



# SYRIA

## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



11 December 2026

### In support of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent



14

National Society branches



75

National Society local units



5,458

National Society staff



7,915

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



5.8M

Ongoing emergency operations



1.5M

Climate and environment



3M

Disasters and crises



2M

Health and wellbeing



1M

Migration and displacement



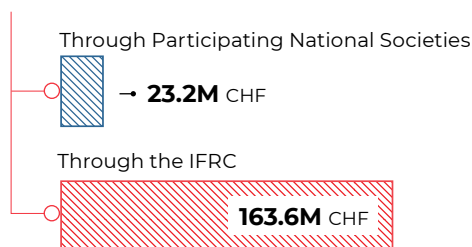
800,000

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 186.8M CHF



2027

Total 56.4M CHF

2028

Total 53.3M CHF

Projected funding requirements

### Participating National Societies

- American Red Cross\*
- Austrian Red Cross
- Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)\*
- British Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross
- Danish Red Cross
- Finnish Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Italian Red Cross
- Japanese Red Cross Society\*
- The Republic of Korea National Red Cross\*
- Red Cross of Monaco\*
- The Netherlands Red Cross\*
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Swedish Red Cross
- Swiss Red Cross
- Vietnam Red Cross\*

### IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

**MDRSY014**

Syria Complex Emergency

**MDRSY009**

Syria Earthquakes

**MDRS5002**

Middle East Crisis (MDRSY012)

Longer-term needs:

**MAASY002**

## Hazards



Conflict



Displacement



Economic collapse



Earthquakes



Wildfires



Heatwaves

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Emergency response

- Population movement
  - Earthquake
- Economic collapse

### Longer term needs

- Crisis recovery
- Climate change adaptation

### Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
  - Coordination

## Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating** **High**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **High**

**Human Development Index rank** **151**

**World Bank Population figure** **28.4M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **37.7%**



After the violence in coastal Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent provided hospitals with emergency medical and surgical kits. (Photo: IFRC)

## Detailed funding requirements

|                              | 2026  | 2027         | 2028         |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|
|                              | IFRC  | IFRC         | IFRC         |
| <b>Ongoing emergencies</b>   | 128.6M  |              |              |
|                              | <i>(This funding requirement is for the remaining duration of these three operations: Middle East Crisis, Syria Complex Emergency &amp; Syria Earthquake)</i> |              |              |
| <b>Longer-term needs</b>     |   |              |              |
| Climate and environment      | 1M  | 1.3M         | 1.3M         |
| Disasters & crises           | 11M   | 14M          | 14M          |
| Health & wellbeing           | 13M   | 19M          | 19M          |
| Migration & displacement     | 1M  | 1.3M         | 1.3M         |
| Values, power & inclusion    | 2M  | 2.6M         | 2.6M         |
| <b>Enabling local actors</b> | 7M  | 10M          | 10M          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>163.6M</b>   | <b>48.2M</b> | <b>48.2M</b> |

### Participating National Societies bilateral support

| National Society           | Year | Funding Requirement | Confirmed Funding | Climate and environment | Disasters and crises | Health and wellbeing | Migration and displacement | Values, power and inclusion | Enabling Functions |
|----------------------------|------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Austrian Red Cross         | 2026 | 324,000             | 324,000           |                         |                      | 310,000              |                            |                             | 14,000             |
|                            | 2027 | 155,000             | 155,000           |                         |                      | 141,000              |                            |                             | 14,000             |
|                            | 2028 | 94,000              | 94,000            |                         |                      | 94,000               |                            |                             |                    |
| British Red Cross          | 2026 | 4.3M                | 4.3M              | -                       | -                    | -                    | -                          | -                           | -                  |
|                            | 2027 | 4.3M                | 4.3M              |                         |                      |                      |                            |                             |                    |
|                            | 2028 | 2.5M                | 2.5M              |                         |                      |                      |                            |                             |                    |
| Canadian Red Cross Society | 2026 | 1.1M                |                   |                         | 100,000              | 571,000              |                            | 50,000                      | 330,000            |
|                            | 2027 | 597,000             |                   |                         | 63,000               | 300,000              |                            | 30,000                      | 204,000            |
| Danish Red Cross           | 2026 | 6.5M                | 6.0M              |                         | -                    | -                    | -                          |                             | -                  |
| Finnish Red Cross          | 2026 | 50,000              | 50,000            |                         |                      |                      |                            |                             | 50,000             |
| German Red Cross           | 2026 | 4M                  |                   | 150,000                 | 1M                   | 2.5M                 | 50,000                     | 200,000                     | 100,000            |
|                            | 2027 | 2.9M                |                   | 120,000                 | 500,000              | 2M                   | 40,000                     | 150,000                     | 90,000             |
|                            | 2028 | 2.2M                |                   | 80,000                  | 350,000              | 1.6M                 | 30,000                     | 110,000                     | 60,000             |
| Italian Red Cross          | 2026 | 950,000             |                   |                         |                      | 200,000              | 750,000                    |                             |                    |
|                            | 2027 | 300,000             |                   |                         |                      | 150,000              | 150,000                    |                             |                    |
|                            | 2028 | 300,000             |                   |                         |                      | 150,000              | 150,000                    |                             |                    |
| Norwegian Red Cross        | 2026 | 3.2M                | 3.2M              |                         |                      |                      |                            |                             |                    |
| Swedish Red Cross          | 2026 | 2.9M                | 709,000           | -                       | -                    | -                    | -                          | -                           |                    |
| Swiss Red Cross            | 2026 | 3.2M                |                   |                         | 1M                   | 732,000              | 737,000                    | 469,000                     | 220,000            |

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Syrian Arab Red Crescent** was established in 1942 and was admitted into the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1948. The National Society has a network of 14 branches, one in each of the country's governorates, and 75 local units. The National Society is renowned for taking a neutral and principled role in the Syrian conflict, enabling it to provide life-saving assistance to millions of Syrians. As mandated by the Syrian Government in 2008, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent acts as Syria's national coordinator for humanitarian aid.

