 to June 2024, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent implemented a comprehensive country response plan focusing on essential areas such as health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter, food security and livelihoods; protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), migration and displacement, National Society strengthening, and community engagement and accountability (CEA). The National Society's fleet capacity and response readiness in the branches improved through the maintenance of ambulances and vehicles and repositioning of diesel.

2.

Emergency Appeal name	Syria, MENA Syria Earthquakes
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRSY009
People to be assisted	2,500,000
Duration	07/02/2023 to 28/02/2025
Funding requirements	Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 200 million IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 100 million
Link to revised Emergency Appeal	Syria Earthquake 2023 revised Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy	Syrian Earthquake 2023 Operational Strategy
Link to latest operations update	Operations Update No. 3

On 6 February 2023, Syria was struck by two earthquakes, one at a magnitude of 7.7 originating in Gaziantep (Turkey) and another at a 7.6 magnitude in Kharamanmaras (Turkey). Multiple aftershocks were reported following the earthquakes. Damages were caused in the north, central and coastal parts of Syria, specifically in Aleppo, Lattakia, 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. According to reports from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the earthquake resulted in the tragic loss of 5,670 lives, with 11,774 individuals sustaining injuries. SARC estimated that over 8 million people were directly affected by the event. 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 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. The number of people in need of humanitarian response in Syria has increased from 15.3 million to 16.7 million since 2023.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through the IFRC emergency appeal, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent will provide assistance to 2.5 million people and the main target groups for this response will include, but will not be 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. This Appeal comes to an end in February 2025 and the ongoing response transitioned to the Syria Unified Plan from March 2025 onwards. The humanitarian and recovery needs of the population remains at alarming levels among the affected population and the operational strategy will continue to focus on the main pillars of Integrated Assistance including Livelihoods, Multi-purpose Cash, Health & Care, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Protection Gender and Inclusion, Community Engagement and Accountability as well as strengthening National Society Disaster Management and Operational Response Readiness for future events. The elements of the earthquake response are integrated under the corresponding Strategic Priorities and Enabling Actions of the plan. A consultative exercise was undertaken with all relevant departments in SARC to ensure a relevant and appropriate transition of the earthquake appeal.

Between February to June 2024, as part of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's earthquake response, the National Society's interventions were spread in areas such as shelter, housing and settlements, livelihoods, multi-purpose cash, health and care, protection, gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability, risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery, and environmental sustainability. Work under these areas of intervention included the distribution of jerrycans, livelihood projects, cash and voucher assistance to affected households, deployment of mobile medical units and community health programmes, rehabilitation of WASH facilities, organization of PGI plan of action, community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives, among others.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During this reporting period, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent conducted a meeting for the WISER project, which aims to build climate resilience of internally displaced people (IDPs), refugee populations, and host communities by enhancing and promoting the co-production of [forecast-based action](#) with local, national and regional coordination mechanisms. This regional initiative also aims to strengthen and accelerate operational [anticipatory and early action](#).

The National Society's mini hydropower project aims to harness renewable energy from existing piped water supply systems as a solution to the energy crisis which has affected water production across Syria. A feasibility study has been completed and based on its recommendations, the next steps include detailed design of the proposed pilot project and procurement of service providers. The implementation of this pilot project is expected to begin in 2025 depending on funding availability.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent also conducted a training on [green response](#) and the use of NEAT+ (Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool). After the training, the NEAT+ assessment tool has been implemented for the assessment of several primary healthcare centres.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided both technical and financial support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in its objectives under climate and environment.

The **Danish Red Cross** provided support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent for its solarization project of primary health clinics in Lattakia and Homs under the earthquake response.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** provided support to the National Society in its mini hydropower project.

The **Swedish Red Cross** provided support to the National Society in the development of its work on Green Response, an approach focused on improving the environmental sustainability of the work. A training was organized for SARC staff and volunteers on Green Response and the use of the NEAT+ (Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool). After the training, the NEAT+ assessment tool has been implemented for the assessment of several primary health clinics.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Syrian Arab Republic](#).

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In the first half of 2024, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent continued to respond to the needs of the conflict- and disaster-affected population throughout Syria. In parallel with the National Society's earthquake response, the Disaster Management department continued to implement regular programmes and operations. Within this reporting period, the National Society reached more than one million people through distribution of relief items. An approximately 9,000 people benefited from livelihoods interventions and more than 150,000 people were provided with cash and voucher assistance (CVA).

