



PRCS-Syria (PRCS-S) response team searching for survivors under the rubble in Latakia. ©PRCS-S

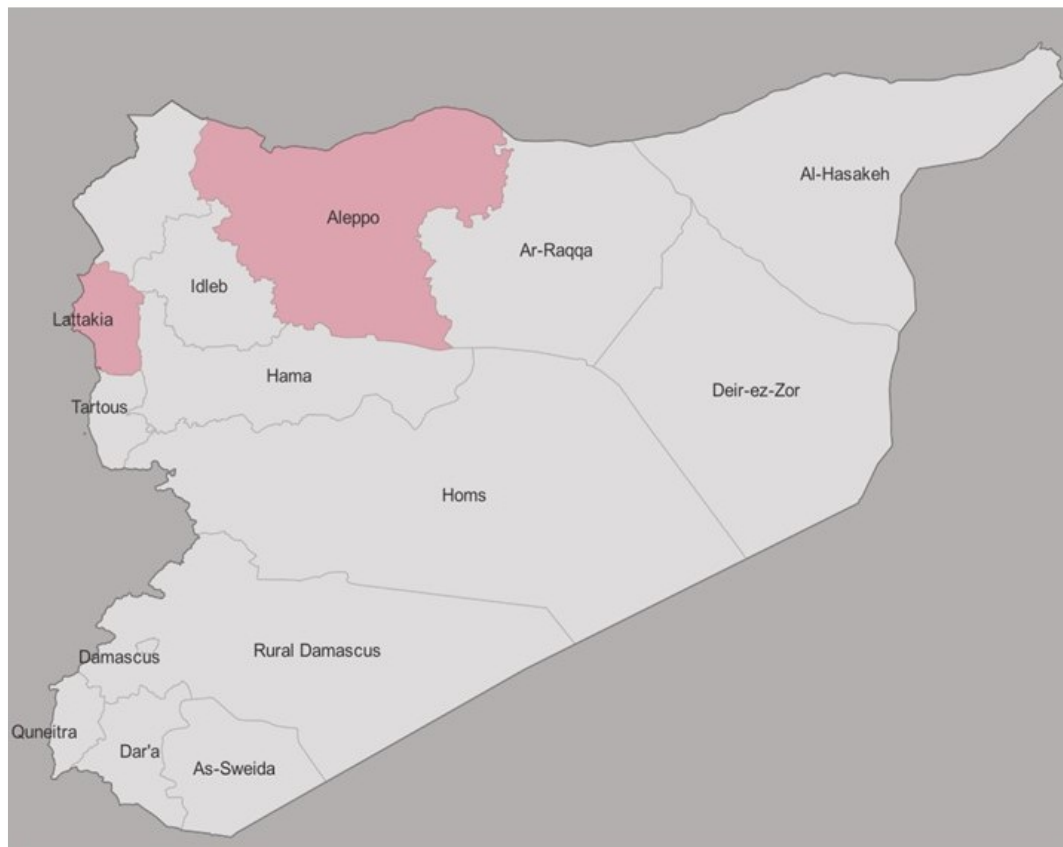
Appeal: MDRPS014	Total DREF Allocation CHF 282,339	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Earthquake
Glide Number: EQ-2023-000015-SYR	People Affected: 40,000 people	People Targeted: 15,419 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 2023-02-17	New Operational end date: 2023-08-31	Total operating timeframe: 6 months
Additional Allocation Re- quested -	Targeted Areas:	Aleppo, Lattakia	

Description of the Event



SYR: Earthquake - 2023-06 - Syria EQ 2023, PRCS-Syria Response

February 13, 2023



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.

Map depicting the affected areas of Palestinian refugee camps in Syria.

What happened, where and when?

On 6 February 2023, a measuring magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern and central Turkey and northern and western Syria. It is one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded in the Levant since Turkey earthquake in 1930. There was widespread damage in an area of about 350,000 km². The earthquake was followed by another significant tremor approximately nine hours later, measuring magnitude 7.5, located around 59 miles (95 kilometers) southwest of the initial epicenter.