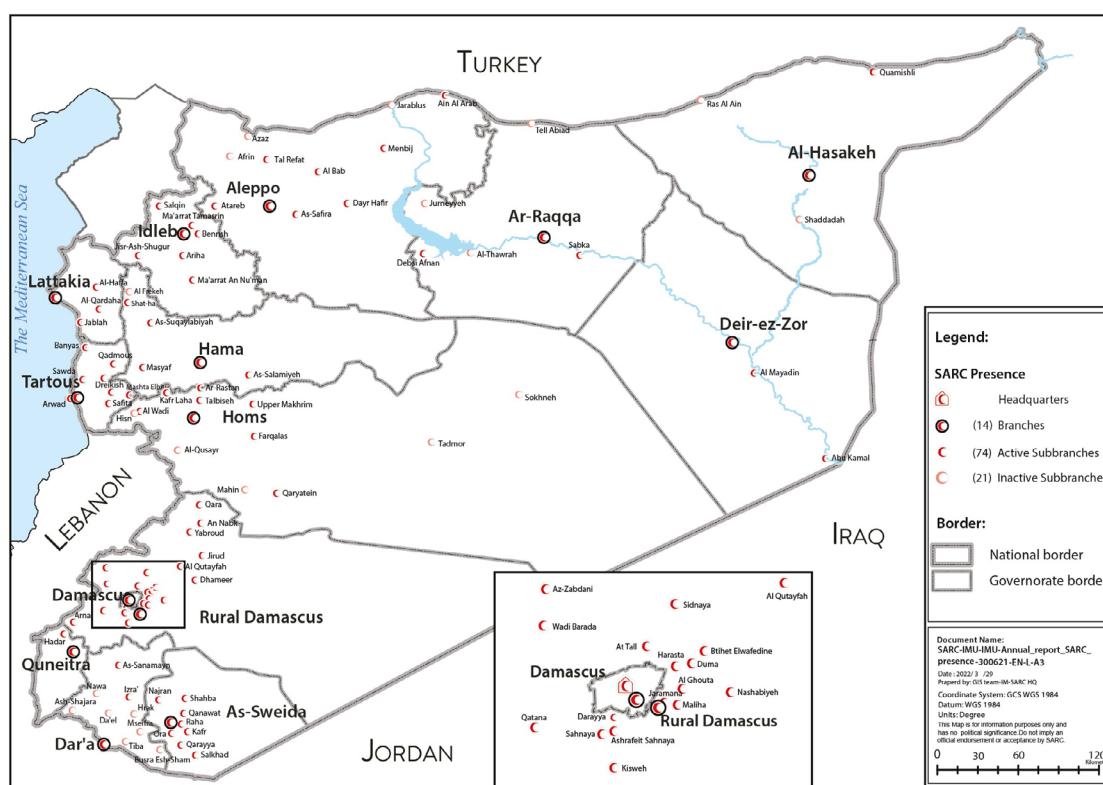
The Syrian Arab Red Crescent proactively responds to humanitarian and development needs, and steers organizational transitioning to prevent or mitigate harm from future crises. Amid ongoing humanitarian challenges in Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent continues to play a pivotal role in delivering life-saving assistance. The National Society reaches around two million people each month with support from over 7,000 volunteers. Its work spans emergency response, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, livelihoods support, protection and community engagement, underpinned by neutrality and a strong subnational network that enables access to hard-to-reach areas. Beyond service delivery, it leads coordination efforts within the humanitarian sector, engaging communities, partners and authorities to ensure effective crisis response. Recent achievements include

rapid action during wildfires, heatwaves, droughts and complex emergencies; strengthened health and ambulance services; rehabilitation of water infrastructure; delivery of multipurpose cash assistance and sustained sector-wide reach across all governorates through robust branch coordination.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 identifies three strategic goals and one organizational goal:

- Build community resilience for rapid response and recovery to lessen the impacts of all types of disasters and crises
- Enable communities to lead health and safe lives for physical and mental well-being
- Contribute to reducing vulnerability, social inclusion, and building a safer society to promote positive change for humanity
- Operate effectively as the leading humanitarian actor with enhanced organizational capacity and be future-ready

In 2024, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent reached about 6.2 million people through its long-term services and development programmes and 3.9 million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of National Society branches

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Syria is a Middle Eastern country bordering Türkiye, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, and Lebanon, with 14 governorates spanning coastal Mediterranean, semi-arid steppe, and desert zones. It is highly exposed to multi-hazard risks—earthquakes (Anatolian/Dead Sea fault systems), drought, heatwaves, wildfires, and conflict-related shocks—features reflected in global risk assessments such as INFORM.

Following the [ousting of the previous government in late 2024](#), Syria entered a volatile transition marked by fragmented authority, localized conflict, and shifting access dynamics. International and UN reporting throughout 2025 note continued insecurity and episodic violence (e.g., in Sweida), alongside renewed diplomatic discussions and population movements (refugee/IDP returns) amid high uncertainty.