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent supported more than 9,000 students living in non-government-controlled areas to sit for their secondary school exams. In some cases, the National Society provided safe crossing and transport for the students and provided both food and non-food items. In the community centres serving as accommodation, the National Society provided legal services to the students, which was instrumental in ensuring that they can continue pursuing further studies.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** provided technical support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in developing a strategic direction for livelihoods initiatives. It also provided guidance in project design, implementation strategy, supervision and monitoring. The IFRC support the National Society in designing the templates and analysing the data obtained in the surveys to collect the beneficiaries' feedback, reinforce accountability measures, among others. The IFRC is a member of the Movement Livelihoods Working Group established in 2023, which facilitates exchange of technical information among Movement partners to improve overall effectiveness. The IFRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent also initiated the planning for the procurement of relief items including hygiene kits, food parcels, and dignity kits.

In Syria's context, prepositioning essential relief items is a prerequisite for timely delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent procured more than 6,000 standard food parcels with funding from the China International Development Cooperation. The prepositioning of food and non-food items from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation is slated to be completed in 2024.

The **British Red Cross** provided technical and coordination support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent under cash and voucher assistance preparedness. It supported the external evaluation of the cash and voucher assistance response for the 2023 earthquake in Hama, Latakia and Aleppo. The findings and recommendations have contributed towards the National Society's plan of action to continue improve its cash assistance programme.

The **Danish Red Cross** provided support to the National Society to address short- and long-term consequences of the earthquake in Syria. This included provision of primary health clinics, emergency health point, mobile health units, nutrition clinic, and procurement of community health kits. The Danish Red Cross also supported operational and running costs of the Disaster Management sector of the National Society.

The National Society provided multipurpose cash assistance to 450 beneficiaries to cover essential items, including those lost in the earthquake. The National Society also procured water tanks to ensure water storage for families affected by the disaster. It worked on livelihood opportunities and employability skills to help people recover from and cope with the socio-economic impacts of the earthquake. The National Society implements the programme titled "Syria Youth Initiative –Preparing Youth in Syria for Employment, Entrepreneurship and Education," which aims to improve the wellbeing and skills of people for sustainable economic income and support education for displaced, returnees and host community children and youth in the areas of Deir ez Zor, Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Homs. As

part of its earthquake response, the National Society 136 beneficiaries through a business management training and assisted in the design of a tailored business plan.

The **German Red Cross** supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent as part of the Readiness, Resilience and Coping Capacities pillar. It supported sub-branches, covering the costs related to HR, volunteers' allowances, running costs and capacity strengthening activities.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supported the National Society under the earthquake response. Through a project titled "Rehabilitation of Equilibrium Line in Aleppo," the National Society improved access to safe water for more than two million people affected by the earthquake.

Similarly, with additional funding support from the IFRC, German Red Cross, and the Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross rehabilitated six elevated tanks in Idleb, increasing access to safe water for 3,302 people.

The **Swiss Red Cross** support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent is focused on improving income-generating activities for crisis-affected households and help them meet their needs through cash and voucher assistance interventions. The Swiss Red Cross supported the National Society efforts through the procurement of hygiene kits, enhancing community and household resilience, supporting livelihood and community initiatives, and promoting National Society development. The Swiss Red Cross also supports the National Society through multi-purpose cash assistance to survivors of landmines and explosive remnants of water across various Syrian governorates. In collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Swiss Red Cross is launching the Deir Ezzor Family Support project to assist internally displaced peoples in various contexts.



Syrian Arab Red Crescent team transporting the injured to the hospital in the aftermath of the Syria earthquake.

(Photo: Syrian Arab Red Crescent)



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The effects and damages of the 2023 February earthquakes in Syria compounded the already critical healthcare situation in the country. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent recognizes the importance of restoring essential healthcare services in functional facilities while continuing to provide services through mobile units to impacted areas without functional health facilities. During this reporting period, the National Society continued to provide services and respond to different health-related emergencies in coordination and in line with the strategic objectives and response priorities of the Syrian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Syrian Arab Red Crescent worked on increasing access for people in need of primary healthcare services through mobile and static health and nutrition

facilities, emergency medical services, community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) teams, physiotherapy services, and psychosocial support teams and interventions. It also worked on strengthening management and prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The National Society reached more than one million people during the reporting period through its services.

Under the National Society's water, health, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent worked on restoration of water facilities and in increasing access to basic services for affected people. This included distribution of WASH supplies and increasing awareness of good hygiene practices. During the first six months of 2024, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent reached approximately 80 per cent of the population with safe access to water and sanitation. Works are undertaken in close cooperation with the Ministry of Water Resources.

