



SARC volunteers supporting with firefighting response.

Appeal: MDRSY010	Country: Syrian Arab Republic	Hazard: Fire	Type of DREF Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 499,059	
Glide Number: WF-2023-000129-SYR	People Affected: 50,000 people	People Targeted: 10,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-08-10	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 2024-02-29	DREF Published: 2023-08-11
Targeted Areas:	Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Tartous		

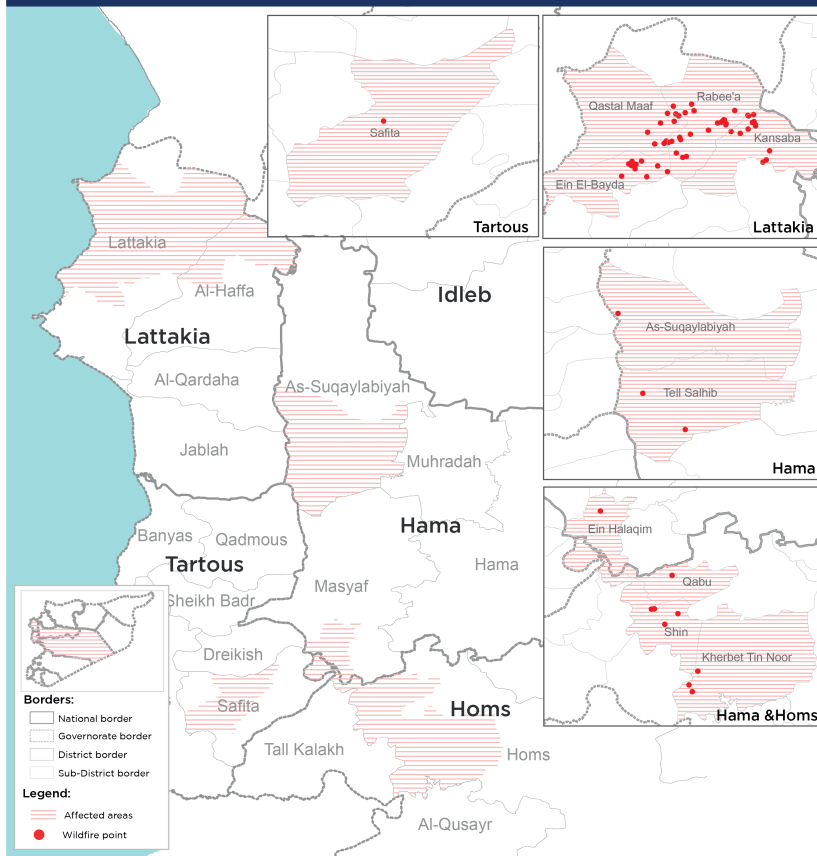
Description of the Event



Syrian Arab Red Crescent Response to the wildfires (Lattakia, Homs, Hama, and Tartous)

From 1st July 2023 to 31st July 2023

Wildfire areas:



Situation:

- Almost **50,000** affected people
25,000 of them are vulnerable people.
- 73** Affected villages.
 - 57 in Lattakia 4 in Hama
 - 10 in Homs 2 in Tartous
- 6** Affected houses in Lattakia.
- Nearly **5,000** dunums of agricultural and forest land were severely damaged.

Response activities in Lattakia:

- 400** volunteers and staff participated in the response.
 - 16** vehicles used in the response.
 - The **disaster management teams** carried out a wide and comprehensive assessment of the situation in the affected areas, in addition to providing support by providing the necessary vehicles and volunteers to carry out evacuation operations if necessary, where **3 families were evacuated** (17 individuals, including 6 children).
 - 5,716** relief items were distributed to the affected people and to the participating rescue teams.
- | Distributed items: | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1,505 | Date boxes (1kg) |
| 1,773 | Water bottles boxes |
| 592 | Canned food parcels |
| 800 | Canned food |
| 458 | Bread portions |
| 196 | Jerry cans |
| 196 | Hygiene kits |
| 196 | Solar charger |
- Two tanks** with a capacity of 70,000 liters each, had a great impact on providing the water needed to extinguish fires in Tarkiya and Al-Tuffahiah areas, where these two tanks were installed in 2022 by the **water management and rehabilitation** team near these areas.
 - The **emergency medical services** team responded to **40 cases**, where the team worked to transfer cases from the fire areas to hospitals in addition to providing treatment at the place for the cases that required this.
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 34 cases treated at the place. | 5 injuries transferred. | 1 body transferred. |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|

SARC-HQ

What happened, where and when?