After more than 14 years of crisis, displacement remains among the largest globally. As of 2025, over 7.4 million people are internally displaced, and more than 6 million Syrians remain refugees in the region (mostly in Türkiye, Lebanon, and Jordan). [UNHCR reports](#) growing—though still limited—returns since December 2024, including organized movements from neighbouring countries and camps; however, conditions for safe, dignified, and sustainable return remain uneven.

Syria's [economy](#) remains severely constrained by years of conflict, infrastructure damage, liquidity shortages, and reduced external financing. After an estimated – 1.5 per cent GDP contraction in 2024, the World Bank projected a modest +1 per cent growth for 2025—still far below pre-2011 output. Clearing of arrears to the World Bank Group in May 2025 was noted

but broader macro-fiscal pressures persist. Poverty is extreme (around 90 per cent of the population), inflation is elevated, and livelihoods are fragile.

Syria ranks among the most fragile contexts globally across [OECD's](#) multidimensional framework (political, societal, security, environmental, economic). Human development indicators remain depressed, with UN/UNDP and independent indexes describing pervasive deprivation and governance stressors. These metrics underpin high humanitarian need and limited coping capacity.

UN reporting for 2025 cites 16–17 million people in need of assistance, with widespread food insecurity (WFP estimates ~9.1 million food-insecure; recent updates flag more than half the population facing some level of food insecurity). Concurrent shocks—renewed hostilities, explosive ordnance incidents, constrained services, and funding shortfalls—continue to drive vulnerability.

2025 assessments highlight severe drought (worst in decades) with major agricultural and water impacts, compounding longer-term desertification and recurrent heatwaves/wildfires. The February 2023 earthquakes left lasting recovery needs, especially in the northwest. These environmental pressures intersect with displacement and poverty, eroding resilience and increasing anticipatory-action relevance.

Access dynamics remain fluid and localized, with incidents of violence, Explosive Ordnance (EO) contamination, and administrative barriers affecting movements of people and aid. OCHA situation updates in 2025 note large population movements, returns in some areas, and persistent protection risks (including for women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities).

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Syrian Arab Republic](#)

1.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Emergency Appeal name</b>                | Middle East Crisis 2023   MENA  |
| <b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>           | MDRS5002 (MDRSY012)   |
| <b>People to be assisted</b>                | 300,000 in Syria  |
| <b>Duration</b>                             | 18 October 2023 to 31 December 2026   |
| <b>Funding requirements</b>                 | Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 200 million<br>IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 185 million<br>Federation-wide funding requirement for Syria: CHF 12 million<br>IFRC Secretariat funding requirement for Syria: CHF 8 million |
| <b>Link to revised Emergency Appeal</b>     | <a href="#">Middle East Crisis 2023   MENA</a>  |
| <b>Link to revised Operational Strategy</b> | <a href="#">Middle East Crisis 2023 Operational Strategy</a>  |
| <b>Link to latest Operations update</b>     | <a href="#">Operational Update No. 5</a>  |
| <b>Link to Country Response Plan</b>        | <a href="#">Syria National Society response plan</a>  |

Syria confronts an unparalleled array of challenges, marking it one of the world's most complex humanitarian crises after 12 years of unrelenting turmoil. The nation contends with the highest number of internally displaced people globally, standing at approximately 6.8 million people, and an escalating need for humanitarian aid. Deteriorating humanitarian and economic indicators, collapsing basic services, and the concurrent cholera outbreak and climatic shocks compound an already dire situation. Key civilian infrastructure, including schools, water supply systems, health facilities, and housing, bears extensive damage, with most governorates lacking restoration or repair. In regions where hostilities have abated, families grapple to secure necessities such as clean water, food, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. Consequently, a staggering 15.3 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2023.

This crisis is further compounded by the aftermath of multiple earthquakes that struck Syria and Turkey in February 2023, causing widespread devastation, and affecting up to eight million people. These quakes damaged critical service infrastructure and intensified the suffering of already vulnerable children and families, leaving countless individuals without access to food, water, shelter, and urgent medical and psychosocial support. Moreover, economic hardship erects additional barriers, particularly for the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, hindering their access to essential services. Faced with increasing economic difficulties and amidst various political and natural crises, fear continues to grip millions of Syrians who have experienced conflict, displacement, and disasters caused by natural events. Hence community resilience has diminished, and Syrian society is now grappling with the effects

of a multifaceted crisis, incorporating all elements of family vulnerability. This presents a challenge in laying the groundwork for humanitarian efforts. The situation is further complicated by the risk of an escalation of the conflict in Palestine-Israel, which could result in additional waves of refugees and strained resources, cross-border tensions, and overlapping emergency responses to events such as the February 2023 earthquakes, summer 2023 wildfires, drought, and sporadic hostilities.

## Short description of the emergency operational strategy

This operational strategy aims to prepare for and respond to the humanitarian needs of people affected in the countries surrounding the occupied Palestinian territories, namely Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, especially in supplying humanitarian assistance to Gaza through the Egyptian and Jordanian corridors, and to support Palestinians who have been evacuated for medical support with their families, as well as those internally displaced in these four countries due to escalations and spillovers. This is done by increasing the supply chain capacities in Egypt and Jordan, as well as the readiness of the four National Societies to ensure that they can respond to potentially increased humanitarian needs.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent implemented a comprehensive country response plan focusing on essential areas such as health and water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)), shelter, food security and livelihoods; protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)), migration and displacement, National Society strengthening, and community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)). The

National Society's fleet capacity and response readiness in the branches improved through the maintenance of ambulances and vehicles and prepositioning of diesel.