According to the Syrian Ministry of Health (MoH), the number of people killed as a result of the earthquake has reached 1,414 along with 2,357 injured in affected governorates.

More than 123 residential areas, villages, towns and cities were badly damaged. A total of 10,600 buildings had partially or fully collapsed in the major cities of Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Idleb and their countryside. In addition, several power plants, water facilities, hospitals and public infrastructure also sustained damage.

Based on the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), 6.5 million people were affected by the earthquake, causing the local economy to plummet even further and increasing the burden of public services and sectors including health, shelters, livelihoods and wash.

Three Palestinian refugee camps in Syria were heavily affected by the earthquake, Al Nairab and Handarat camp in Aleppo and Al Raml camp in Latakia.





PRCS-S Staff and volunteers providing rescue services in Syria. ©PRCS-S

Scope and Scale

Three Palestinian refugees camps in northern Syria, faced a significant destruction caused by the earthquake, with buildings and structures collapsing, six buildings were destroyed immediately, while thousands evacuated their homes out of fear of the earthquake and the aftershocks. 233 buildings had severe damage and unstable structure in Latakia and Aleppo, which led the local authorities there to demolish 102 buildings and plan to destroy 131 buildings in the near future, also hundreds of houses were minorly affected as well. As a result of the earthquake, 39 people were confirmed dead, 351 people were injured and thousands of people cannot and refuse to go back to their houses and were accommodated in shelters, rented houses or with host families.

On another note, as a result of the earthquake and the general economic situation in the country, the increasing inflation rate in general that affects all goods and services, food inflation remains the most dangerous threat, as millions of people's lives and safety are at risk. According to the data from the central bank in Syria, food inflation in 2020 recorded about 169.5%, leading to 55% of the families losing their food security, while 39.4% were under the threat of losing their food security

Summary of changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	No
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	Yes
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification

Based on the Operational priorities and the contribution from different partners of PRCS branch in Syria, the changes in the EPoA that will take place are mainly to cover the shelter needs of 15,419 individuals of the targeted population in the three Palestinian refugees camps in Latakia and Aleppo. Changes include adjusting the items to be distributed according to the revised affected population's needs analysis, 3,300 clothes kits for boys and girls will replace the ten tents, also 12,750 CHF will be reallocated from the income improvement budget line to the shelter assistance budget line, resulting in an increase from 114,000 CHF to 196,296 CHF in shelter assistance budget line. Despite the changes in some budget lines, the overall budget of the DREF remains unchanged.

Current National Society Actions

Protection, Gender And Inclusion	As part of the operational plan of the PRCS-S, the MHPSS team conducted protection from abuse and dealing with fear and panic awareness sessions that were attended by 291 individual from affected population in the Palestinian refugee camps. Together with the IFRC MENA regional office, PRCS-S conducted the safeguarding risk assessment, and a follow-up step related to PGI policy improvement will be undertaken shortly.
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	The PRCS-S emergency response units responding in the Palestinian camps in Aleppo and Latakia, distributed 10,000 food parcels to the affected communities there.
Health	The emergency response teams continued providing their services at the three camps. The clinics and medical points provided medical treatments and medications to 10,683 boys, girls, women and men there, 3,800 people benefited from the MHPSS team's activities. Also 116 boys, girls, women and men attended recreational activities which were organized by the MHPSS teams.
Shelter, Housing And Settlements	Since the start of the operation and according to the PRCS-S EPoA, the following activities have been completed: - the erection of six tents with a capacity of 250-300 people each. - distribution of 500 mattresses and 500 blankets. - distribution of 10,000 clothes kits.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	IFRC is represented in Palestine through a Country Delegation. IFRC actively supports PRCS EQ operation in close coordination with Syria Delegation and SARC. In addition, IFRC provides strategic planning, membership coordination and operational support to PRCS as required across the occupied Palestinian Territories and its diaspora branches. For this response, IFRC allocated 282,339 CHF from its disaster relief funds (DREF) to support PRCS-S EQ operation and deployed an Operations Manager delegate to PRCS Syria to provide the required technical support. PRCS issued
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	its first call for support immediately after the earthquake and issued a revised call for support on 26.3.2023, along with a revised mobilization table.
ICRC	The ICRC has a presence in Syria and has allocated additional funds to support the response operations of the PRCS Syria branch to the earthquake in the three Palestinian refugees camps in Latakia and Aleppo.
Participating National Societies	Movement partners present in oPt include the German Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross. Several other movement partners support PRCS bilaterally or multilaterally without having an in-country presence.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency has deployed a response team from the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) to assist and provide the necessary interventions in Syria, including 15 staff and volunteers from PRCS-oPt with backgrounds in Disaster Risk Management, Emergency Medical Services, and Psychosocial Support.
UN or other actors	1. UNRWA has launched an emergency appeal for Syria. UNRWA is analyzing the needs of Palestine refugee communities and attempting to provide medical supplies, psychosocial support, and non-food items such as blankets, hygiene kits, and mattresses, particularly for those whose homes have been destroyed or declared unsafe. UNRWA is also working to provide emergency financial support to earthquake-displaced households through rental subsidies and housing. 2. WHO has launched a \$43 million appeal to scale up the response in Syria and Türkiye. 3. World food program established a donation line on its website for food items to support the affected households.

