



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

Appeal No: MDRSY009	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 20 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 80 million¹	
Glide No: EQ-2023-000015-SYR	People [affected/at risk]: 5,000,000 people	People to be assisted: 300,000 people
DREF allocation: CHF 1.0 M	Appeal launched: 07/02/2023	Appeal ends: 31/12/2023

¹ Coordination is ongoing to further define the Federation-wide Funding requirements together with the involved Participating National Societies.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 6 February at 4:17 am, a 7.8 degrees magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey near Syria's northern border. The US Geological Survey said the earthquake was centered about 33 km (20 miles) from Gaziantep, a major city and provincial capital. Tremors were felt as far away as Lebanon, Greece, Palestine, and the island of Cyprus. Another big earthquake was felt on the same day at around 1:24 pm local time, largely in the same affected areas. Aftershocks will continue to shake the area as fault lines adjust to such a huge initial tremor. There's even a risk—albeit a small one—of an aftershock bigger than the original quake.

SARC's analysis currently stated that Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, and Tartous are the governorates affected the most by the earthquake, and assessments in neighboring governorates are underway. According to the Syrian MoH's recent figures, as of 7 February, 10:30 am local time, the number of casualties stood at 812 deaths and 1,431 injuries in Government of Syria (GoS) controlled areas and are expected to increase as extraction efforts continue and tremors continue to be felt long after the initial earthquake. The confirmed death toll continues to rise and rescue operations are underway in Syria. The whole of Syria's reports suggest a much higher death and injury toll as many people were reported missing by their relatives.

The earthquake hit amid a very harsh winter with some areas in the northern part of the country hitting sub-zero temperatures, at a time when people are facing huge electricity, fuel, and water shortages.

The Syrian crisis is today even more critical than ever, with a multitude of challenges that make it one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies. A decade of protracted crisis and economic collapse has left more than 15.3 million people in need of some form of humanitarian assistance

SARC also suffered some losses and damage to their infrastructure. A warehouse in Latakia has completely collapsed and another branch building was affected. Another Primary Health Care Centre (PHC) in Hama was also affected and needed to be immediately evacuated. Some Mobile Health Units were unable to move.

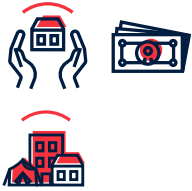
TARGETING

SARC's analysis currently suggests that Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, and Tartous are the governorates affected the most by the earthquake. It is estimated that 5M people will be affected and 300,000 will be targeted under this emergency appeal. Targeting will prioritize the most vulnerable groups such as separated families, female-headed households, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly among other groups of special needs.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) together with the participating national societies aim to support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society in the response to this Syria Earthquake. The strategy of the IFRC response will be to contribute to support 300,000 affected people in the affected areas for a period of 11 months and will focus on the following areas:

Integrated assistance



- In-kind distributions, which help people meet their essential needs – including food and household items (HHIs) and shelter support to affected people including displaced (IDPs) and host communities.
- Provide multipurpose cash assistance as feasible.
- Restore livelihoods, and strengthen resilience and coping through the provision of cash assistance and in-kind items where necessary (seeds, tools, and other materials), as determined through engagement with the communities.
- Engage with communities/local first responders to strengthen their preparedness for response.
- Risk reduction activities (Early Warning and Early Action, Disaster Risk Reduction).
- Support the early recovery activities including support to strengthen the damaged livelihoods in the affected population based on evaluations related to food security and livelihoods during response and recovery.



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

- Provide Health services responding to affected populations' immediate needs including health and psychological well-being including Emergency Medical Services (EMS), MHPSS, RCCE, and other health services at SARC mobile and static health facilities.
- Provide WASH services including targeted support for access to clean and safe water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion services, including the distribution of essential hygiene-related materials, including the sensitive distribution of culturally appropriate feminine hygiene products to women and girls.

Protection and Prevention



- Encourage safe and equitable access to basic services by considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors such as disability and impairment, through Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) -informed multi-sector needs assessments to identify and address gender and specific needs and protection risks.
- Strengthen the provision of restoring family links (RFL) services, and community-based care and protection activities for unaccompanied and separated children and other persons with special needs.
- Interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and support safeguarding mechanisms.
- Ensure the integration of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) early on in the response to ascertain needs and priorities and actively engage affected communities throughout the operation
- Adherence to the duty of care for volunteers through insurance coverage and solidarity mechanism and other safety provisions

such as protective clothing and equipment to ensure access and safety.

Enabling approaches

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



Coordination and Partnerships

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



IFRC Secretariat Services

- Provision and coordination of surge deployments of technical role profiles (Rapid Response) and emergency response units (ERU) support as per identified operational needs.
- Advocate through Humanitarian Diplomacy for affected people's needs in different international forums.
- Ensure adherence to the IFRC's standards for quality assurance, accountability, and evidence-based operations management with a focus on risk mitigation.



National Society Strengthening

- Lead Federation-wide plans for National Society Development including preparedness and response capacities– such as contingency planning, simulation exercises, and prepositioning of stocks with relevant partners. Through the implementation of the operation Response capacity, (PER in Operations based on the operational capacity of the National Society).
- Resource critical Disaster Management requirements within the National Society (headquarters, branches, and sub-branches) in order to ensure appropriate emergency response systems and procedures in place, including equipment & facilities, business continuity, and contingency planning, Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), National Response Team (NRT), among others.
- Strengthen the preparedness and response capacity of SARC branches based on Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessments and plan of action.
- Supply Chain, human resources, finance, communications, information management, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensure continuation of support to SARC Operation capacity to sustain the response on the ground such as human resources, logistics, warehousing, office facilities, and equipments.
- Enhance approach to managing volunteering in emergencies – rapid onboarding and ensuring care for volunteers and staff in action.

- Strengthen PGI and Safeguarding practice through Code of Conduct and Safeguarding policies; orientation of staff and volunteers; and sensitization of communities.
- The response is informed by minimum standards of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion.

The planned response reflects the current situation 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 upcoming 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.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY



Syrian Arab Red Crescent



Number of staff:	5,749
Number of volunteers:	8,031
Number of branches	14

IFRC Membership coordination

The participating National Societies (PNSs) present both inside and outside Syria are committed to supporting SARC's emergency response operations by providing available in-country funding for an immediate response. Many of the in-country PNSs have launched emergency fundraising campaigns and have offered support in the form of human resources, in-kind assistance, ERUs, in addition to financial and technical support. Many MENA National Societies expressed willingness to provide support.

In 2023, seven participating National Societies were present in Syria: The British, Canadian, Danish, German, Norwegian, Swedish, and Swiss Red Cross Societies. The Australian, Finnish, Italian, Japanese, and Netherlands Red Cross Societies engage through the IFRC, or remotely from regional representations in Beirut and their headquarters.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination

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

External coordination

The High Relief Committee (HRC) and the newly assigned national committee headed by the Prime Minister are established to coordinate the ongoing response, of which SARC is part. Additionally, on

behalf of the Movement partners, SARC is coordinating with UN agencies, INGOs, and the national authorities for a seamless operation to ensure an effective response, avoid duplications and maximize synergies. IFRC is also in dialogue with the ECHO on possible support.

IFRC also participates alongside the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in interagency cluster meetings and working groups, including health, shelter and household items, livelihoods and information management.

After 31 December 2023, response activities to this disaster will continue under the IFRC Country Plan for 2024. IFRC Country Plans will show a holistic view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's action. This process aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due time, should there be a need for an extension of the response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

Contact information

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

At the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society

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At the IFRC

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For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

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

Reference



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