**There is no planned closure in 2026. However, given the funding outlook, a progressive transition to the National**

2.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Emergency Appeal name</b>            | Syria, MENA   Syria Earthquakes   |
| <b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>       | MDRSY009  |
| <b>People to be assisted</b>            | 2,500,000   |
| <b>Duration</b>                         | 6 February 2023 to 31 December 2026   |
| <b>Funding requirements</b>             | Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 200 million<br>IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 100 million |
| <b>Link to revised Emergency Appeal</b> | <a href="#">Syria Earthquake 2023 revised Emergency Appeal</a>  |
| <b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>     | <a href="#">Syrian Earthquake 2023 Operational Strategy</a>   |
| <b>Latest operations update</b>         | <a href="#">Operations Update No.4</a>  |

On 6 February 2023, Syria was struck by two earthquakes, one at a magnitude of 7.7 originating in Gaziantep (Turkey) and another at a 7.6 magnitude in Kharamanmaras (Turkey). Multiple aftershocks were reported following the earthquakes. Damages were caused in the north, central and coastal parts of Syria, specifically in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, and Idlib governorates. The first estimates indicated that more than six million people were affected, including two million severely affected by the earthquake. As of 12 February, the number of confirmed deaths in Syria stood at 1,414, with more than 2,349 injured. Reports from the whole of Syria suggest a higher death and injury toll as many people were reported missing by their relatives. The earthquake hit amid a harsh winter with some areas in the northern part of the country hitting sub-zero temperatures. At a time when people are facing huge electricity, fuel, and water shortages, around 293,000 people have fled their collapsed and damaged houses seeking shelter at emergency centres and host communities, while the number of displaced people remains unclear as some of the affected have moved into the homes of extended families or to rented houses.

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

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through the IFRC emergency appeal, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent will provide assistance to 2.5 million people and the main target groups for this response will include, but

**Society's Unified Plan priorities is foreseen, with emphasis on embedding regional response elements into longer-term programming (especially under Strategic Priorities 2 and 4 – Disasters & Crises, Migration & Displacement).**

will not be limited to, displaced people in displacement centres and host communities (including host communities in governorates not directly affected by the earthquake), and those who experienced a loss of services due to the disaster or the displacement it caused. This Emergency Appeal is connected to the IFRC Unified Plan, and at the end of 2023, the two operational plans were harmonized into one country plan. In 2024, the country plan reflects the earthquake long term resilience activities since the National Society long-term priorities lie in its earthquake response plan. At the end of 2024, the operation will transition to one country plan.

As part of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's earthquake response, the National Society's interventions were spread in areas such as shelter, housing and settlements, livelihoods, multi-purpose cash, health and care, protection, gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability, risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery, and environmental sustainability. Work under these areas of intervention included the distribution of jerrycans, livelihood projects, cash and voucher assistance to affected households, deployment of mobile medical units and community health programmes, rehabilitation of WASH facilities, organization of PGI plan of action, community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives, among others.

**The Appeal remains active through 2026, with a progressive shift from relief to recovery and resilience-building.**

3.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Emergency Appeal name</b>                | Syria, MENA   Complex Emergency   |
| <b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>           | MDRSY014  |
| <b>People to be assisted</b>                | 5 million   |
| <b>Duration</b>                             | 06 December 2024 to 31 December 2025<br><b>(There is no planned closure in 2026)</b>                          |
| <b>Funding requirements</b>                 | Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 130 million<br>IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 100 million |
| <b>Link to revised Emergency Appeal</b>     | <a href="#">Syria Complex Emergency Appeal</a>  |
| <b>Link to revised Operational Strategy</b> | <a href="#">Syria Complex Emergency Operational Strategy</a>  |
| <b>Latest operations update</b>             | <a href="#">Operations Update No.1</a>  |
| <b>Link to Country Response Plan</b>        | <a href="#">Syria National Society response plan</a>  |

The protracted crisis in Syria over the past 13 years and the fragile humanitarian situation have now deepened significantly following intensified hostilities and rapid developments since 28 November 2024. The escalation resulted in mass displacement, destruction of critical infrastructure, and significant humanitarian needs. Over 1.1 million people have been displaced, with the potential for up to 1.5 million more if the violence continues. Many families are seeking shelter in overcrowded and underserved areas, and reports indicate significant civilian casualties, injuries, and shortages of food. Access to healthcare, protection, livelihoods, and basic services has been severely restricted due to ongoing hostilities and insecurity.

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

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

As part of its response strategy, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent will be targeting 5 million people distributed across all affected governorates throughout Syria. The targeting will focus on the most vulnerable households affected by the ongoing crisis. Selection criteria prioritize the most vulnerable among the internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host community households. This includes female headed households, families with people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and families with young children, pregnant or lactating women, or elderly dependents.