Multiple Fires have broken out around the coastal and central areas in Syria. Possible reasons behind these fires differ from warm eastern winds that are active during this time of the year in Syria, many dry herbs that burn quickly while moisture content of the trees is less during summer, in addition to high temperatures. It is not excluded that these fires could be caused by human.

The fires started since end of June in Homs, and the intensity of the fires increased from 15 July 2023 with the peak intensity on 25 July and lasted for few days, including Homs, Hama, and Latakia governorates. Most of the fires were in rugged mountainous remote areas. The intensity and size of bushfires in some areas have led to the creation of their own weather systems, generating pyro cumulonimbus clouds, trapping heat, and generating strong wind, in turn sparking further fires. High winds have also helped the bushfires to spread, with some fires jumping over highways and roads. These fires led to material and environmental damage, as a few homes of a number of residents were torched, in addition to burning agricultural crops on which they depend as a main source of livelihood, in addition to burning a large part of the vegetation, forests, and natural reserves.

So far, the directly affected family's numbers are less comparing with previous years. Hazards mentioned above are raising expectations for more fires during the coming days, while the indirect effect of this fires will increase challenges to alleviate the sufferance of the families in the affected areas and protect the remaining resilience in these communities.





Scope and Scale

The communities affected by the recent fires, are already exhausted due to complicated reasons including the effects of the continuous Syrian crises, climate change, and the last earthquake.

Families were suffering to hold their resilience and protect their livelihoods, among huge lack of resources, funding, aid, water, electricity, proper infrastructure, etc. Severe economic crises force them to survive adapting different modalities and strategies which in many cases increase the challenges to support them.

The most vulnerable categories are getting wider and not limited to the elderly, people with disabilities, and children. While identifying indicators to specify the priority of SARC response, assessment results began including people that were never in need for aid before, and unfortunately, the impact of these disasters and incidents have a long-term effect which increases the load on Humanitarian teams. As long as the basics are not being covered, early recovery initiatives will be faced with multiple challenges in the absence of parallel solutions.

So far 73 villages including around 50,000 people were affected by fires (Lattakia - Homs - Hama - Tatus) and more than 5,000,000 m2 were burned., including 6 houses that were completely damaged. Most displaced families chose to reside with host communities.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population groups?	No
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	Yes
If yes, please specify which operations	MDRSY005

Lessons learned

- Based on the previous incidents, it was clear that the communities in those area adopted negative coping mechanisms, which increased impact and the widespread of wild fires. As such, SARC have been closely working on awareness of local communities to educate them on risk mitigations, in addition to providing them with

needed items in order to support their own resilience and protect their assets since 2020.

- Fire brigades (civil defense, fire fighters, forester guards, etc.) where suffering from significant lack of capacities. One of the challenges were related to communication specifically in VHF radio networking which prevented the immediate coordination and indication of fires points. SARC has provided the fire brigades teams with VHF stations (fixed and portable) to reduce their response time and ensure better coordination.
- Wash teams based on the needs from 2020, provided support through time the local communities in affected areas through different programs, including installation of 2 tanks (Oxfam model) with capacity of 70 m3 each in rural Latakia which greatly contributed to the efforts of the fire brigades in their recent interventions.
- Fully integration with the communities, improve and maintain our access and acceptance.
- Government initiated forest fire warning platform since 2020 to convey alerts, awareness, and mitigations