Through the National Society's mobile health units (MHU), the Syrian Arab Red Crescent provide vital health services to more than 20,000 individuals. The MHUs are part of a larger network of teams working across Syria, collectively treating thousands of patients and working to maintain the health and wellbeing of vulnerable communities. The National Society also provided support to primary health care clinics in Rural Damascus and Homs, where these clinics offer a range of services, including general healthcare, gynaecology, paediatrics, specialized consultation services, among others. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, through its multidisciplinary health and rehabilitation and disability inclusion intervention, provided essential health and physical rehabilitation services individuals with disabilities through rehabilitation centres and mobile teams across 10 governorates. More than 5000 individuals with disabilities received services which promoted functional independence in activities of daily living and 1,760 received received various assistive devices, including wheelchairs for both adults and children, crutches, walking frames, and artificial limbs, with 277 referred to and received prostheses from the ICRC. A total of 6,268 families were also reached with key awareness messages on disability sensitization, disability rights, and ways to remove barrier at the community level.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent by guiding it to operate within its set strategy and serve the health and care needs of the most vulnerable populations. It supported the National Society in the development of an emergency medical services (EMS) roadmap and internal analysis of EMS services which will lead to the development of an EMS strategy. The IFRC also provided support to the National Society's efforts by supporting the operation of mobile health units that provide medical services, including consultations and medication distribution.

The Danish Red Cross provided support to the National Society health and psychosocial facilities and interventions. In addition to providing a range of health and psychosocial support facilities, the Danish Red Cross is actively involved in capacity-building initiatives to enhance mental health and psychosocial services. It also continued to provide support for the procurement of essential medicines, medical consumables and medical equipment for healthcare facilities.

The French Red Cross supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent through an infection, prevention and control assessment in health facilities in targeted areas and tailor the subsequent training programmes. Insights from this assessment highlighted practical challenges such as a lack of IPC programming, regular training, evaluation needs, medical waste management, and a need for clean water and functional sanitation systems.

The German Red Cross supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in enhancing quality community-oriented health programming, both through static and mobile approaches. It supported mobile health units in Tartous, Aleppo, Homs and Sweid, providing more than 39,000 patients with outpatient department consultations. The German Red Cross continues to support the National Society through the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health services, which provides direct support to National Society health facilities and strengthens outreach services and referral mechanisms. It also supports National Society CBFHA activities in branches which works to empower targeted communities, build health literacy and resilience.

The Norwegian Red Cross provides support to primary healthcare centres, emergency health programmes, mobile medical units, nutrition programmes, community centres, and community-based health and first aid (CBFHA) programme. In January 2024, the Norwegian Red Cross commissioned Think Global to perform a comprehensive cost analysis of the National Society's health facilities, which will help the National Society in developing a robust cost recovery plan which ensures the sustainability and efficiency of their health services. Other support from the Norwegian Red Cross involves transitioning to DHIS 2 for enhanced data management and helping the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in achieving its health objectives.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the National Society's primary healthcare services by covering its running costs, salaries, capacity building for staff, and the procurement of medical supplies and medication. The strategic focus of the Swedish Red Cross revolves around mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). This support includes maintenance of mental health clinics and community centres that provide psychosocial support, livelihoods, legal awareness sessions, and other interventions.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent with the aim of improving the quality of service provided by the National Society's pre-ambulance care and enhancing the health status of the population through improved water and sanitation. The Swiss Red Cross completed a project in February 2024 which included awareness sessions and the distribution of health and hygiene items.



Migration and displacement

Progress by National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent responded to the needs of returnees who have been internally displaced and those arriving from neighbouring countries by providing relief items, health services and referrals to its branches and sub-branches depending on the destination of the returnees. Safe evacuation from Rukban camp located between the Syrian and Jordanian border continued during this reporting period. The National Society also supported the family reunification between government-controlled and out-of-controlled areas as an auxiliary to public authorities. The National Society's response to the earthquake in Syria also targets internally displaced people and migrants in the provision of essential healthcare and livelihood services and provides timely assistance to those most affected by the crisis in Syria.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** provides technical and financial support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to enhance its services targeting vulnerable internally displaced peoples and migrants. This includes healthcare initiatives, livelihoods support programme, rehabilitation initiatives, or increasing community awareness about internally displaced people and migrants within the host country.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by National Society against objectives

