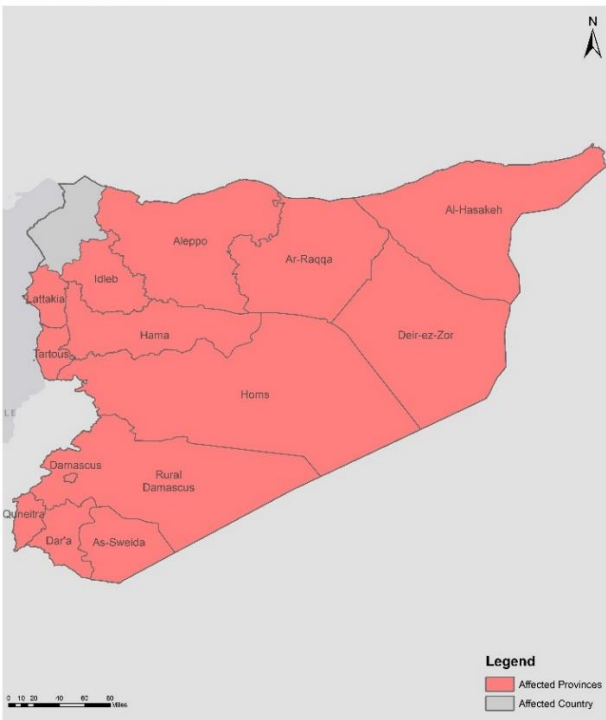




At Syrian border crossings, volunteers from Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) are providing essential consultations and information to Syrians returning. Photo: SARC

Appeal No: MDRSY014	IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 100 million Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 130¹ million	
Glide No: CE-2024-000220-SYR	People [affected/at risk]: 5 million (TBC)	People to be assisted: 5 million
DREF allocation: CHF 1 million	Appeal launched: 20/12/2024	Appeal ends: 31/12/2025

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Operating National Societies in response to the emergency. It includes the operating National Societies' domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies of CHF 30 million, as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC secretariat of CHF 100 million. This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilized to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The protracted crisis in Syria over the past 13 years and the fragile humanitarian situation have now deepened significantly following intensified hostilities and rapid developments since 28 November 2024. The escalation resulted in mass displacement, destruction of critical infrastructure, and significant humanitarian needs.

Over 1.1 million people have been displaced, with the potential for up to 1.5 million more if the violence continues. Many families are seeking shelter in overcrowded and underserved areas, and reports indicate significant civilian casualties, injuries, and shortages of food. Access to healthcare, protection, livelihoods, and basic services has been severely restricted due to ongoing hostilities and insecurity.

There are multiple overlapping population movements in this crisis too, including major internal displacement within Syria, some IDPs returning home, movements out of Syria and steadily increasing numbers of refugee returns, which stand at a few tens of thousands at the time of writing.

While families are attempting to return to areas perceived as safer, many are confronted with destroyed infrastructure, limited services, economic collapse, and insecurity, including unexploded ordnance, contamination, and general criminality. Sustainable reintegration and long-term assistance are crucial in this environment. SARC volunteers and branches are on the ground providing food assistance, clean water, medical evacuation, Restoring Family Links (RFL), dead body management, and Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), among others.

SARC has long experience in delivering humanitarian aid through overlapping multiple crises over the last 13 years, encompassing complex protracted conflict, population movements, COVID-19, cholera, the 2023 earthquake, seasonal floods, droughts, and wildfires. And with the situation in Syria highly volatile, with ongoing military operations, potential spillover and significant population movement across borders may impact neighbouring countries as well, leading to yet further immediate and long-term humanitarian needs.

IFRC approach

Responding to this fast-moving context requires an agile, flexible, and coordinated Red Cross Red Crescent Movement-wide approach both in Syria and in neighbouring countries. The IFRC will work to ensure that this response uses a “one-country” approach while addressing the unique needs of specific regions, and addressing sudden changes in context as they emerge with possible new humanitarian implications affecting both Syria and neighbouring countries. This emergency appeal may expand to include those neighbouring countries as the situation evolves.

This Emergency Appeal will also lay the foundation for accelerated, early recovery efforts, addressing the needs of people returning to, and originating from, Syria.

TARGETING

With this response, SARC and its branches throughout the country will be targeting 5 million people in all affected governates across the whole of Syria. Provided access is ensured, this operation aims to support people in need within the full geography of Syria. This emergency appeal will also support “people on the move”, primarily those returning to or originating from Syria and affected host communities.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

This “one operation” covers the whole of Syria with SARC as the host national society, a credible and capable national actor supported by its different partners leveraging its independence and auxiliary role to the public authorities. Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to primarily support SARC in the response to this complex emergency. **The strategy of the IFRC response is to support 5 million affected people in Syria with life-saving humanitarian assistance for 12 months, initiating inclusive recovery planning and activities.** Due to the dynamic nature of the situation, this Emergency Appeal may expand beyond Syria to include neighbouring countries where Syrians are on the move and require critical support during their journeys. Humanitarian needs are anticipated to be widespread with millions in need of support.