Operational priorities for 2026 will emphasize:

- Sustaining life-saving health and WASH services through hospitals, clinics, mobile units, and water system rehabilitation
- Expanding multipurpose cash assistance to meet essential household needs
- Maintaining protection, PSS, and community-based services in both camp and urban settings
- Reinforcing early warning, preparedness, and anticipatory action against hazards (drought, heatwaves, wildfires)

**There is no planned closure in 2026. If the Appeal is not extended further, residual needs would be absorbed into the National Society's Unified Plan long term programmes.**



## Climate and environment

Cameroon is increasingly confronted with the severe impacts of Syria's geography spans Mediterranean coastal, semi-arid steppe, and desert zones, making the country highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Rising average temperatures, more frequent and intense heatwaves, declining and erratic rainfall, and prolonged droughts are reshaping the country's environmental and socio-economic landscape. Projections indicate that mean annual temperature could increase by up to 2°C by mid-century, with significant

reductions in precipitation in the northeast, Syria's traditional "breadbasket" region. These changes are already contributing to more frequent wildfires along the coastal ranges and worsening water scarcity across much of the country.

The impacts of climate change are felt most acutely by vulnerable groups, including rural farming households, internally displaced persons and returnees, and urban poor communities with limited adaptive capacity. Agricultural production—particularly rain-fed wheat and livestock—has been severely undermined by recurring droughts, while groundwater depletion and deteriorating irrigation systems further compound water insecurity. Health systems are facing growing pressure from heat-related illnesses, malnutrition, and the spread of waterborne and vector-borne diseases. Urban areas, especially in central and southern Syria, are experiencing worsening air pollution, heat-island effects, and intermittent water supply.

Land cover and land use trends show accelerating deforestation, land and soil degradation, and unsustainable water use. Forested areas in Latakia and Tartous have contracted due to wildfires and logging, while desertification threatens large parts of the steppe and agricultural lands in the northeast. Pollution from untreated solid waste, wastewater discharge, and artisanal oil refining in the northeast adds further stress to ecosystems and public health.

The Government of Syria has previously committed to addressing climate challenges through its 2018 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement and a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. While these frameworks remain formally in place, the level of renewed commitment under the current government is uncertain, highlighting the need for humanitarian and civil society actors to advance practical climate adaptation measures on the ground. Overall, Syria's climate and environmental crisis is a structural driver of humanitarian vulnerability. Longer-term climate adaptation and environmental protection measures are essential to reduce disaster risk, safeguard livelihoods, and build resilience, complementing immediate humanitarian response.

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent's multi-year high level objectives include integrating climate risk management across the National Society's programmes by embedding anticipatory action, early warning systems and climate-smart disaster risk reduction into community resilience initiatives. It will work to strengthen community adaptation to rising climate and environmental risks by improving access to sustainable water, food and health services, particularly in drought-prone rural areas, coastal regions and urban centres affected by heat and pollution.

The National Society will promote nature-based solutions through reforestation, watershed protection, soil and rangeland conservation and community-led environmental initiatives, in alignment with national biodiversity and land-restoration plans. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent will work to empower youth and volunteers as drivers of climate action by expanding climate literacy, environmental awareness campaigns and green volunteering initiatives within the National Society's branch network. The National Society will also work to align with national and global frameworks by supporting Syria's commitments under the Paris Agreement and NDC and will engage with national authorities on adaptation planning and linking its work with the IFRC Climate and Environment Charter for humanitarian organizations.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Develop a Syria climate change narrative which includes a general overview on climate change impacts on Syria, challenges, opportunities, highlighting the impact of climate change in the region
- Develop a case study of a project including climate change, disaster risk reduction, and green response
- Undertake awareness sessions related to heatwaves with the production of materials for the public and National Society branches
- Conduct community education/awareness-raising activities on adapting to and reducing climate-related risks
- Implement environmental/climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, and clean-ups
- Organize a climate change orientation session as part of disaster management training programmes to promote understanding of climate change impacts among staff and volunteers

- Implement specialized training on climate change for branch personnel to enhance their knowledge and response capabilities

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical guidance on integrating climate risk management and environmentally sustainable practices across the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's programmes, in line with its commitments as signatories of the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#). It will also support access to forecast-based financing and anticipatory action mechanisms to address hazards such as droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires.

The **British Red Cross** will work with the National Society scale up community-led climate adaptation and resilience programmes, including climate-smart food security, economic empowerment, disaster risk reduction, early action and nature-based solutions.

The **German Red Cross** will continue working with the National Society to integrate climate change and environmental considerations across all programmes. In line with its strategy, the priority will be on community-based approaches that strengthen resilience to climate and environmental risks.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will continue to support the National Society in mainstreaming climate and environmental risks into operations and programmes by promoting the systematic integration of environmental sustainability in its work through Green Response. The Swedish Red Cross is also supporting capacity building on environmental screening using the NEAT+ environmental assessment tool.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the National Society in operationalizing the climate responsibility initiatives and support the National Society in tackling sources of climate change in promoting a greener supply chain.



## Disasters and crises

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For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Syrian Arab Republic](#).

Syria is among the world's highest-risk countries on the INFORM Risk Index, with a score of 8.1/10 (2025), reflecting very high levels of hazard exposure, vulnerability, and limited coping capacity. Hazards include both natural shocks—such as droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, floods, and earthquakes—and man-made crises linked to protracted armed conflict, displacement, and economic collapse. These overlapping hazards directly exacerbate food insecurity and heighten public health risks across affected communities. The intersection of conflict with environmental hazards amplifies humanitarian needs and reduces resilience across all regions.

Syria is regularly affected by climate-related hazards: prolonged droughts in the northeast, seasonal floods in river valleys, extreme heat in central and southern regions, and recurrent wildfires in coastal governorates. The February 2023 earthquakes in southern Türkiye and northern Syria caused widespread destruction, highlighting the country's seismic risk. In addition, more than 14 years of conflict and political transition remain the largest drivers of crisis, shaping displacement, infrastructure destruction, service collapse, and persistent insecurity.