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

PRCS-S branch was established in 1968 and mandated to support the Palestinian refugee communities residing in the camps inside Syria. The branch has a strong presence in Damascus, Latakia, Aleppo and Hama and has been providing medical and healthcare services through its hospitals, clinics and medical points. PRCS-S through its 600 well-trained active volunteers who are engaged in various social activities within the camps, implements activities that are designed to enhance the well-being of its residents, such as mental health psychosocial support programs and community development projects.

PRCS-S made significant strides in strengthening its collaboration with movement partners in Syria. The CEO of PRCS-S is regularly invited to SARC movement coordination meetings, ensuring effective alignment and exchange of information. Moreover, PRCS-S successfully organized movement partners meeting, primarily focusing on partners operating within Syria. Additionally, PRCS-S conducted several bilateral meetings with potential movement partners, fostering relationships and exploring avenues for future collaboration.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The earthquake caused significant destruction, with buildings and structures collapsing, in Latakia and Aleppo, six buildings were destroyed immediately, while thousands evacuated their homes out of fear of the earthquake and the aftershocks. 233 buildings had severe damage and unstable structure in Latakia and Aleppo, which led the local authorities there to demolish 102 buildings and plan to destroy 131 buildings in near future, hundreds of houses were minorly affected as well. As a result, thousands of people cannot and refuse to go back to their houses and were accommodated in shelters, rented houses or with host families.

The earthquake exacerbated the living conditions of the affected population in Latakia and Aleppo, as many families lost their houses, properties, sources of their livelihoods and depletion of their savings and won't be able to their normal life anytime soon.

The need to provide the affected families and the host families with shelter items and assistance by providing mattresses, mats and blankets, was highly identified to improve the affected population, as well as the provision of clothes kits to the affected population is crucial at this point of the operation.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

N/A

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The general objective of the operation is to meet the urgent shelter needs of 15,419 people of the affected population by the earthquake in the three Palestinian camps in AL Nairab camp and Handarat camp in Aleppo and AL Raml camp in Latakia.

Operation strategy rationale

The original plan was to purchase ten tents to accommodate the affected population as well as to purchase 850 food parcels to be distributed over 2500 households of the earthquake survivors. Due to the contribution from different PRCS-S partners and the changes of the operational priorities of PRCS-S based on the conducted assessment of the short- and long-term needs, this plan was revised to replace the ten tents and the 850 food parcels with 3300 clothing kits for boys and girls from the age of 4- 14 years old and to provide the affected households with shelter supplies as well.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?