Current National Society Actions

Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Basic needs (Food & NFIs) were distributed immediately to the affected families and host communities, first line responders supported with drinking water, snacks, and Ready To Eat meals in their response. Resources are being mobilized for the next phase. Ongoing distributions of 1,500 RTE Canned food parcels from existing stocks will be procured to be replenished. These parcels include: 1 Canned Fava Beans 6x400g 2 Canned Tuna 6x160g 3 Dates 1x800g 4 Olive Oil 1x1L 5 Apricot Jam 1x1KG 6 Chicken Mortadella 5x200 g 7 Thyme 2x454g
Community Engagement And Accountability	CEA is integrated throughout the intervention to ensure maximum and meaningful participation of affected communities. SARC has been strengthening its capacity in CEA through community-based programme, and as a new feedback mechanism being established within SARC, this latter will ensure accountability of the operation by addressing potential complaints/feedback from the target households and non-target communities.
Health	EMS teams responded in affected areas for more than 45 cases, and remain on standby for any further support. Health teams are covering wide sector of rural areas, and working on a plan to extend outreach to newly affected areas through mobile health units and medical teams to provide health services including referrals and psychosocial support.
National Society Readiness	SARC staff and volunteers are well prepared to respond to protracted and natural disasters and have lots of experience from previous wildfire operations that happened in 2020 and before. Wildfires is one of the hazard scenarios in Syria, and becoming a recurring annual event due to climate change.
	SARC's teams were deployed to field, trying to their extent to support the affected communities to overcome the challenges, and provide relief and support. The Wash teams were supporting so far during the response with drinking water, while previously as a measure of preparedness, installed collective water tanks in rural areas to support fire fighting efforts. Hygiene kits were distributed and planned to be replenished under this DREF. The standard



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	kit includes the following items: - Washing Powder, 1 kg (3) - Toilet Paper hygienic, roll (4) - Soap, Body soap, 100 gm (10) - Tooth Paste, tube, 75 ml or 100 gms (3) - Tooth Brush "Medium hardness"(5) - Shampoo, 250 ml bottle (2) - Razor, disposable (5) - Hygienic Pads, WITH WINGS, 10 pcs. (4) - Shaving Cream, 100 ml or 100 gm (1) - Towels, cotton, 30x70 cm (2) - Nail cutter (1) - Liquid soap "Jell" for dishes washing, 500 ml (2) - Sponges for washing dishes (4) - Facial tissues (1)
Assessment	Rapid assessment were conducted, damage and multi sectorial assessment is prepared to identify needs and gaps.
Multi-purpose Cash	SARC's team are collecting data of affected families in Latakia, Homs, Hama, and Tartous to prepare for the next steps following to the emergency response phase.
Resource Mobilization	SARC have been mobilizing the available stocks in warehouses to cover the basic and immediate needs of the affected families, these items were initially allocated to support families affected by the earthquake, SARC's teams are prioritizing the urgent needs using their existing resources.
Shelter, Housing And Settlements	Shelters were prepared with cooperation with sub-relief committee in Latakia while families preferred to stay close to their residences and moved temporary to host communities in nearby villages. SARC provided NFIs as per the needs.
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery	Awareness sessions with communities are carried by SARC's Teams including media messaging. Regular awareness raising on fire hazards and mitigating risks has proven to be effective as shown by the raising trend of fires impact on communities since the wildfires of 2020. Installing water tanks in villages to increase water collection capacity, in addition to rehabilitation activities to damaged water infrastructure and aggregation networks (amid severe droughts) is part of SARC regular projects and expertise.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	In addition to the regular support, IFRC is coordinating and supporting SARC's team technically to plan for the next phases to cover the upcoming needs. Through this DREF, IFRC is providing the financial support to cover urgent needs aligned with SARC mandate.
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ICRC	ICRC has a regular program support to the affected branches to cover their running costs.
Participating National Societies	RCRC actors continue their support to SARC on regular bases, allowing the team to be the first responder, ready to scale up as per needs and support such a response.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	All the Government institutions and public authorities in the affected areas were alerted and responding, supported by other governorates capacities, staff, and equipment, coordinating with all stake holders through MOFA and HRC. Emergency community centers were prepared to accept the evacuated people by the fires, and continue till date to host those who are not able to. In coordination with SARC and other NGOs, a coordinated approach was agreed to respond to the needs including provision of relief support, also considering resilience and recovery.
UN or other actors	UN prepared in-kind materials in addition to coordination with field teams to support shelters and upcoming needs, trying to mobilize stocks in warehouses.

