

OPERATION UPDATE

Syria, MENA| Syria Earthquake

Emergency appeal №: MDRSY009 Emergency appeal launched: 07/02/2023. Operational Strategy published: 20/04/2023	Glide №: EQ-2023-000015-SYR
Operations update: 24-months update Date of issue: 18/02/2026	Timeframe covered by this update: From 07/02/2023 to 30/11/2025
Operation timeframe: 24 months (06/02/2023- 31/12/2026)	Number of people being assisted: 3.5 ¹ million people
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 100 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal CHF 200 million Federation-wide	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 2 million



Volunteers registering individuals affected by the earthquake to receive cash assistance. Source: SARC

¹ Accurately counting the unique number of individuals assisted has been challenging due to the scale and complexity of the response, as well as the multiple and overlapping needs of the affected population. To minimize the risk of double counting, SARC has opted to report a consolidated figure of 3.5 million people reached.

As part of the Syria Earthquake Emergency Appeal, CHF 6 million was made available to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in December 2024 to support the continuation of planned response and recovery activities. However, due to the government transition and subsequent administrative and banking disruptions, SARC was unable to access these funds until May 2025. While formal access to the funds was restored at that time, significant liquidity constraints within the national banking system persisted throughout the remainder of 2025 and continue to affect transaction functionality in 2026. These constraints, including cash shortages, withdrawal limitations, and delayed interbank transfers, have required phased withdrawals and careful financial planning. Despite these constraints, implementation has progressed in line with operational priorities, with phased disbursement and careful financial management applied to mitigate delays. Financial and narrative reporting for these funds remains pending submission of the National Society's reports, as SARC is operating under the Certified Reimbursement and Reporting Arrangement (CRRRA), with reporting timelines managed in coordination with IFRC.

In June 2025, the removal of certain international sanctions affecting Syria was formally however, the formal lifting was only signed and enacted on 18 December 2025. However, the practical operational impact of this announcement was not realized until November 2025, as financial institutions, suppliers, and international partners required time to adjust compliance procedures, due diligence processes, and banking channels. During this interim period, humanitarian implementation continued to face significant constraints, including delays in national procurement, hesitancy among suppliers and service providers, and limitations in cross-border financial transactions. The gradual operationalization of the sanctions easing from November 2025 onward has begun to improve procurement timelines and financial transfers; however, residual caution within the banking and commercial sectors continues to influence the pace of implementation and recovery activities.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Syria continues to face a highly complex and fluid humanitarian situation shaped by overlapping political, security, economic, and social shocks. Over the past year, governance changes, localized insecurity, population movements, and a deepening economic and financial crisis have significantly constrained recovery efforts and further eroded household coping capacities.

Since late 2024, renewed instability in southern Syria, subsequent security incidents in coastal governorates, and evolving dynamics in northern Syria have contributed to disruptions in services, movement restrictions, and heightened protection concerns. These developments have compounded existing vulnerabilities in communities already affected by displacement, conflict, and the aftermath of the 2023 earthquakes. At the same time, changes in government structures and administrative processes have created uncertainty in operational environments, affecting access, coordination, and the delivery of assistance.

Syria's economic collapse remains one of the most critical drivers of humanitarian need. Sharp inflation, currency depreciation, and severe liquidity shortages continue to undermine household purchasing power and the ability of humanitarian actors to operate at scale. Since mid-December 2024, dysfunction within the banking system, including cash shortages, restricted withdrawals, delayed interbank transfers, and reduced functionality of financial institutions, has disrupted humanitarian programming, delayed payments to suppliers and staff, and constrained cash-based assistance. These challenges have also limited families' access to savings, salaries, and remittances, deepening reliance on negative coping strategies.

Against this backdrop, the impacts of the February 2023 earthquakes remain a significant and unresolved factor in Syria's humanitarian landscape. The earthquakes, measuring magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.5, caused extensive destruction across Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama, and Idlib governorates. According to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), 5,670 people lost their lives, 11,774 were injured, and more than 8 million people were directly affected. While the

immediate emergency phase has concluded, many earthquake-affected households continue to face challenges related to shelter safety, livelihoods recovery, access to services, and long-term rehabilitation.

Humanitarian needs have continued to rise, increasing from 15.3 million people in need in 2023 to 16.7 million in 2024, the highest level recorded since the onset of the crisis in 2011. Climate-related shocks, including wildfires in central and coastal governorates, drought conditions, and water scarcity in areas such as As-Sweida, have further strained basic services and livelihoods, compounding earthquake-related recovery needs.

Regional developments have added further pressure. The escalation of conflict in Gaza in October 2023, followed by hostilities in Lebanon from September 2024, triggered population movements into Syria. Approximately 562,000 people displaced from Lebanon entered Syria, placing additional strain on already overstretched services and host communities, particularly in areas with limited absorption capacity.

Currently, an estimated 90 per cent of Syrians live below the poverty line, with the minimum wage covering only a small fraction of basic food needs. Rising costs have forced households to reduce spending on food, healthcare, and education, while prolonged liquidity constraints continue to limit both humanitarian response capacity and early recovery efforts.

Despite these compounding and evolving crises, SARC—supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Movement partners—remains a central humanitarian actor across Syria. Building on the large-scale earthquake response, the operation is increasingly focused on recovery-oriented assistance, strengthening essential services, supporting preparedness and operational readiness, and enabling the safe and dignified recovery and reintegration of earthquake-affected populations within a highly dynamic and fragile national context.

Summary of response

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is the primary national humanitarian responder in Syria, with extensive experience in addressing both protracted crises and sudden-onset disasters. Building on its long-standing operational presence, SARC delivers multi-sectoral assistance including health and medical services, food and non-food item distributions, water and sanitation interventions, psychosocial support, and restoring family links.

Established in 1942 and formally recognized as an auxiliary to the public authorities, SARC serves as the national coordinator for humanitarian assistance. Its mandate enables principled access and large-scale implementation across the country, including in hard-to-reach and underserved areas.

SARC operates through a nationwide structure of 14 branches and 73 sub-branches, supported by over 5,900 staff and 14,000 volunteers. This decentralized network ensures strong community acceptance and enables rapid mobilization, with local volunteers playing a central role in delivering assistance directly to affected populations.

The earthquake response has been implemented through a phased approach, combining immediate humanitarian assistance with early recovery and system-strengthening interventions. As the operation progressed, the focus increasingly shifted toward recovery-oriented support and the integration of earthquake-affected populations into sustainable services and community structures, while maintaining essential life-saving assistance where needs persist.

SARC works in close coordination with national authorities and humanitarian partners, contributing to inter-agency and sectoral coordination mechanisms to ensure complementarity and alignment with national priorities. Recent

adjustments to the operational and regulatory environment have reinforced SARC's role as a central coordination partner for international actors operating in Syria.

In early 2025, new governmental coordination arrangements were introduced, including the establishment of a Humanitarian Action Coordination (HAC) Office to oversee humanitarian interventions and streamline engagement with national and international partners. A dedicated HAC focal point hosted at SARC headquarters supports information sharing, coordination, and continuity of operations.

Collectively, these capacities have enabled SARC—supported by the IFRC and Movement partners—to sustain a large-scale earthquake response while progressively transitioning toward recovery, service integration, and longer-term community resilience.