Many internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees continue to be exposed to potential protection threats. Protection concerns are increasing interlinked, such as dependency on assistance, sexual exploitation, early marriage, child recruitment and child labour, which needs to be address comprehensively to ensure impact. The National Society's community service and protection programme including community centres and psychosocial support service mobile teams with services that reached remote areas. Through these activities, within the first six months of 2024, the National Society reached more than 120,000 people with protection and community services.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent finalized its protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) plan of action which will contribute to enhancing the integration of PGI within the National Society at institutional and operational levels. The focus remains on building the National Society's commitment in this area, identifying best practices and challenges, and exploring new opportunities for mainstreaming and institutionalizing PGI across all sectors. More than 300 volunteers in branches and programmes departments improved their knowledge and skills in PGI and its principles and gender-based violence aspects through training courses. The National Society has also introduced the safeguarding file and child safeguarding risk analysis tool to identify and rate child safeguarding risks. This analysis is based on child safeguarding practices and reduces the risk of harm against children as outlined in the National Society's Child Protection Policy.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent is actively advancing its disability inclusion through the IFRC DG-ECHO PPP-funded project. The disability inclusion component aims to increase access to healthcare, rehabilitation and related protection

services for people with disabilities by building staff capacity on disability inclusion, strengthening of referral systems, raising awareness and promoting accessibility.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's efforts in finalization its PGI plan of action and will support its implementation to mainstream PGI across all components of the programme. The IFRC also provided technical support to the National Society by completing the review of the IFRC protection, gender and inclusion tools by adapting them to the local context and the needs of the National Society. The IFRC, with financial contributions from the British Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross, recruited the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion delegate, to support SARC, the IFRC Country Delegation, and the partner National Societies, with a particular focus on the broader efforts of the Movement towards Protection, Gender, and Inclusion and its mainstreaming in areas of support.

The **British Red Cross** supported the National Society through its intervention on livelihoods and gender-based violence. Key learning from this initiative have been taken for the development of expanded programme on livelihoods that incorporate community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI).

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the National Society in institutionalizing CEA and to define a harmonized approach to collecting and responding to community feedback.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in incorporating CEA and PGI elements and best practices into all its activities.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Progress by the National Society against objectives

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs. It involves agreeing on common priorities, co-developing strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes incorporate clarity in their humanitarian efforts, development assistance, and efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

There are eight participating National Societies present in Syria, providing long-term support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. They comprise the **British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society, Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross**.

Movement coordination

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC has been present in Syria since 1967. It currently works to support the most vulnerable who have been affected by over a decade-long conflict. The ICRC carries out its activities in Syria in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, to contribute to better access to food, improve access to medical services, rehabilitate water and

sanitation networks across the country, and help people gradually restore their livelihoods. Following the February 2023 earthquakes, it has stepped up its response in light of fast-growing humanitarian needs.

External coordination

In its role as auxiliary to the public authorities, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent acts as Syria's national coordinator for humanitarian aid, as mandated by the Syrian Government in 2008. It is also a key member of the National Humanitarian and Disaster Response Committees at national and governorate levels and an essential partner to several international organizations. The National Society works closely alongside several key government departments, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent collaborates with a wide range of local and international partners. It works with UN agencies such as UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and INGOs including Action Against Hunger, ADRA, AVSI, COOPI, Danish Refugee Council, Lutheran World Relief, MEDAIR, Oxfam, Premiere Urgence, Secours Islamique France, Terre des Hommes, Intersos and Triangle. In addition, the IFRC supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in its interventions through partnerships with DG-ECHO, the Government of Japan, Global Development and South-South Cooperation fund under the China International Development Cooperation Agency, the United Kingdom's UKAid and UK Met Office, and private and corporate donors. The IFRC also participates alongside the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in interagency cluster meetings and working groups, including health, shelter and household items, and food security and livelihoods.



National Society Development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has defined resource mobilization as a priority in its new strategy 2023-2027. Efforts are being made to enhance resource mobilization and fundraise as part of its transition planning and sustainability, including financial sustainability. With the National Society Investment Alliance ([NSIA](#)), the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has expanded its branch development project from eight to fourteen branches in 2024. The project aims to enhance National Society development in Syria, redefining roles to provide branches more autonomy and capacity. The branch development roadmap 2024-2027 has been finalized and its implementation will be overseen by the branch development steering committee.