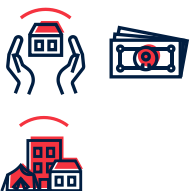
The IFRC will work to ensure that the response is a one-country approach while providing for the unique needs of specific regions in Syria, addressing sudden changes in context as they emerge and the possible new humanitarian implications. This emergency appeal will also address the needs of different demographic groups including returnees, communities affected by the 2023 earthquake, and communities affected by the protracted crisis.

The response will focus on the following areas:

Integrated assistance

(Shelter, Livelihoods and Multi-purpose Cash [MPC])

- In-kind distributions, which help people meet their essential daily needs, including basic food, household items, non-food items (NFIs), and emergency shelter to people affected, including displaced and host communities.
- Provide Multi-purpose Cash (MPC) assistance with speed, at scale, when feasible, and where markets are accessible to address the diverse needs of the affected population.
- Restore livelihoods and strengthen resilience and coping through the provision of cash assistance and in-kind items where necessary (seeds, tools, other materials and trainings), as determined through detailed assessments and engagement with communities.
- Assist affected families to repair or rebuild their houses through cash, in-kind support or technical support. Partner with relevant



national departments/ministries and other organizations to promote a complementary approach.



**Health & Care including Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)
(Mental Health & Psychosocial Support [MHPSS]/Community Health)**

- Provide essential, lifesaving, primary and secondary healthcare services through SARC's mobile health units, mobile medical teams, polyclinics, and established health facilities, including Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- Provide MHPSS services to address trauma, improve emotional well-being, and strengthen resilience among the affected population, including children.
- ☒ • Deliver Community-based Health & First Aid (CBHFA) services to promote health awareness, empower communities, and improve access to essential healthcare at the community level.
- Provide clean and safe water and sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion services, including water trucking, wastewater treatment solutions, rehabilitating critical water, sanitation infrastructure, and distribution of essential hygiene-related materials to the people affected, focusing on displaced communities.

**Protection and Prevention
(Protection, Gender & Inclusion [PGI], Community Engagement & Accountability [CEA], Migration, Environmental Sustainability, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Education)**



- Support SARC in ensuring equitable access to basic services by integrating Protection and Prevention into the response using an evidence-based approach, and addressing the needs of affected communities, especially displaced populations, with a focus on gender, age, and disability.
- Support for dead body management.
- ☒ • Provide RFL services to help people contact or reunite with their family members.
- Provision of information regarding services with established referral mechanisms such as legal and health support in accordance with protection needs.
- Strengthen the community engagement component and ensure CEA continues playing a vital role across all sectors and interventions implemented by SARC.
- Support people on the move, including all returnees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and newly displaced populations.

Enabling approaches

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

Coordination and Partnerships



- IFRC will work closely with National Societies and ICRC to coordinate international support for this operation; this will include coordination on advocacy efforts and harnessing the Movement's capacities to support the SARC response.
- Support SARC and its branches in its transition, which Syria is witnessing through engagement in humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy with local stakeholders, partners, and international actors.
- IFRC will also support coordination on regional, cross-regional, and global levels to ensure smooth implementation to provide efficient and effective appeal management (through surge, etc.) as required, and to ensure complementarity of the actions of the different movement actors involved.
- Strengthen coordination and partnerships within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and with relevant external actors, including the private sector, foundations, governments, and UN agencies.

IFRC Secretariat Services



- Technical support and human resources capacity.
- Specific attention will be given to boosting IFRC security management capacity in Syria and the region to ensure a proper foundation for 'at-scale' operations together with the Membership.
- Facilitate collaboration and coordination for international support and regional response capacity.
- Strengthen humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy efforts, and joint activities.
- Support to scale-up information management and data analysis.
- Develop a communications and visibility action plan that aligns with the priorities identified in this emergency appeal, including key messages that showcase the work of the National Society and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.
- Quality Assurance and Accountability, including Planning Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting (PMER).
- Finance support with planning and budgeting; bookkeeping; payables and receivables; review of donor project proposals and financial compliance; pledge validation; audit support; finance coordination with procurement; HR; payroll; administration; relationships with banks; internal controls; payments; treasury and finance coordination; finance reports; and analysis.

- Develop targeted key messages for strategic partners, including governments and donors of the IFRC and National Societies, as well as other humanitarian actors.
- Ensure that strong and robust supply chain management is in place.

National Society Strengthening



- Provide support in disseminating the concept and implications of SARC's independence and their role as auxiliary to the public authorities so that this is well understood, institutionalized, and used to strengthen partnerships with key national and international stakeholders.
- Support SARC in advocacy based on their priorities for developing and amending legal instruments to enhance humanitarian response with reduced risks and losses.
- Support SARC in positioning itself as the leading humanitarian actor in the country and partner of choice in Syria.
- Enhance the capacity and development of SARC branches by providing support on both software and hardware.
- Provide support to volunteers and volunteer management.
- Provide support for fleet and logistics in the affected areas.
- Enhance SARC capacities in digital transformation, information management, and data management to improve the quality of programming.
- Ensure that Protection & Gender Inclusion (PGI), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse, and Safeguarding are institutionalized within SARC, and that all staff and volunteers are trained on them.