SARC received support from Partner National Societies through both bilateral and multilateral multi-year programming. Partners continue to provide technical expertise and in-kind relief items to SARC and the membership, based on identified needs and requests.

Needs analysis.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), conducted a [Multi-Sectoral Assessment \(MSA\)](#) between January and February 2025, covering 52 areas across 13 out of 14 governorates. The findings provide a critical snapshot of needs during the transition from large-scale earthquake response to recovery, within the context of Syria's protracted humanitarian crisis.

The assessment confirms that while immediate life-saving needs stemming from the 2023 earthquakes remain significant, recovery has been substantially constrained by the evolving Syria Complex Emergency. Over the past 13–15 months, overlapping shocks—including economic deterioration, liquidity constraints, population movements, climate-related hazards, and intermittent insecurity—have compounded earthquake-related vulnerabilities and slowed recovery across affected communities. As a result, households that were initially supported during the emergency phase continue to face deepening needs, limited coping capacity, and reduced access to basic services. Assessment data highlights widespread reliance on negative coping strategies, deterioration of essential infrastructure, and persistent access challenges in several locations due to security and operational constraints. These dynamics underscore the need for a coordinated humanitarian response that combines targeted life-saving assistance with recovery-oriented and resilience-building interventions.

Current Humanitarian Situation

- **Food Security:** According to the MSA, 54% of key informants reported that communities are consuming lower-quality food, while 36% reported reduced meal portions. These trends reflect worsening food insecurity driven by high inflation, reduced purchasing power, and prolonged disruption of livelihoods following the earthquake and subsequent crises.
- **Water and Sanitation:** The assessment indicates that the majority of areas lack fully functional water networks, with 41% of communities relying primarily on wells. Continued damage to infrastructure, high energy costs, and limited maintenance capacity have prolonged reliance on unsafe or costly water sources, increasing public health risks.
- **Health:** Approximately 50% of health facilities were reported as partially operational or non-functional, severely constraining access to essential healthcare—particularly in remote areas and displacement settings. Earthquake-related damage, combined with fuel shortages, staffing gaps, and supply chain disruptions, continues to limit service availability.

- **Shelter and Human Settlements:** Syria hosts an estimated 7.2 million internally displaced persons (MSA, 2025), many of whom remain in unsafe or overcrowded shelters with inadequate basic services. Earthquake damage, limited reconstruction capacity, and ongoing displacement have prolonged shelter vulnerabilities and increased protection risks.

Sectoral Impacts and Recovery Needs

- **Shelter, Housing and Settlements:** The 2023 earthquakes caused an estimated USD 5.1 billion in direct physical damage in Syria, with residential buildings accounting for nearly half of the losses. Approximately 10 million people across multiple governorates were affected. As of early 2025, many households remain unable to fully repair or reconstruct their homes due to economic constraints, limited access to materials, and insecure tenure, highlighting the continued need for recovery-oriented shelter support.
- **Livelihoods and Basic Needs:** Food insecurity has reached critical levels, with an estimated 14.56 million people food insecure, including 9.1 million experiencing acute food insecurity. Earthquake impacts on small businesses, agriculture, and local markets—combined with the broader economic crisis—have eroded income sources and reduced households’ ability to meet basic needs. Livelihood recovery and basic needs support remain essential to prevent further deterioration.
- **Health and Care:** Damage to health infrastructure from the earthquake, compounded by systemic weaknesses, has left millions with limited access to care. The burden is particularly acute for people with non-communicable diseases, older persons, children, and persons with disabilities, whose needs have increased in the aftermath of the earthquake and ongoing crisis.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** Earthquake damage to water and sanitation systems, combined with drought, energy shortages, and limited rehabilitation capacity, has left many communities reliant on temporary or costly solutions such as water trucking. Sustained investment in WASH system rehabilitation and hygiene promotion remains critical to reduce public health risks.

Overall, the MSA findings, viewed in conjunction with developments under the Syria Complex Emergency, demonstrate that earthquake recovery needs persist and are increasingly shaped by protracted crisis dynamics. Addressing these needs requires an integrated approach that links humanitarian assistance with recovery, preparedness, and resilience-building, while remaining responsive to evolving risks and shocks affecting vulnerable communities across Syria.

Top Priority Needs in the Communities:

Key Informants reported the following as the top priority needs:

(Multiple choices)



63%
Food



55%
Drinking Water



47%
Electricity



47%
Fuel

Food was reported as the most urgent need by Key Informants.

Operational risk assessment

The operating environment in Syria throughout 2025 remained highly volatile, shaped by political transition, economic collapse, regional spillover, and increasing operational constraints on humanitarian actors. While some areas experienced relative stabilization, overall uncertainty persisted regarding governance arrangements, regulatory frameworks, security conditions, and access modalities. Population movements continued in both directions, including spontaneous returns and new displacement, while approximately six million Syrians remain displaced outside the country.

Security dynamics remained fluid during 2025, with localized hostilities, targeted security operations, and movement restrictions affecting several governorates. These developments constrained humanitarian access, disrupted supply routes, and required continuous reassessment of operational plans. Damage to infrastructure—particularly roads, power networks, and public facilities—continued to limit reach and increase operational costs.

Economic risks significantly intensified in 2025. Severe liquidity shortages, banking restrictions, and cash circulation constraints disrupted procurement, staff payments, vendor contracts, and cash-based assistance. Financial Service Providers faced reduced capacity to deliver services, while fuel shortages and electricity rationing further affected

logistics, health facilities, and water systems. These challenges directly contributed to implementation delays and necessitated periodic suspension or rephrasing of activities.

Environmental and safety risks remained acute. UXO contamination continued to restrict access to agricultural land and residential areas, exposing civilians, staff, and volunteers to injury and limiting recovery activities. Climate-related shocks, including drought conditions and wildfire risks, further compounded vulnerabilities and operational pressures.

Regional developments also increased operational risks. The escalation of hostilities in Lebanon from late 2024 led to large-scale population inflows into Syria during 2025, placing additional strain on essential services, humanitarian supply chains, and host communities. At the same time, evolving coordination structures and regulatory requirements introduced new administrative and compliance-related risks for international partners operating through national systems.

Key operational risks

1. **Access and security constraints:** Insecurity, localized violence, and administrative restrictions continued to limit access in parts of northern, southern, and central Syria. These constraints affected needs assessments, monitoring activities, and the timely delivery of assistance.
2. **Liquidity and financial system disruptions:** Cash shortages, banking restrictions, and limits on interbank transfers significantly affected procurement, payments, and cash-based programming. Government circulars restricting access to funds received prior to December 2024 further exacerbated delays and operational uncertainty.
3. **Fuel, power, and infrastructure shortages:** Persistent fuel and electricity shortages disrupted logistics, cold chains, health facility operations, and water supply systems, increasing reliance on generators and emergency workarounds.
4. **Supply chain instability:** Import constraints, movement approvals, security risks, and market volatility continued to affect the availability and cost of medical supplies, WASH materials, and essential goods.
5. **Funding gaps:** Despite rising needs, funding levels remained critically low. Both the IFRC Syria Unified Plan and the Syria Complex Emergency Appeal remained severely underfunded, limiting scale-up and affecting the continuity of recovery-oriented interventions.
6. **Staff and volunteer safety:** Exposure to insecurity, UXO risks, and operational stress continued to pose safety and well-being risks to personnel, affecting deployment capacity and volunteer availability.
7. **Coordination and regulatory changes:** Shifts in coordination structures, evolving government oversight mechanisms, and changing requirements for international engagement increased transaction costs and required constant adaptation to maintain operational continuity.
8. **Asset protection and warehouse security:** Security incidents affecting humanitarian warehouses in late 2024 highlighted ongoing risks related to asset protection. Measures to strengthen warehouse security and inventory controls remained essential throughout 2025.