The National society trained its staff in IFRC risk management tools, leading to the development of the risk register for identifying and mitigating and risks. The National Society also developed a volunteering development approach, standardizing volunteer management practices and supporting volunteer initiatives. The National Society's e-learning platform project, funded by the [Empress Shoken Fund](#), develops online training courses, including an induction course, the code of conduct, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#)) policy.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in identifying its National Society development priorities and worked with the National Society to develop key strategies aimed improving coordination and the overall development of the National Society branches. Through the IFRC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA), the National Society was supported in expanding its branch development project. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent staff were trained in IFRC risk management tools, leading to the development of a Syrian Arab Red Crescent Risk Register for identifying and mitigating risks. To improve coordination, SARC assigned 11 National Society Development focal points and established a Technical Working Group that meets quarterly. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) volunteers were trained on feedback mechanisms and standard operating procedures. The National Society E-learning Platform Project, funded by the Empress Shōken Fund, is developing online training courses, including a Welcome to Syrian Arab Red Crescent Induction Course, the Code of Conduct, and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy, with plans to go live in October 2024.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in solarization of the Tartous branch and the development of policies, standard operating procedures, and roles and responsibilities. It also supports the National Society's code of conduct workshops and operational planning workshops in branches.

The **German Red Cross** continued to provide support to the National Society's operations, particularly in logistical aspects. This support includes infrastructure costs and maintenance, daily operational needs, comprehensive capacity-strengthening efforts, among others. In 2023, the German Red Cross began work with the National Society on the action plan related to the three-year strategy to enhanced logistic unit self-sustainability. As part of this initiative, the German Red Cross supported the National Society with the development of the warehouse manual guide.

The **Swiss Red Cross**, as part of its effort to support and develop the National Society, provides support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent on improving local governance and leadership, building core capacities, and designing and implementing programmes that empower vulnerable individuals within local communities. Every new project includes a National Society development component at the outcome level, with the National Society defining its priorities for National Society development.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress of the National Society against objectives

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent is working to promote a stronger position in its overall response and efforts in Syria through strengthened advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy efforts. The National Society attended and developed key messages for the Brussels Conference "Supporting the future of Syria and the region" which profiled the work of the Movement in Syria.

The National Society has worked on clarifying and community its auxiliary role to the Syrian government and reinforcing the neutrality, impartiality, and independence of the National Society and its humanitarian actions vis-à-vis key local and international stakeholders. During this reporting period, the National Society also engaged with donors and relevant government agencies and stakeholders to strengthen the understanding of its role, positioning and voice in humanitarian and development interventions for increasing public trust and understanding.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in its humanitarian diplomacy efforts by working with the National Society for an overall strengthened advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy initiative. Components of IFRC support to the National Society include the development of joint key messages, addressing sensitive communication requirements that come with complex conflict situations through strategic briefings, and working with the National Society to bolster its visibility. During the reporting period, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and IFRC actively engaged with donors and relevant government agencies and stakeholders to strengthen the understanding of the National Society's auxiliary role, positioning, and voice in humanitarian and development interventions for an increase in public trust and understanding.

The **Danish Red Cross** supported the National Society in development key messages for advocating for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's initiatives and interventions. The Danish Red Cross also utilized these messages in engagement with back donors and the Danish ministry.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent considers management accountability one of its core values in its Strategy 2023-2027, recognizing the organization's accountability for its work, the people it serves and those from whom it receives resources. The National Society strives for quality and excellence in achieving results by continuously improving the ways of work and methods.

After the successful closure of the [digital transformation](#) project in January 2024, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has undertaken preparatory work to continue its digital transformation journey and achieve the objectives of the digital transformation roadmap, with a focus on unifying the reporting system for the headquarters and branches,

strengthening technological infrastructure, internet connectivity and low speed, data protection, and unifying systems across sectors for rapid access to any necessary data for decision-making processes and achieving sustainable results.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has worked on improving accountability by following the outcomes of the digital maturity assessments while working on improving the health information system. Information and communication technology has been strengthened by the National Society by implementing the recommendations informed by the ICT health check assessment.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC maintains regular communication with the National Society for consultation and technical support regarding improving the overall accountability and agility of the National Society. In this reporting period, the IRC provided support to the National Society in risk management and security management by working closely to update protocols and standards including risk mitigation measures.

The British Red Cross supported the National Society by conducting a review of the due diligence done 2023. The report highlights improvements and strategies and actions to strengthen the National Society. This support aims to raise the National Society's profile as a prominent humanitarian actor in Syria.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supports the National Society with the ERP project to improve the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's operational efficiency and system reliability. The project also involves procurement and installation of SNMP adapters for critical components with a primary focus on the ERP data centre UPS systems.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's efforts to expand the complaints and feedback mechanism to other programmes and close the feedback loops. In 2024, further expansion of community engagement and accountability and complaints and feedback mechanism into additional branches have been planned.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a light grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods, and may be incomplete. "Not reported" could sometimes mean "not applicable".
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Syria Mid-Year 2024 Financial Report](#)

Note: For information on the ongoing emergencies for the period January to June 2024, see: [MDRSY009](#), [MDRS5002](#)

- [IFRC network country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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