Economic instability continues to deeply affect the daily lives of Syrians and represents one of the most significant ongoing crises. The banking sector is severely disrupted, with soaring inflation and a persistent liquidity crisis. The monthly minimum wage in July 2025 stood at SYP 750,000, covering only 39 per cent of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and 61 per cent

of the food component of the MEB, valued at SYP 1,233,556. Liquidity remains a major constraint for households, with continued restrictions on bank withdrawals and frequent disruptions to online payment systems.

Years of conflict, sanctions, and climate shocks (droughts, wildfires, heatwaves) have eroded people's ability to sustain basic livelihoods. Households increasingly rely on negative coping strategies, including child labour and early marriage. According to the UN (2025), 16–17 million people require humanitarian assistance, with overlapping impacts from conflict, displacement, climate shocks, and economic decline. Access is hampered by insecurity, bureaucratic restrictions, damaged infrastructure, and fuel shortages, particularly in remote or contested areas. Acceptance risks are heightened by political sensitivities, and responses are often delayed by sanctions-related procurement and financial bottlenecks. These challenges make flexible, localized, and anticipatory action essential. Economic instability further exacerbates operational challenges. Liquidity remains a major issue, with ongoing restrictions on bank withdrawals and frequent disruptions to online payment systems.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent's multi-year high level objectives include strengthening disaster preparedness and anticipatory action, expanding and institutionalizing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as a core modality for humanitarian response and early recovery, support household recovery and resilience through livelihoods interventions and strengthen real-time

information management systems for disaster response and anticipatory action.

The National Society will also work to enhance community resilience by integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities into branch-level programming, invest in logistics and emergency response capacity through strengthened warehousing, fleet management and supply chain systems, ensure safe, inclusive and protection-sensitive response by embedding PGI and CEA standards into disaster response, and reinforcing the National Society's auxiliary role as a recognized and credible partner in disaster management.

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Deliver life-saving assistance, essential and right-sized support to people affected by multiple crises when and where needed
- Provide emergency [cash and voucher assistance](#)
- Implement [community-based disaster risk reduction](#) programmes in disaster-prone locations
- Support communities and families to strengthen and restore livelihoods through community-based and localized solutions
- Provide productive cash assistance to establish income-generating activities
- Conduct pilot projects in several governorates on cash for nutrition, education, livelihoods and health with a special focus on people living with disabilities
- Provide livestock, agricultural, and fishing inputs and rehabilitate community infrastructures
- Rehabilitate homes and provide them with needed infrastructures
- Build the capacity of staff and volunteers through vocational training and capacity-building exercises
- Ensure availability of food and non-food items for 10,000 households for emergency response
- Conduct training of trainers on [Sphere standards](#), focusing on sphere standards and disaster management

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide sustained technical and operational support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in disaster risk management, including preparedness for effective response (PER) processes, development of anticipatory action frameworks, and strengthening compliance with global standards in procurement, logistics, and cash and voucher assistance. The IFRC will provide technical and financial support to strengthen the National Society's CVA systems, including digital delivery mechanisms, accountability to affected populations, and anticipatory action tools, in line with the global Cash Roadmap and

MENA Cash Working Group. The IFRC's priority is to enable the National Society to respond efficiently and effectively to immediate life-saving humanitarian needs while also scaling up early recovery and recovery interventions in line with its strategy, particularly in food security and livelihoods.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2025, IFRC provided three DREF allocations for emergencies in Syria. The DREF allocations have been described below:

[IFRC-DREF Syrian Arab Republic Fire 2025](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 999,998 in July 2025 supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in assisting more than 30,000 people affected by wildfires in the areas of Lattakia and Tartous. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period with assistance such as multipurpose cash, WASH interventions, risk reduction, among others.

[IFRC-DREF Syrian Arab Republic Heatwave](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 170,305 in August 2025 supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in assisting more than 25,000 people affected by heatwaves in the areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Hama, Homs, and Al-Sweida. The National Society supported the targeted people over a period of three months with assistance such as the deployment of mobile health units, distribution of oral rehydration salts, WASH interventions, among others.

[IFRC-DREF Syrian Arab Republic Drought](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 999,983 in August 2025 supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in assisting more than 100,000 people affected by droughts in the regions of Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Deir Ez-Zor, Hama, Al-Hassakeh, Homs, Idlib, Lattakia, Al-Quneitra, Al-Raqqa, Al-Sweida, and Tartous. The National Society supported the targeted people over a period of 12 months with assistance such as livelihoods need support, WASH interventions, risk reduction, among others.

The **British Red Cross** will continue its collaboration with the National Society by providing both technical and financial support to advance CVA preparedness roadmap. The initiatives will focus on strengthening the CVA structure at both HQ and branch levels. This includes capacity building, improving processes and procedures, and adopting a new CVA information management system to enhance efficiency and data-driven decision-making.

The **Canadian Red Cross** continues to collaborate with the National Society and other partners to strengthen response capabilities and contribute to its resilience efforts through a range of interventions. This partnership aims to enhance the National Society's capacity to design evidence-based strategies, coordinate effectively with both national and international stakeholders and implement timely, targeted actions to address vulnerabilities and promote long-term resilience.