Risk mitigation measures

To mitigate these risks, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has prioritized:

- strengthened coordination with national authorities, Movement partners, and humanitarian actors.
- adaptive planning and phased implementation to respond to access and liquidity constraints.
- diversification of procurement modalities and logistical routes where feasible.
- enhanced security, safety, and duty-of-care measures for staff and volunteers.

- reinforced community engagement and accountability mechanisms to support acceptance and access.
- improved warehouse security, inventory management, and contingency planning to safeguard humanitarian assets.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

The Earthquake Emergency Appeal concluded in February 2025; however, remaining response activities under this appeal will continue to be implemented until December 2026. While the appeal has formally closed, humanitarian and recovery needs among earthquake-affected populations persist, requiring continued, integrated support within the broader national response framework. Implementation of activities under this appeal was temporarily put on hold from 1 March to 24 July 2025 due to operational and contextual constraints. Following the resumption of activities, the focus has shifted toward recovery-oriented interventions and the completion of planned activities in alignment with evolving needs and available resources.

Under the IFRC Syria Network Plan, earthquake-related interventions are embedded within relevant Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions, ensuring continuity while shifting the focus from large-scale emergency relief toward recovery, service integration, and resilience-building. The operational strategy prioritizes coordinated, multi-sectoral assistance across shelter, livelihoods, multi-purpose cash assistance, health and care, WASH, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery, environmental sustainability, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), community engagement and accountability (CEA), coordination and partnerships, and National Society strengthening for disaster management and operational readiness.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) will maintain an in-country presence and continue providing technical, coordination, and institutional support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (Syrian Arab Red Crescent), ensuring alignment between recovery priorities and national systems.

The transition from the Earthquake Appeal to the IFRC Syria Network Plan was undertaken through a consultative process with SARC departments and partners, guided by the following principles:

- **Continuation of life-saving assistance:**
Humanitarian support for populations directly and indirectly affected by the earthquake will continue where critical needs persist. Food assistance, NFIs, seasonal items, cash and voucher assistance, and household relief support remain part of the response, alongside strengthened preparedness and prepositioning for future shocks.
- **Recovery-oriented, multi-sectoral support:**
The strategy emphasizes livelihoods recovery, multi-purpose cash assistance, and sustained health services, including community-based health care, Mobile Health Units, Mobile Medical Teams, mental health and psychosocial support, and physical rehabilitation. WASH interventions focus on restoring access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services, including rehabilitation of systems and facilities. Housing rehabilitation and integrated community-based approaches support early recovery and social cohesion.

- **Strengthening National Society capacities:**
Capacities developed under the Earthquake Appeal—including logistics, information management, volunteer management, finance and administration, PMER, coordination, communications, and resource mobilization are being consolidated and aligned with SARC’s annual planning and longer-term development priorities.
- **Scaling disaster risk reduction and resilience:**
Lessons learned and pilot initiatives from earthquake-related DRR activities are being expanded to strengthen community preparedness, risk awareness, and resilience under the national response framework.
- **Embedding PGI and CEA across sectors:**
Protection, Gender and Inclusion and Community Engagement and Accountability remain cross-cutting priorities, ensuring inclusive, accountable, and people-centered programming that considers age, gender, and diversity-related vulnerabilities.
- **Transition of technical roles and right-sizing support:**
Technical expertise provided by the IFRC Secretariat is progressively transferred to SARC counterparts, allowing the IFRC Syria Country Delegation to focus on its core roles in National Society Development, Humanitarian Diplomacy, and Movement and Membership coordination, while adjusting its staffing structure accordingly.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Shelter, Housing and Settlements

Objective:	1. Emergency phase: Communities in crisis-affected areas restore and strengthen their safety through emergency shelter and household items provision.
	2. Resilience building: Meet the medium-term shelter needs and urban resilience in line with principles of dignity, protection, and an integrated approach.

	Indicator	SARC actual ²	IFRC actual ³	IFRC target
Key indicators:	Number of households provided with household items that support the restoration and maintenance of health, dignity and safety and the undertaking of daily domestic activities in and around the home	514,659	28,875	31,950 ⁴

Following the February 2023 earthquakes, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) mobilized its Disaster Management teams across affected governorates to deliver emergency shelter support and essential relief. Assistance included the distribution of food and non-food items—such as food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets, kitchen sets, jerrycans, and tarpaulins—reaching earthquake-affected households in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, and Tartous. Since the start of the response, SARC has distributed a total of **10,282,892 food and non-food items** as part of the earthquake response.

In addition, following the resumption of activities after the temporary pause (end-July 2025), SARC procured additional relief items under this appeal for pre-positioning purposes to strengthen operational readiness and contingency capacity. These include 3,000 food parcels, 6,000 hygiene kits, 10,000 blankets, and 12,000 jerrycans, which are currently pre-positioned to enable rapid deployment in response to emerging needs or future shocks. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, SARC supported light rehabilitation and maintenance in collective centers, addressing urgent needs including repairs to doors, windows, electrical panels, water tanks, and cabling. Since the start of the response, more than 200 collective shelters have been supported. As of end-November 2025, four collective shelters continue to host approximately 315 people, with basic services provided by SARC teams.

² This is the achievement of SARC through funding support from the Movement, and other partners.

³ This is the achievement through IFRC-supported funding.

⁴ Includes households to be reached with tents, tarps, kitchen sets and jerry cans.

To improve targeting and optimize limited resources, SARC updated its Disaster Management beneficiary database to incorporate geographic vulnerability, needs mapping, and host community capacity, particularly in earthquake-affected areas. This strengthened evidence-based prioritization and supported the transition from emergency shelter assistance toward recovery-oriented interventions.

With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), SARC distributed emergency shelter and household items, including kitchen sets, jerrycans, and tarpaulins, to improve living conditions for displaced and affected families. Emergency shelter items were also provided in-kind through the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC), marking a significant contribution to the early response phase. In parallel, IFRC shelter specialists were deployed through surge mechanisms to support assessments and provide technical guidance on appropriate mid-term shelter solutions.

As part of recovery efforts, SARC implemented light rehabilitation of community facilities in Idleb governorate, with support from Movement partners. A total of 18 schools were rehabilitated, benefiting 1,476 students by restoring safe and functional learning environments. Rehabilitation works included debris removal, repairs to walls, fences, bathrooms, and water systems, as well as installation of protective features to improve structural safety and resilience.

Implementation of shelter and light rehabilitation activities experienced a temporary pause between March and end-July 2025 due to funding and operational constraints, after which activities resumed and were rephased in line with recovery priorities under the IFRC Syria Network Plan.