The planned response reflects the current situation in a rapidly changing context and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the coming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement while also ensuring the capacity and needed resources to address any change in the context including the expected waves of return and the associated re-integration needs.

After 31 December 2025, response activities to this emergency will continue under the [IFRC Network Country Plans for Syria for 2026](#). The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's actions. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN-COUNTRY



The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

Core areas of operation



Staff:	5,770
Volunteers:	9,104
Branches	14
Active Sub-branches	64

SARC has expertise in emergency medical services (EMS), disaster management, water, sanitation, health, and medical services, including primary healthcare, livelihoods, and early recovery, as well as in protection and community services, including psychological support. Since 2011, SARC has been scaling up its work considerably in response to the

protracted crisis and maintains a presence across most of the country. It remains the largest humanitarian actor in the country and its branches serve as the primary points of engagement. The staff and volunteers, who are part of these communities, act as first responders, ensuring timely and relevant humanitarian assistance.

SARC's extensive volunteer network, with its profound understanding of cultural contexts and local norms, provides unparalleled community-based expertise. Additionally, SARC's ability to facilitate cross-border collaboration enhances its capacity to assist displaced populations, particularly in crises. This combination of community acceptance, access, and operational readiness places SARC's branches as crucial hubs for effective and sustainable humanitarian efforts, providing unmatched efficiency and cultural sensitivity.

IFRC Membership Coordination

IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the evolving humanitarian context, gaps, and needs. It involves agreeing on common priorities and co-developing strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance, and space. This includes mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress.

In addition to IFRC members channelling overall support to SARC through the IFRC, there are nine participating National Societies present in Syria, providing long-term support. They are British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, French Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross. In line with the Agenda for Renewal and Way of Working, IFRC will coordinate the membership under the leadership of SARC and National Societies will be selected to co-lead technical roles depending on their in-country expertise and resources.

More partner National Societies, such as Turkish Red Crescent and Qatar Red Crescent, are also active in Syria, while their overall coordination with SARC to address the humanitarian needs is ongoing. Jordanian Red Crescent is also playing a vital role in supply chain coordination to facilitate the delivery of goods to SARC from Jordan and coordinate with relevant authorities for access.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

SARC ensures regular exchanges with IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action among Movement partners. In times of emergency, there is closer coordination, and this is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles and with the Seville Agreement 2.0. A platform for strategic coordination between the senior leadership of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, ICRC, and IFRC was also established in 2024.

In addition to the assistance, it has already provided in Syria, and with respect to its mandate, ICRC has also shown its readiness to support SARC with whatever they might need for their response. A mini-summit has been held with SARC as the convenor and ICRC as the co-convenor. IFRC has already mobilized resources to support SARC as well, in the form of CHF 1 million from the DREF as a loan. In addition, 4,000 hygiene kits are being mobilized as initial support, to be distributed to the affected population.

External coordination

SARC is coordinating with UN agencies, INGOs, and the national authorities for a seamless operation to ensure an effective response, avoid duplication, and maximize synergies. In addition, IFRC participates alongside SARC in inter-agency cluster meetings and working groups, including health, shelter, household items, livelihoods, and information management.

Contact information

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

At Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society

- **President:** Dr. Hazem Bakleh, sarchq@sarc-sy.org
- **Under secretary general:** Raya Ramadan, raya.ramadan@sarc-sy.org . phone +963 959 999 644

At IFRC

- **IFRC Regional Office for Health, Disasters, Climate & Crises (HDCC) Unit:** Dr. Hosam Faysal, Regional Head of Health, Disasters, Climate & Crises (HDCC) Unit – MENA; hosam.faysal@ifrc.org, phone: +961 71 802 916
- **IFRC Regional Office for Operations Coordination:** Nader Bin Shamlan, Thematic Lead Operations Coordination; nader.binshamlan@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Country Delegation - Syria:**
 - Nino BURTIKASHVILI, Acting Head of Delegation, nino.burtikashvili@ifrc.org
 - Ramzi Saliba, Operations Manager; Ramzi.saliba@ifrc.org,
- **IFRC Geneva:** Lea Christensen Nielsen, Senior Officer Operations Coordination; lea.nielsen@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges Support

- **IFRC Regional Office for MENA:** Yara Yassine, Regional Head of SPRM, Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization; yara.yassine@ifrc.org

For In-Kind Donations and Mobilization Table Support

- **Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management Unit, MENA Regional Office:** Cornelis Jan Dees, Regional Head of GHS & SCM, email: cornelis.dees@ifrc.org

Reference



Click [here](#) for:

- Link to IFRC Emergency landing page