The **Danish Red Cross** will also continue to support response for the needs of people affected by hazards by providing operational and technical support to the Disaster Management (DM) Department and sub-branches operating in fragile areas. It will engage National Society structures in a meaningful and conflict-sensitive way while also fostering and maintaining proactive collaboration with actors within and outside the Movement.

The **German Red Cross** will continue working with the National Society and other partners to strengthen DRR and resilience programs, engaging local communities in activities that enhance their readiness, resilience, and coping capacities.

In addition, it will support further development of emergency response capacity, including emergency logistics.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will be supporting the National Society with flexible funding mechanism, enabling it to respond faster and more flexibly to crises.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue with its efforts to strengthening the National Society's disaster management department and responses on the ground through the provision of resources for the respective responses and the collaboration in the field of National Society Preparedness.



*The Syrian Arab Red Crescent provided hospitals with mobility aids, and essential supplies to ensure the continuity of vital medical services. (Photo: IFRC)*



## Health and wellbeing

Syria's health system has been severely disrupted by over 14 years of conflict, compounded by economic crisis, and recurrent disasters. Nearly half of Syria's health facilities are non-functional, and those that remain are unevenly distributed. Access is particularly limited in hard-to-reach rural areas, displacement sites, and governorates such as Deir-ez-Zor, Raqqa, and parts of Aleppo. Urban centres face overcrowding and strained health infrastructure, while rural populations suffer from distance, cost, and lack of transport. Crises such as the 2023 earthquake and 2025 heatwave further strained already fragile systems, while sanctions and economic collapse have contributed to shortages of medicines, equipment, and fuel for ambulances.

Overall health indicators have sharply declined compared to pre-crisis levels. Life expectancy has dropped, and maternal and child mortality remain high relative to regional averages. According to WHO, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer now account for more than 75 per cent of deaths, yet access to chronic care and essential medicines is limited. While conflict-related trauma, preventable conditions, such as diarrheal diseases, respiratory infections, and malnutrition remain widespread.

Conflict, displacement, and weakened services have left Syria highly vulnerable to outbreaks. Cholera has re-emerged since 2022, while overcrowding, unsafe water, and poor waste management drive the spread of diarrhoea and respiratory

diseases. Endemic illnesses such as leishmaniasis persist, and weak surveillance limits early detection and response. On top of that, food insecurity, affecting over 9 million Syrians, has direct health consequences. Acute malnutrition among children under five and anaemia among women of reproductive age are increasing, particularly in drought-affected regions. Prolonged economic hardship limits dietary diversity, compounding risks to child development and maternal health. Pre-hospital and ambulance services are severely overstretched. Fleets are aging and unevenly distributed, with rural areas lacking coverage. Shortages of fuel, medical supplies, and trained paramedics delay referrals and increase preventable deaths.

Access to safe water and adequate sanitation remains a critical public health and basic human right challenge in Syria, with nearly half of water infrastructure non-functional due to years of conflict, underinvestment, and repeated hazard events. Outbreaks of cholera since 2022 highlight the direct link between weakened WASH systems and epidemic risks. Drought, heatwaves, and localized conflict further exacerbate water scarcity, while poor waste management increases environmental health risks.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent's multi-year high level objectives include expanding equitable access to primary and secondary health care, strengthening epidemic preparedness and response, addressing malnutrition and food-related health risks, enhancing care for non-communicable diseases and emergency medical services by upgrading ambulance fleets, and integrating and scaling up Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services. The National Society will also work to expand mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) by integrating it into primary health care, promote disability-inclusive health services, promote sustainability of health services, and improve health and WASH information systems to track service delivery, epidemic trends, and community health data. The National Society will work to promote climate and conflict-sensitive health services and support the Government of Syria's national health strategy.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Expand service reach and geographical coverage of primary health clinics, emergency health points, mobile health units, [first aid](#), and ambulance services
- Provide specialized secondary and tertiary health services at the Syrian Arab Red Crescent hospitals with state-of-the-art medical equipment
- Reach out to people in underserved areas with [community-based health and first aid interventions](#)
- Conducting health risk education and integrate health risks in community-based [disaster risk reduction programmes](#) in disaster-prone locations

- Contribute to the national immunization programme, advocating for communities to participate in routine immunization programmes
- Expand nutrition and maternal, newborn and child health services into the health facilities
- Provide physiotherapy services and support persons with disability with needed assistance
- Run specialized mental health services through selected facilities with a focus on improved referral services for advanced treatment and care
- Continue to provide psychosocial support services through community centre and mobile teams
- Support water treatment with equipment and materials for the maintenance and upgrading of the facilities
- Support water, sanitation/sewage, rehabilitation, and solid waste management systems for communities, hospitals, and other essential public facilities such as schools
- Rehabilitate its health centres and provide them with needed infrastructures
- Improve its pre-hospital ambulance care, including with equipment and training first aid staff and volunteers in their use and maintenance

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent will include components such as integration of epidemic preparedness into community health systems, strengthening emergency medical services, building capacity of staff and volunteers through training, expanding climate and environment-sensitive interventions, embedding MHPSS across all levels of health-care delivery, investing in WASH interventions, among a range of other activities aimed at improving the National Society's health service delivery.

The **Canadian Red Cross** will continue to support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent health priorities by improving access to healthcare through key primary health centres and strengthening health systems in vulnerable areas. The support is aimed at improving both operational capacity and financial sustainability of health care centres, while also addressing critical gaps in services, especially for women and vulnerable groups.