Following the closure of the Earthquake Appeal, shelter-related activities have been integrated into the IFRC Syria Network Plan. Current priorities focus on recovery and preparedness, including the distribution of seasonal household items based on identified needs, support for light house repairs where feasible, post-distribution monitoring when access allows, and replenishment and pre-positioning of critical shelter stocks. Coordination with shelter partners and local authorities continues to guide implementation, while community awareness sessions promote safe shelter practices and support longer-term recovery and integration.



Livelihoods

Objective:		<i>Communities in crisis-affected areas and the displaced can cover their immediate food needs and protect and build resilient livelihoods.</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	SARC actual	IFRC actual	IFRC target
		<i>Number of targeted households reached with food (in-kind)</i>	315,620	56,620
	<i>Number of households with damaged basic livelihood physical asset in targeted communities restored</i>	3,241	448	3,015

Following the earthquake, affected communities faced severe livelihood disruptions due to displacement, infrastructure damage, infrastructure damage, market shocks, and loss of income sources. Emergency food assistance constituted a critical component of the initial response, ensuring access to essential nutrition for households that had lost their livelihoods and homes. During the response period, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) distributed a total of 4,047,364 food items across the affected governorates of Aleppo, Lattakia, Hama, Tartous, and Homs, reaching individuals in collective shelters as well as host and local communities.

With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), SARC strengthened its warehousing capacity to manage the increased volume of relief supplies. Through this support, SARC procured and distributed 56,620 food parcels to an equal number of households, reaching a total of 301,136 individuals. These food parcels were procured under an established framework agreement and subjected to laboratory testing to ensure quality and safety prior to distribution. The assistance played a critical role in stabilizing household food consumption and alleviating financial pressure during the emergency phase.

Recognizing livelihoods as central to recovery and resilience, SARC placed early recovery interventions at the core of its earthquake response. Livelihood needs assessments were conducted in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, and Lattakia using a combination of key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and household-level assessments. These assessments examined livelihood assets, market dynamics, coping strategies, and seasonal factors, ensuring that interventions reflected the diverse socio-economic realities of affected communities.

Since February 2023, SARC has supported approximately 3,241 households through livelihood interventions targeting small businesses and agricultural activities affected by the earthquake. In 2023, 448 households (approximately 2,270 people) in Aleppo, Hama, and Lattakia received conditional cash assistance to rehabilitate or restart income-generating activities. Assistance followed a transparent process that included dissemination, application, verification, business management training, and business plan evaluation. Targeting prioritized women breadwinners, households with young children, elderly members, persons with disabilities or chronic illness, and households with high dependency ratios.

An endline assessment conducted between May and July 2024 demonstrated strong recovery outcomes. Eighty-nine per cent of beneficiaries reported that their businesses were fully operational, while 67 per cent identified the supported activity as their primary source of household income. Cash assistance was widely perceived as appropriate, with 93 per cent of respondents confirming its suitability. Income generated was mainly used to meet household needs, with a portion reinvested to sustain businesses.

In 2024, SARC expanded livelihood programming through updated assessments and replication of the same implementation model across Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia, and Idleb. More than 1,000 households participated in basic business management training, and 897 households were selected for livelihood support. However, following the events of December 2024 and the subsequent liquidity crisis in 2025, planned cash transfers could not be implemented as scheduled.

Livelihood activities experienced a temporary suspension between December 2024 and late-2025 due to project freezes and severe liquidity constraints, delaying cash-based assistance despite completed targeting, training, and verification processes. SARC remains committed to completing the planned transfers and supporting the selected households as conditions allow.

Following the closure of the Earthquake Appeal, livelihoods interventions have been integrated into the IFRC Syria Network Plan, with a strong emphasis on early recovery, self-reliance, and resilience. Future programming will focus on restoring and protecting income sources, integrating disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation considerations, and strengthening SARC's institutional capacity through sustained technical support, coordination, and learning.



Basic business management skills training in Hama. Source: SARC.



Multi-purpose Cash

Objective:

The affected households are provided with unconditional multipurpose cash assistance to address their basic needs (life-saving and longer-term) in an accountable and participatory manner.

Key indicators:

Indicator	SARC actual	IFRC actual	IFRC target
<i>Number of households targeted with multi-purpose cash assistance</i>	65,500	12,977	15,000
<i>Total spent for operation in CHF as multi-purpose cash transfer⁵</i>	13,296,500	2,634,331	4,800,000

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) team conducted comprehensive registration of earthquake-affected populations across all impacted governorates. The data supported identification of the most vulnerable households, informed targeting, avoided duplication with other actors, and enabled linkages with complementary sectoral interventions, including livelihoods.

The MPCA transfer value—initially set at SYP 1,050,000 per month—was endorsed by the National Cash Working Group in March 2023, representing 60 per cent of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). As living costs rose sharply throughout 2024, the MEB increased by 43 per cent by August. In response, the transfer value was adjusted to SYP 5,275,000 in September 2024 to cover three months of essential needs. This revised amount was disbursed as a one-off payment to the final 2,000 families in the programme, following Cash Working Group approval and inputs from evaluations and field coordination.

From May 2023, SARC distributed multipurpose cash assistance in Hama, Aleppo, Lattakia, and Idlib to 65,500 families, reaching approximately 327,500 people, with support from Movement and external partners. In addition, during the 2023–2024 winter season, SARC provided winterization cash assistance of SYP 3,000,000 per family to 11,110 families (approximately 55,550 people) to support essential needs such as clothing, heating fuel, healthcare, and household items. Transfer values were calculated based on cluster-led market price assessments conducted across the 11 covered governorates, ensuring alignment with prevailing market conditions.

Through support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), SARC distributed MPCA to 8,566 households (approximately 38,505 people) and winterization cash to 4,411 households (approximately 21,743 people). In total, 12,977 households (approximately 60,248 people) were reached with IFRC-supported cash assistance, representing 21 per cent of households assisted by SARC through MPCA and winterization.

In parallel to the earthquake response, and within the same geographic operational footprint, SARC also provided cash assistance to more than 2,000 families in Lattakia governorate under the Wildfires DREF 2024 and 2025. While funded through a separate mechanism, this intervention addressed overlapping vulnerabilities and contributed to

⁵ The exchange rate from Syrian Pounds (SYP) to Swiss Francs (CHF) is provided for indicative purposes only.

stabilizing household needs in communities simultaneously affected by earthquake impacts and climate-related shocks.

Cash transfers were implemented through Al Fouad remittance company under a long-term service agreement aligned with IFRC procurement standards. Cash-out points were operational across affected areas, and beneficiaries received SMS notifications once funds were available. Field monitoring confirmed that families were able to access assistance without barriers and reported respectful treatment by both the Financial Service Provider (FSP) and SARC staff. While households noted that inflation reduced purchasing power—particularly for rent, food, and health costs—cash assistance remained a preferred and flexible modality to meet diverse needs.

An evaluation conducted by SARC assessed the impact of MPCA through desk reviews, post-distribution surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Findings demonstrated that cash assistance reduced negative coping strategies, improved household well-being, and supported access to food, health care, education, and shelter. Beneficiaries expressed a preference for fewer, larger instalments over multiple smaller transfers and highlighted the importance of inflation-sensitive transfer values.