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

SARC is a member in the High relief committee (HRC), and each branch is member in the sub-relief committee in their respective governorate. The coordination mechanisms are already in place, including the partners. SARC plays a pivot role in coordination between movement partners and HRC in addition to UN agencies on both level at HQ and Governorates (local level - with UN's sub-offices). SARC leads all the emergencies' response under its mandate respecting partners' interests (movement, UN, and INGOs).



Needs (Gaps) Identified

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Regarding the management of safe water, hydration is needed for those affected while there might be no access to safe water in areas damaged by the fires. Some do not have the necessary facilities for safe water consumption, and sanitation. In terms of hygiene, necessary items are missing due to their sudden evacuations from their houses.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Raising community awareness of risks of fires and appropriate actions and mitigation measures needs to be reinforced through dissemination of public awareness and key messages.



Multi purpose cash grants

To contribute to meeting the immediate and urgent needs of families affected by the wildfires multipurpose cash is indicated as a priority for the ongoing response and will allow people affected a wider and more dignified choice of assistance, based on their preferences. While multipurpose cash alone cannot cover all the sectors and needs, it is a valuable complement for affected households, and being unrestricted in nature, supported households can prioritize according to their individual needs. The value will consider covering the Minimum Expenditure Basket for three months and SARC will ensure harmonization and coordination with the Cash Working group. This intended support will be provided through unconditional and unrestricted cash transfer value on once-off through remittance companies.

Cash assistance ensures people have the freedom, dignity, and independence to decide on their own recovery. It also supports local economies by re-stimulating the markets in areas where affected people live.

Livelihoods And Basic Needs

In addition to the loss and damage of their homes and possessions, the directly impacted population has also suffered losses in their assets and means of living. It would be greatly challenging to communities in fire-affected, especially rural areas, and those displaced to cover their immediate food needs, even more to protect and build resilient livelihoods in light of the climate intensity. Coverage of short-term needs are the priority for the affected people by the wildfires, especially those that remain displaced. These would require food and non-food items to be able to meet their immediate basic needs in the emergency phase.



Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The sustainable support to communities allows SARC to protect the people and communities' resilience, which is not obtained in these locations due to lack of resources and funding, the direct and indirect impact of continuous crises and different Natural Disaster change the profile of families extremely in a very short time.

this create the needs of additional costs to survey and evaluate the situation always for better targeting and better impact with limited resources we have, and this is not always covered (volunteers, transportations, running cost, fuel ..etc.).

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF operation, SARC aims to support affected people by the wildfires with most vulnerability, by providing Livelihoods and Basic Needs, Multi-purpose Cash, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and National Society Strengthening in Homs, Hama, Tartous, and Latakia with 6 months implementation.

Operation strategy rationale

Preliminary assessments indicate that the needs are mostly linked to the recovery of losses caused by the fires, complete losses of housing and basic household items. This intervention will be implemented based on the damage and needs assessment that is being carried out, as well as impact data from government authorities. Therefore, the intervention will be based on official data and reports that will be in line with the needs of the affected population. The National Society will implement a multipurpose cash transfer program so that people who do not have a formal income can access the basic elements lost as well as a resilience strategy providing awareness, and fire risk mitigation. Through this DREF, SARC will aim to replenish the distributed emergency stocks. The summary of the intervention will be as follows:

- Replenishment of distributed stocks from onset of the disaster, including: 500 hygiene kits, 1,500 food parcels, and 2,000 drinking water bottles pack,
- Multipurpose cash: A one-time cash program will be implemented to help families cover basic needs such as food, hygiene and replacement of household items. A total of 700 families will be assisted. The amount for the cash transfer program (USD 352) was calculated under averages of the basic family basket and the country's minimum bread basket and the minimum salary. Likewise, this amount may vary once the studies and feasibility studies have been carried out.
- SARC will raise community awareness of risks of fires and appropriate actions through dissemination of the Public Awareness and Public Education DRR key messages.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation aims to assist 10,000 affected people in the 4 governorates, Latakia, Hama, Homs, Tartous. and affected directly or indirectly with the recent fires.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

SARC's identified criteria from previous wildfires that was set to be measured based on multiple indicators has changed for different sectors due to increase of severity and complexity of the overall context. Ongoing assessments are indicating new criteria that looks into vulnerability changes in the families' profiles, while prioritize the sectorial needs which allow to include the most vulnerable families affected by the recent incidents in light of worsening economic situation, so they can hold to remaining resilience they have to stabilize communities.