The operational update targets 3000 affected households, 15,419 individuals in the three Palestinian camps of Handarat, Nairab camps in Aleppo and al- Raml camp in Latakia. The operation will focus on the affected communities' needs while the situation will be monitored and evaluated, regular assessments will be carried out to determine the impact of the assistance provided and to identify any further needs.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Targeting will be based on the most vulnerable population (6,578 people in Al Raml camp in Latakia, 8,035 people in Nairab camp and 806 People in Handarat camp in Aleppo) who lost their homes and living in shelters or with host families, host families, female-headed households, large family size with more than 7 family members, elderlies and families with disabled members and families who have members diagnosed with communicable diseases.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	5,009	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	3,034		
Men:	4,275	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	3,101	3.30 %	
Total targeted population:	15,419		

Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
The depreciation of the local currency and inflation in prices of services and goods.	The Syrian government in an effort to secure support from international organizations granted a different exchange rate for the earthquake operation in Syria, which exceeded the standard rate.
Lack of clean water and damage to health facility could result in the spread of waterborne and respiratory diseases and epidemics.	Continues assessment and monitoring of the epidemic situation inside the shelters.
The tremors will continue with great intensities, with a devastating effect, and they will occur in other regions and the inability to maintain the services.	Implementation will take place with the possibility of extending the time frame, expanding the scope of operation and adjusting the strategy, the situation will be continuously monitored.
Increased protection risks among the vulnerable groups of the affected population.	Strong focus on Protection, Gender and inclusion. The PGI responsible at IFRC regional office, jointly with PRCS team in Syria conducted Safeguarding risk analysis.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Syria's current complex humanitarian emergency is one of the world's largest, and the earthquake would only exacerbate the situation and vulnerabilities. The response operations are anticipated to take into account all security situations and circumstances, as well as overcome challenges with the PRCS-S guidelines, positioning in the country and already established mechanisms and procedures.



Planned Intervention

	Shelter Housing And Settlements	Budget		CHF 209,055
		Targeted Persons		15419
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of clothes kits distributed		3300		
# of mats distributed		2500		
# of mattresses distributed		2500		
# of blankets distributed		2500		
# of people reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlements		15419		
Progress Towards Outcome				
- Provision of 2,500 blankets - Provision of 2,500 mattresses - Provision of 2,500 mats - procurement is in the progress of the clothes kits				

	National Society Strengthening	Budget		CHF 47,724
		Targeted Persons		300
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of Lessons Learned Workshop conducted		1		
# of PRCS staff and volunteers provided with the required technical and financial support		300		
Progress Towards Outcome				
- Under DREF 300 volunteer will be covered. - DREF budget covered PRCS-S communications, transport and fuel cost - Coordination is ongoing for the Lessons Learned Workshop that will be conducted at the end of this DREF. - DREF budget revision includes PRCS Volunteer insurance coverage				

	Secretariat Services	Budget		CHF 25,560
		Targeted Persons		2
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of deployments in support of the operation		2	1	
Progress Towards Outcome				
- Deployment of Operations Manager for three months. - Deployment of Finance in emergencies for one month. - Two monitoring visits to the affected areas.				



About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

Since the onset of the earthquake, PRCS-S mobilized its emergency response teams to three Palestinian refugees' camps, Al- Raml camp in Latakia and Handarat and Al Nairab camps in Aleppo. 55 medical personnel and 3 MHPSS units and 3 ambulance cars out of 300 PRCS-S staff and volunteers were involved in the operation.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

Operations Manager has been deployed for three months to support PRCS-S in their response to the earthquake.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Logistic support for the intervention will be provided in accordance with PRCS-S procedures to source and procure all needs and supplies, as well as to ensure effective and timely distribution to affected people.

How will this operation be monitored?

PRCS-S will deploy a reporting staff member from the headquarters to Syria branch to strengthen the capacity of the existing staff in country. PRCS-S will produce periodic field reports to monitor the operation. IFRC in Syria will conduct monitoring visits as required. IFRC MENA regional office is in continuous coordination with Operations Manager in country and PRCS-S technical counterpart. The coordination ensures proper technical support with reporting capacities and development of monitoring tools depending on the context and relevance of such activities. In addition, coordination is on-going to ensure the relevance and success of the Lessons Learned workshop at the end of operation, to provide PRCS-S with the documented lessons learned and ensure their proper incorporation in future responses.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

Regular updates on the operation will be disseminated to the partners. Furthermore, PRCS-S will produce communication materials to highlight response activities and give a voice to vulnerable and impacted populations, where possible, promoting human dignity as the guiding principle.

Contact Information

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

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