Operational challenges and mitigation

In 2025, ongoing liquidity and banking constraints significantly affected the implementation of cash-based assistance, particularly the ability to disburse funds to affected populations. The existing Financial Service Provider (FSP) agreement reached its contractual end and required amendment to allow disbursement in USD under the same contractual framework. However, this adjustment was only feasible following the Syrian Government's announcement in August 2025 permitting the use of USD as a transaction currency.

To ensure compliance with IFRC financial and procurement procedures, SARC requested exceptional approval to temporarily amend and extend the existing FSP agreement to continue disbursements to affected populations. This exceptional approval was granted in October 2025, enabling continuity of operations while maintaining adherence to risk management and procurement standards.

In parallel, SARC initiated a new procurement process to establish framework agreements with multiple Financial Service Providers capable of operating in both SYP and USD, with broader geographic reach across Syria. This process aims to strengthen redundancy, operational flexibility, and preparedness for future cash-based interventions.

Cash coordination during the earthquake response followed a One Movement approach, with SARC leading implementation, IFRC coordinating Movement engagement, and Participating National Societies providing technical support. The British Red Cross supported technical coordination of the CVA component, alongside surge deployments and information management resources that enabled deduplication and unified CVA databases.

Following the closure of the Earthquake Appeal, CVA remains an integral modality under the IFRC Syria Network Plan. Future MPCA will be guided by coordination with the national Cash Working Group, market and FSP assessments, and liquidity analysis. Strengthening centralized registration systems, monitoring, accountability, and community engagement will remain priorities, alongside continued capacity building of SARC staff and volunteers to ensure readiness, accountability, and adaptability in future responses.



SARC Volunteers registering earthquake affected people for cash distributions. Source: SARC.



Health & Care⁶

(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)

Objective:	<i>Restored access of affected populations to essential health care services (emergency, primary, secondary, community/public health) including mental health and psychosocial support.</i>			
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Key indicators:	Indicator	SARC Actual	IFRC Actual	Target
	<i>Number of people reached with primary health services</i>	5,609,099	2,009,095	731,827
	<i>Number of local health facilities supported with staff, equipment and/or running costs for the provision of medical services in emergencies</i>	132	57 ⁷	49

Over the two years following the February 2023 earthquake, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Movement partners, sustained a comprehensive and multi-layered health response across affected areas. Despite significant operational constraints including damaged infrastructure, fuel shortages, electricity disruptions, and liquidity challenges essential health services continued to be delivered at scale through flexible and adaptive modalities.

A total of 9,708,747 medical services were delivered to 5,609,099 individuals through hospitals, static health facilities, Mobile Health Units (MHUs), Mobile Medical Teams (MMTs), physiotherapy centres and mobile teams, mental health and nutrition clinics, and the work of trained Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) volunteers. This combination of fixed, mobile, and community-based services played a critical role in addressing both immediate health needs and longer-term recovery requirements in earthquake-affected areas.

Health coordination remained central to the response. SARC and Movement partners strengthened technical alignment through regular Movement-wide coordination meetings facilitated by IFRC, enabling joint review of progress, identification of service gaps, and alignment on priorities. Health technical working groups supported harmonized approaches, results-based planning, and coordination of technical and financial resources.

CBHFA volunteers were among the first responders following the earthquake, providing evacuation support, first aid, and psychological first aid. As the response evolved, their role expanded to include health promotion,

⁶ The data reported is what has been done by IFRC.

⁷ The data sums the Number of local health facilities through 1 ERU, 6MHUs, 28 MMTs, 16 Clinics, 3 Poly clinics, and 3 Hospitals

community engagement, and support to people living with non-communicable diseases. IFRC supported training on Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) for 90 CBHFA volunteers, strengthening community-level preparedness.

In the early phase of the response, a health Emergency Response Unit (ERU) led by the Finnish Red Cross was deployed to Lattakia, delivering comprehensive primary health care services and reaching 3,000 individuals. In parallel, the IFRC and Movement partners provided substantial support to strengthen SARC's emergency medical and outreach capacity. This included the deployment and operational support of eight Mobile Health Units (MHUs)—four supported under the Earthquake Appeal and four under the IFRC Syria Unified Plan 2025—delivering primary, maternal, reproductive, and referral health services in remote and underserved areas. In addition, 26 ambulances were provided to SARC under the Syria Complex Emergency Appeal, significantly enhancing emergency referral and pre-hospital care capacity across earthquake-affected governorates.

Mobile Health Units began operating within days of the earthquake, targeting remote and underserved communities. Staffed by multidisciplinary teams, MHUs delivered internal medicine, reproductive and maternal health services, gynaecological care, diagnostics, and referrals. IFRC supported seven MHUs through the end of December 2023, with continued implementation under the Unified Plan in 2024 and 2025. In parallel, 27 Mobile Medical Teams were deployed to provide consultations, health promotion, and psychosocial support.

Since December 2024, improved humanitarian access to Idlib governorate has enabled the expansion of SARC health services in the area. To strengthen operational capacity and ensure effective service delivery, four Emergency Medical Service (EMS) units and four MHUs were provided to the SARC Idlib branch, enhancing readiness to respond to both earthquake-related and ongoing health needs among affected populations.

To maintain continuity of care in fixed facilities, IFRC supported the operational and human resource costs of 16 primary health clinics, with a focus on maternal, newborn, and child health. This complemented support from UNFPA and UNHCR to SARC-run polyclinics. To mitigate power disruptions and improve sustainability, solar energy systems were installed in two SARC health facilities, ensuring uninterrupted service delivery.

As part of the recovery phase, significant investments were made to strengthen health system capacity and specialized care. Medical equipment procured and delivered to SARC-supported facilities included one endoscopic tower, two CR imaging systems, two dental chairs with accessories, eight bedside patient monitors, and one high-capacity steam sterilizer (250–300 litres) to enhance infection prevention and control and ensure safe clinical procedures.

Physical rehabilitation and disability inclusion were prioritized in response to the high number of injuries and long-term impairments resulting from the earthquake. Through the Disability Inclusion and Physiotherapy Project, 96,124 individuals received services, including 25,483 persons with disabilities. Building on earlier distributions, a large-scale provision of assistive devices and care equipment was completed, including approximately 1,298 wheelchairs (including adult, CP, and electric wheelchairs), 1,350 walkers, 90 rollators, 2,650 crutches, 150 hospital beds, and 700 medical mattresses. These assets supported recovery, mobility, dignity, and continuity of care while reducing pressure on overstretched health facilities.

SARC's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) remained active throughout the response, providing pre-hospital care and referrals. IFRC supported EMS volunteers with 1,765 uniform sets and contributed to the development of a strategic EMS roadmap. EMS centres supported 9,875 patients with medical referrals.

With Movement support, SARC also expanded secondary health care services, including maternal, newborn, and child health interventions. A total of 2,278 individuals benefited from services such as caesarean sections, neonatal care, and emergency surgical procedures.