General selection criteria would be the base line but not limited to: HHs in areas with the highest geographical impact, loss of essential supplies, specific vulnerabilities in the households (multiple children, families with PWD, loss of livelihoods (agricultural crops/trees etc.).

Total Targeted Population

Women:	5,000	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	-	%	%
Men:	5,000	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	-	10.00 %	
Total targeted population:	10,000		

Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions	
Risk	Mitigation action
Expected risk of revival of the wildfires in nearby areas due to continuity of high temperatures and other enabling factors.	Continuous monitoring and coordination with the local authorities on the alerts of weather related hazards. Activation of mitigating measures and resources to the ongoing response operation, depending on location of the uprising fires.
Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation	
Risks related to weapon contamination in some areas by the extension of fires and exposure to the unexploded remnants.	



Planned Intervention

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 2,129
		Targeted Persons	30
Indicators		Target	
# of lessons learned report		1	
Priority Actions:		• Conducting a Lessons Learned workshop	

	Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery	Budget	CHF 74,550
		Targeted Persons	10000
Indicators		Target	
# of people reached with awareness messaging		10000	
Priority Actions:		• Community awareness on the wildfires risks and mitigation measures	

	Multi-purpose Cash	Budget	CHF 263,907
		Targeted Persons	3500
Indicators		Target	
# of households receiving MPC grant		700	
Priority Actions:		• Provision of multi-purpose grants	

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget	CHF 43,133
		Targeted Persons	10000
Indicators		Target	
# of bottled water packs distributed		2000	
# of family hygiene kits procured		500	

Priority Actions:		• Replenishment of family hygiene kits • Distribution of drinking bottled water	
	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 5,112
		Targeted Persons	1
Indicators		Target	
# of timely final financial reports		2	
Priority Actions:		• Provision of financial processing at all levels to ensure timely closure	
	Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Budget	CHF 110,228
		Targeted Persons	7500
Indicators		Target	
# of food parcels procured		1500	
Priority Actions:		• Replenishment of distributed family food parcels	

About Support Services

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

Around 400 volunteers and 60 staff are taking part in SARC response operation, distributed between affected branches and HQ, covering assessments, registrations, distributions, PDMs, M&E, Risk awareness, Logistics, EMS, Health, Wash, IM, etc.). Coordinated and lead by the DM sector.

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

Procurement of items to be replenished will be carried locally by SARC, aligned with the minimum procurement standards of IFRC. For the food parcels and hygiene kits, framework agreements are in place to be utilized with placing only purchase orders. These framework agreements were set and validated by IFRC from the EQ response. A framework agreement also stands with a national service provider to provide the multi-purpose cash grants with whom provision of cash is running for the EQ affected families. Thus no delays are foreseen for overall procurements.

How will this operation be monitored?

SARC standard operating procedures for monitoring are adopted for all SARC operations and programs including Post Distribution Monitoring and community feedback mechanisms, in addition to coordinated visits with implementing partners including the IFRC.

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

SARC have a crucial role on community awareness to improve their knowledge against risks and hazards. SARC communication teams are highly active to feed into different media platforms to ensure and reflect SARC's efforts and humanitarian actions, even extend evident support in reporting to partners.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRSY010 - Syrian Arab Red Crescent SARC Syria Wildfires 2023

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	491,817
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	110,228
Multi-purpose Cash	263,907
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	43,133
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	74,550
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	7,242
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	5,112
National Society Strengthening	2,130
TOTAL BUDGET	499,059

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)





Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