As the operation transitioned from emergency response toward recovery and resilience, health priorities increasingly focused on system strengthening while maintaining essential service delivery. Primary health care continues through SARC’s fixed facilities and mobile outreach (MHUs and MMTs), supported by essential medicines and targeted expansion based on gap analysis. Increased investment is planned in emergency medical services, secondary health care, and physical rehabilitation, alongside expanded community-based health activities linked to epidemic preparedness and climate-related health risks. Psychosocial support, health education, and inclusive services for persons with disabilities remain integral to ensuring equitable access and reducing long-term humanitarian dependency.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Objective: *Reduce the risk of waterborne diseases and ensured the dignity of the affected population through the provision of inclusive WASH services.*

	Indicator	SARC Actual	IFRC actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i>Number of people reached by WASH assistance</i>	Over 80% of Syria population	5.4 Million	936,267
	<i>Number of people reached with hygiene supplies</i>	4,007,656 items	418,911	463,996

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) conducted rapid assessments of water, sanitation, and electricity infrastructure across affected governorates to identify urgent needs and prioritize interventions. Early response activities focused on restoring minimum WASH conditions in collective centres and high-risk communities.

SARC undertook light rehabilitation works in collective centres and distributed in-kind WASH relief items, including hygiene kits, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits, anti-lice shampoo, diapers, and soap, reaching displaced households and host communities. Distributions were coordinated with humanitarian partners at governorate and sector levels to prevent duplication and maximize coverage. Dignity and MHM kits were implemented under Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) activities and are reported accordingly in the PGI section.

With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), SARC strengthened WASH preparedness and response capacity through two Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) trainings for WASH and health coordinators in earthquake-affected branches. Trained coordinators cascaded knowledge to branch teams, enhancing epidemic prevention and response readiness.

IFRC also supported the procurement and installation of 1,200 plastic household water tanks (ranging from 1m³ to 5m³). Installation was led by SARC's Water and Rehabilitation Department, supported by water and sanitation engineers who conducted site assessments, supervised installation, and provided user orientation on safe use, maintenance, and cleaning. These tanks improved household water storage capacity and contributed to reducing the risk of waterborne diseases.

In addition, IFRC supported the procurement of 80 large-capacity Oxfam water tanks (40 tanks of 70m³ and 40 tanks of 95m³), which are pre-positioned at SARC's central warehouse and ready for deployment in high-priority locations. Complementary installation and maintenance items were procured to enhance sustainability and integration with existing water systems.

To mitigate severe power disruptions affecting water supply systems, IFRC supported SARC in the procurement and installation of 39 generators to power critical infrastructure, including water stations, wells, health facilities, bakeries, and maintenance workshops. Generator installation was carried out by SARC's Water and Rehabilitation Department in coordination with local authorities, with agreements in place to ensure operation, fuel availability, and maintenance. These generators currently support essential services for over 5 million people nationwide and had significant cross-sectoral impact, contributing to water access, food security, healthcare delivery, livelihoods, and emergency preparedness.

In Idleb governorate, with support from the German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and IFRC, SARC rehabilitated six elevated water storage tanks that were damaged by the earthquake and rendered non-operational. Engineering assessments, design, supervision, and monitoring were conducted by SARC's WASH team. The rehabilitated facilities are now operational and serve 23,302 people, improving water availability and system resilience. Joint field visits with partners and local water boards confirmed compliance with quality and safety standards and supported formal handover for operation and maintenance.

To further strengthen operational readiness following the resumption of activities after the temporary pause in 2025, SARC has pre-positioned an additional 6,000 hygiene kits under this appeal. These stocks are intended to support rapid deployment in the event of disease outbreaks, new displacement, or other shocks affecting earthquake-impacted communities.

Implementation of WASH activities experienced a temporary pause between March and end-July 2025 due to funding and operational constraints, after which activities resumed and were rephased in line with recovery and preparedness priorities under the IFRC Syria Network Plan.

As the operation transitions toward recovery and resilience, WASH interventions have been integrated into the IFRC Syria Network Plan. Priorities include sustaining hygiene promotion, supporting water supply and sanitation system rehabilitation, strengthening solid waste management where feasible, and enhancing SARC's technical capacity through targeted training and learning. These efforts aim to maintain essential services, reduce public health risks, and strengthen community resilience to future shocks.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Objective:	<i>Ensure that Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) is considered a safe and inclusive response, by strengthening SARC's PGI capacities, mainstreaming of PGI and safeguarding in relevant technical sectors, and strengthening of protection services.</i>			
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Key indicators:	Indicator	SARC actual	IFRC actual	Target
	<i>Number of people trained on implementing the PGI Minimum Standards</i>	343	240	4,965

Throughout the earthquake response, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Movement partners, prioritized Protection, Gender and Inclusion as a cross-cutting component of humanitarian assistance. Interventions focused on addressing immediate protection risks, restoring dignity, and ensuring inclusive access to services for the most vulnerable populations.

During the reporting period, SARC reached 1,111,889 people with protection and community services across earthquake-affected governorates. Awareness-raising activities on safety, panic management, childcare, grief and loss, and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence reached 439,521 people. In addition, 189 focus group discussions were conducted, 160 individuals received in-kind assistance, and 36,061 people benefited from specialized psychological first aid services, with a particular emphasis on children.

Child-friendly and recreational activities were provided to 96,291 children, supporting psychosocial well-being and recovery. Case management services, including referrals to medical, legal, and mental health support, reached 18,392 people across different age groups. Structured activities addressing age- and gender-specific needs reached 159,146 people, while 68,519 individuals accessed education-related services and 119 peer support activities were implemented.

As part of its PGI response, IFRC supported the procurement and distribution of dignity kits, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits, elderly diapers, and hygiene kits for people with special needs. These interventions addressed critical gaps in access to hygiene items amid rising inflation and reduced purchasing power, while safeguarding dignity and inclusion. The table below presents the IFRC-supported PGI distributed items and their status:

Item type	Status
Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits	4,783 females and adolescents reached
Dignity kits	36,908 females and adolescents reached
Elderly diapers	37,593 procured; distribution ongoing
Hygiene kits for special needs	63,501 people reached

PGI was embedded as a core pillar of the earthquake response, aligned with IFRC Strategic Direction 3 (2023–2027). IFRC provided technical support to strengthen SARC’s institutional PGI capacity through two workshops on minimum PGI standards, Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS), sexual and gender-based violence, psychosocial support, and safe identification. Awareness sessions were also conducted for persons with disabilities and caregivers, promoting empowerment and inclusion.

Between 18 and 26 January 2024, IFRC regional and country teams facilitated working sessions with SARC headquarters, branch leadership, staff, and volunteers to support the institutionalization and mainstreaming of PGI across programmes and services. Parallel engagement with Partner National Societies strengthened alignment of technical and financial support in areas including safeguarding, GBV training, disability inclusion, and PGI–CEA linkages.

Based on joint reflections and programme reviews, a PGI Plan of Action for 2024–2025 was developed with IFRC support. The plan focuses on institutionalizing PGI through policy and standard operating procedures, strengthening staff and volunteer competencies, and embedding PGI principles across key sectors including Disaster Management, Health, Cash and Voucher Assistance, and WASH. A dedicated IFRC PGI delegate supported SARC in advancing these efforts and strengthening system-wide application.

The IFRC model for sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated (SADD) data collection was disseminated across SARC departments to improve evidence-based programming and compliance with Movement standards. IFRC also provided PGI advisory support to Partner National Societies for programme design and fundraising, and contributed technical input to regional PGI coordination, standardization, and lesson learning.

As the response transitions from emergency to recovery under the IFRC Syria Network Plan, PGI remains a core enabling function. Priorities include updating the PGI Plan of Action through an evidence-based organizational self-assessment, strengthening SOPs, conducting PGI inductions and refresher trainings, and ensuring that PGI principles are consistently applied across emergency, recovery, and longer-term programming in line with the do-no-harm principle.



Risk Reduction, climate adaptation, and Recovery

Objective:

Strengthen resilience and capacities of disaster and crisis affected communities through climate-smart community-based risk reduction actions informed by enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessments and advanced planning.

To strengthen the resilience of earthquake-affected communities, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), implemented community-based risk reduction and climate-informed recovery interventions. These efforts were guided by enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCAs), early recovery planning, and localized risk analysis, with a strong emphasis on community participation.

SARC’s Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approach focused on empowering communities through multisectoral action addressing priority risks identified at local level. As part of this effort, 50 DRR workshops were

conducted across Syria, engaging 718 volunteers and 334 staff, and strengthening capacities in evacuation planning, community risk analysis, and earthquake preparedness and response.

In collaboration with the IFRC MENA Climate and Resilience Team, SARC piloted an enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) in Old Homs City, with earthquakes identified as a key hazard. The assessment highlighted five priority resilience areas: risk management, health, infrastructure and basic services, food security and nutrition, and economic opportunities. Findings from the pilot informed recovery planning and reinforced the integration of risk reduction into sectoral programming.

Environmental sustainability was integrated into recovery efforts where feasible. With IFRC support, solar power systems were installed in selected health facilities, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, ensuring continuity of essential services during power outages, and contributing to greener and more resilient infrastructure. In addition, where possible, selected relief items were procured locally to reduce environmental impact and support local markets, while international procurement was used when local availability was insufficient.

Implementation of risk reduction and recovery-oriented activities experienced a temporary pause between March and end-July 2025 due to funding and operational constraints, after which activities were rephased in line with recovery and sustainability priorities under the IFRC Syria Network Plan.

Looking ahead, risk reduction and climate adaptation efforts are fully integrated into the recovery phase of the operation. Priorities include strengthening resilient infrastructure, promoting climate-smart solutions such as solar-powered water systems, and embedding disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability across sectoral interventions to support longer-term resilience of communities affected by the earthquake.

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objectives:

*To reinforce SARC HQ and branch capacities to respond to the operation (repair structures) and enhance volunteer and staff competencies in preparedness and response and continued service delivery in an inclusive manner.
SARC responds effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and its auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well-defined and recognized.*

	Indicator	SARC actual	IFRC actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i>National Society has improved their preparedness, contingency and response plans as a result of the recommendations and evidence of the operation</i>	YES	YES	YES
	<i>Number of volunteers provided with equipment for protection, safety and support (e.g., PFA) appropriate to the emergency</i>	6,319	2,678	7,000

Throughout the earthquake response and subsequent transition phase, strengthening the institutional capacity of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) remained a core enabling priority to ensure the relevance, quality, and continuity of humanitarian assistance. With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Movement partners, SARC enhanced the operational readiness of its headquarters and earthquake-affected branches through targeted investments in systems, infrastructure, and human resources.

National Society strengthening focused on both hardware and software capacities, including logistics, warehousing, fleet and asset management, information management, volunteer systems, and operational coordination. These efforts were guided by the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) approach and aimed at embedding emergency preparedness, recovery planning, and contingency readiness across all sectors. Support also contributed to strengthening cash preparedness, framework agreements with suppliers and Financial Service Providers, pre-positioning of stocks, and the systematic integration of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) into operations.

The IFRC MENA Regional Office and Country Delegation played a central role in supporting institutional capacity development. This included facilitating the Earthquake Planning Workshop in 2023, supporting operational strategy development, establishing PMER and reporting tools, and accompanying SARC through enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCAs) and preparedness planning. These processes ensured a structured transition from emergency response to recovery-oriented programming.

As part of strengthening risk management and operational resilience, SARC—with IFRC technical support—conducted risk management workshops and preparedness discussions at HQ and branch levels, supporting improved risk identification, mitigation, and decision-making during volatile operational conditions in 2025. These efforts contributed to strengthening contingency planning and business continuity across priority functions.

Significant investments were made in information management (IM) to support evidence-based decision-making, coordination, and reporting. IFRC supported the strengthening of data systems, dashboards, and reporting tools across sectors, enabling improved aggregation, analysis, and use of operational data for planning and monitoring.

To reinforce operational readiness and connectivity, IFRC supported the provision of four (4) Starlink satellite communication devices to SARC. These assets enhanced secure communications, coordination, and continuity of operations, particularly in contexts affected by electricity outages, network disruptions, or access constraints, and form part of SARC's broader emergency contingency and preparedness capacity.

Volunteer and staff capacity development remained a cornerstone of National Society strengthening. Support focused on volunteer management systems, induction, duty of care, and skills development, including CEA, Psychological First Aid, and emergency response competencies. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) systems were reinforced through regular field monitoring visits to ensure quality, relevance, and accountability across sectors.

IFRC also supported improvements in mobility, communications, and coordination through the procurement of vehicles, IT, and telecommunications equipment to strengthen field operations, Emergency Medical Services coordination, and inter-branch connectivity. These investments supported timely service delivery, safer operations, and improved internal coordination. In parallel, IFRC is supporting the physical rehabilitation of SARC branch facilities across all earthquake-affected governorates, strengthening safe, functional working environments for staff and volunteers. This support is implemented in close coordination with the IFRC Network to ensure alignment, complementarity, and efficient use of resources.

Looking ahead, National Society strengthening efforts will continue to focus on consolidating and institutionalizing the capacities built during the earthquake response. Priorities include strengthening disaster management systems, logistics and warehouse infrastructure, information management, risk management, and financial and administrative systems; operationalizing PER branch action plans; enhancing contingency and business continuity planning; and further integrating digital solutions that link service delivery, community feedback, and performance monitoring. These efforts aim to ensure SARC's sustained ability to respond effectively to future shocks while supporting longer-term recovery and resilience.



Some of the vehicles procured through the IFRC for SARC.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:

Ensure a well-coordinated emergency operation and availability of funding.

Key indicators:	Indicator	SARC actual	IFRC actual	Target
	<i>Movement coordination meetings organized, and updates are provided to the Movement partners</i>	YES	YES	YES

Effective coordination remained central to the earthquake response and its transition into recovery, ensuring that assistance was delivered efficiently, without duplication, and in line with the leadership and priorities of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Throughout the response period, coordination mechanisms supported coherent planning, clear division of roles, and the effective use of Movement and external resources.

Movement coordination

The Syria Earthquake Emergency Appeal was implemented through a Federation-wide approach under SARC's leadership, in line with the Seville Agreement 2.0. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in its role as membership coordinator, worked closely with SARC to facilitate strategic and operational coordination among in-country Partner National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Regular Movement coordination meetings and thematic working groups—including Health, WASH, Cash, Livelihoods, PGI, CEA, and National Society Development—supported technical alignment, joint planning, and harmonized implementation.

These coordination platforms enabled partners to align their support with SARC's operational priorities, identify gaps, mobilize complementary capacities, and ensure transparency and accountability across the response. Movement partners reallocated and mobilized resources to support SARC's earthquake response plan, while technical co-leadership arrangements were used to maximize sectoral expertise and efficiency.

As the response transitioned from emergency relief to recovery and preparedness, coordination increasingly focused on aligning earthquake-related activities with the IFRC Syria Network Plan, promoting synergies between emergency, recovery, and longer-term programming, and adapting support in light of funding constraints and evolving needs.

Inter-agency coordination

Beyond the Movement, SARC and IFRC maintained active engagement in inter-agency coordination platforms, including the Health, Shelter, WASH, Food Security, Protection, Early Recovery, and Cash Working Groups. Through these forums, Movement interventions were aligned with broader humanitarian efforts, ensuring complementarity with UN agencies, INGOs, and local actors, and contributing to principled, needs-driven assistance.

Engagement with national and local authorities supported coordination, access, and alignment with national response frameworks, while helping mitigate operational constraints and facilitate service delivery where possible.

Partnerships, resource mobilization, and humanitarian diplomacy

SARC, with IFRC support, continued to strengthen partnerships and grants management systems to enhance transparency, accountability, and effective resource utilization. The Grants Management and Partnership Support Unit supported the coordination of in-kind and financial contributions, resource mapping, and donor reporting, while expanding engagement with existing and new partners to address funding gaps and evolving priorities.

Humanitarian diplomacy remained a key enabler of the response. IFRC, together with SARC and Movement partners, engaged with donors, governments, humanitarian actors, and other stakeholders to advocate for sustained support, promote respect for humanitarian principles, and reinforce SARC's neutral, impartial, and independent auxiliary role.

Looking ahead

Coordination and partnership efforts will continue to prioritize support to SARC's leadership, joint planning, and alignment of Movement and external contributions as recovery activities advance. The IFRC will maintain its role in facilitating Federation-wide coordination, tracking contributions, and strengthening partnerships and humanitarian diplomacy to support continued response, access, and resilience-building beyond the Emergency Appeal period.



Secretariat Services

Objective:

The IFRC is working as one organization, delivering what it promises to National Societies and volunteers, and leveraging the strength of the communities with which they work as effectively and efficiently as possible. The Secretariat provides strategic orientation, facilitation, and coordination considering long-term positioning and further capacity development of the National Society. This will be done by building on existing structures for large-scale programming, toward strong guardianship and accountability for all programming. The IFRC Secretariat will facilitate channeling global resources to sustain the localized response and recovery efforts.

Human resources and surge support

Since the onset of the earthquake response, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Syria Delegation has provided sustained Secretariat services to support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the wider Movement. During the initial phase of the response, the IFRC global surge mechanism was activated to rapidly deploy specialized technical profiles, reinforcing SARC's operational capacity at a critical time.

As the response evolved, key Secretariat positions were recruited to ensure continuity, coordination, and technical support across the operation. These included Operations Management, PMER, Procurement, Security, Risk

Management, Disability Inclusion, and Health, supported by finance, administration, and senior leadership functions. Together, these roles enabled consistent operational oversight, technical guidance, and coordination with Movement partners throughout the emergency and transition phases.

Security and safety

Security arrangements established for the earthquake response—including risk assessments, minimum security standards, and contingency planning—remain in place and continue to guide operations in earthquake-affected areas. These measures support the safety and wellbeing of staff and volunteers operating in a complex and volatile environment. Security management continues to be closely coordinated with SARC and Movement partners.

Resource mobilization and donor engagement

As the earthquake response transitioned into recovery and integration within the IFRC Syria Network Plan, IFRC Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization (SPRM) teams continued to support SARC through coordinated donor engagement, grant management, and strategic planning. Support focused on maintaining donor confidence, ensuring compliance with reporting requirements, and aligning funding with evolving recovery priorities.

IFRC supported SARC in donor outreach, proposal development, and strategic engagement with Movement and non-Movement partners. Key milestones—including one-year and two-year impact updates—were used to highlight collective achievements, recognize partner contributions, and reaffirm the need for continued support as recovery needs persist.

Supply chain and logistics

IFRC continued to support SARC's supply chain and logistics capacity through technical assistance, coordination with Partner National Societies, and targeted capacity-building initiatives. This included support on customs clearance processes, procurement coordination, in-kind mobilization, and warehouse oversight. These efforts strengthened transparency, efficiency, and compliance across multiple funding streams and partners.

Communications

Throughout the response, IFRC and SARC worked closely to ensure timely, accurate, and principled communication with affected communities, partners, donors, and the public. Communications focused on highlighting humanitarian needs, showcasing SARC's leadership and volunteer efforts, and reinforcing key messages related to safety, assistance, and recovery.

IFRC provided technical communications support to SARC, including surge support during the initial phase and ongoing coordination with regional and global communications teams. Content produced by SARC was amplified through IFRC channels, supporting visibility, accountability, and public understanding of the response.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and information management

The IFRC PMER and Information Management teams continued to support SARC in strengthening planning, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning across the earthquake response. This included support to

operational planning, indicator tracking, data collection tools, post-distribution monitoring, satisfaction surveys, and donor reporting.

Unified data collection and reporting systems were strengthened to support evidence-based decision-making and Federation-wide reporting. Regular operations updates, donor reports, and internal performance monitoring ensured transparency and accountability. Field monitoring visits supported quality assurance, capacity strengthening, and adaptive management across sectors.

Looking ahead

Secretariat services will continue to focus on supporting SARC's leadership, operational readiness, and institutional strengthening as earthquake-related activities transition fully into recovery and longer-term programming. Priority will be given to maintaining technical support, ensuring accountability, strengthening systems, and enabling effective coordination and resource mobilization in a challenging operating environment.

D. FUNDING

By the end of February 2025, 65.8 percent (which includes hard, soft, and in-kind contributions) of the Appeal's multilateral funding requirements had been covered. The IFRC kindly encourages increased donor support for the IFRC Syria Unified Plan and Syria Crisis Emergency Appeal to allow the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to continue to provide support to the immediate and mid-to-long-term needs of the vulnerable population.

As part of the Syria Earthquake Emergency Appeal, CHF 6 million was allocated to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in December 2024 to support the continuation of planned response and recovery activities. Access to these funds was affected by the government transition and related administrative and banking disruptions, with funds becoming available in May 2025. While implementation has continued in line with operational priorities through phased disbursement and careful financial management, persistent liquidity constraints within the national banking system and delays in financial processing have affected the timely consolidation of financial information.

In addition, although the easing of certain international sanctions affecting Syria was formally enacted in December 2025, the practical operational impact has been gradual, as financial institutions and suppliers required time to adjust compliance and banking procedures. These factors have continued to influence procurement timelines and financial transactions.

As a result, an updated financial report is not included in this document at this stage. Financial reporting will be completed and shared once the necessary information is fully reconciled and finalized in coordination with SARC and IFRC, in line with the Certified Reimbursement and Reporting Arrangement (CRRRA), to ensure accuracy and completeness.

[Click here for the donor response](#) (only reflects hard and in-kind contributions).

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Reference documents



Click here for:

- Revised Emergency [Appeals](#) and updates
- [Operational Strategy](#)
- [Operations Update #1](#)
- [Operations Update #2](#)
- [Operations Update #3](#)
- [Operations Update #4](#): Operational Plan for 2025 – 2026 reflected as annex

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.