The **Danish Red Cross** will continue to support Syrian Arab Red Crescent to improve access to affordable emergency and primary health services for the Syrian population, through primary health Clinics (PHC), emergency health points (EHP), mobile health units (MHU), emergency medical services (EMS) and nutrition clinics as well as Reproductive Maternal and Neonatal Child Health programme (RMNCH).

The **Italian Red Cross** will support the National Society's primary and secondary health facilities to continue to provide

essential services for the most vulnerable people in Syria. In addition, the Italian Red Cross will support community-based health to strengthen the health and well-being of the local communities.

The **German Red Cross** will continue to support the Reproductive Maternal and Neonatal Child Health programme (RMNCH) supporting maternal health and relevant treatments for mothers and children targeting most-in-need groups. As part of the support provided to MHUs, it will continue to support primary health care services in underserved and remote locations, with a focus on vulnerable groups.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** will continue to provide multilateral support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Despite having no presence in the country, it is committed to ensuring

fair and inclusive access to lifesaving and disability-preventing healthcare by providing financial support for MHU operations and orthopaedic-related surgeries.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's health programme with a specific focus on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

The **Swiss Red Cross** continues to support to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) via the support to several EMS Centers, and strengthening the coordination with the Ministry of Health, policy development continuation as well as provision of equipment and consumables. Further activities include capacity building for the volunteers and development of Standard Operation Procedures and Algorithms for Ambulance patient treatment.



## Migration and displacement

Syria remains primarily a country of origin and internal displacement, with limited transit and some foreign nationals still in camps in the northeast. It is one of the world's largest and most protracted displacement crises: UNHCR tracks around 6 million Syrian refugees hosted mainly in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and North Africa, while over 7 million Syrians are internally displaced inside Syria in protracted situations, with periodic new movements linked to insecurity and shocks.

Syria consistently ranks among the top countries for internal displacement; IDMC describes a long-standing, large IDP case-load with limited durable-solutions prospects. Community-level monitoring by IOM indicates continued population movements in 2025 (including new displacements and returns), with spikes linked to localized hostilities (e.g., Sweida, Coastal areas, North) and hazard events.

Regionally, registered Syrian refugees total in the millions, mostly in neighbouring countries. Since November 2024, return movements have increased. Between late 2024 and mid-2025, refugees from Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq have returned to Syria, alongside around 1.6 million IDPs who went back to their areas of origin. UNHCR notes ongoing but limited organized and self-organized returns (e.g., >5,100 individuals returning from Iraq to Syria between Dec 2024–Aug 2025), while planning scenarios for 2025 anticipated a potential rise in returns contingent on conditions.

Thousands of third-country nationals (many children) remain in northeast Syria camps; selective repatriations continue, highlighting complex protection needs and cross-border coordination requirements. With shifting political and security dynamics, Syria is witnessing gradual returns of displaced populations from inside the country and neighbouring states.

Returnees face enormous challenges in accessing shelter, livelihoods, and basic services, especially in areas where infrastructure has been damaged or services have been disrupted. Many returnees resettle in communities already under strain, increasing pressure on local resources and services.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent is part of the IFRC's three-year [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to annually support 4.7 million individuals through three pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through [humanitarian service points](#), (2) strengthening National Society capacities and (3) engaging in local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent approach to migration is to provide holistic and unhindered humanitarian assistance and support early recovery and resilience-strengthening interventions for the most vulnerable people affected by hostilities or disasters. This also covers people forced to migrate due to environmental degradation, climate change and economic factors that render traditional forms of life and livelihoods unsustainable and no longer possible.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent provides shelter, food and non-food items, health care, water and sanitation, psychosocial support, livelihoods as well as restoring family links services to internally displaced people. This includes people in formal camps such as Al Hol and Al-Arisha, informal camps, in host communities, and displaced people who have returned to

their areas of origin. In 2022, out of 6 million affected persons registered by the National Society, 25 per cent were internally displaced persons, 39 per cent returnees, and 36 per cent people from host communities.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Support the reconstruction and rehabilitation of shelters, internally displaced people (IDP) centres, buildings hosting IDPs, and essential infrastructure
- Scale up livelihood interventions
- Provide a comprehensive training package, including technical, employability, and life skills, to target groups
- Conduct assessments of internal displacement and returns to understand migration perspectives, risks, response gaps, and needed interventions
- Enhance capacities to analyze data, trends, and profiles of people on the move along specific migratory routes
- Increase coordination and interaction on regional migration and displacement issues with relevant stakeholders
- Engage in humanitarian diplomacy to address medium to long-term assistance and protection needs of migrants and displaced people and consider the well-being of host communities

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society with coordination, advocacy the assessment of internal displacement and returns, and with the development of durable solutions and comprehensive access to services through integrated programming. This includes among others, livelihoods, cash and household items, information sharing, protection, mental health and psychosocial support and access to other services for internally displaced populations, returnees and residents in host communities. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, with IFRC support, will participate in regional and global networks and projects

such as the Red Cross Red Crescent MENA Migration Network, Children Red Initiative, and global and regional fora.

The **British Red Cross** remains committed to support vulnerable communities through an integrated and inclusive approach. This includes tailored assistance for both returnees and host populations, with a focus on anticipating emerging needs and delivering timely humanitarian responses.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to address humanitarian challenges related to migration and displacement, including anticipation and response to humanitarian needs. Services may include access quality health services, including mental health and psychosocial services.

The **German Red Cross** will continue working with the National Society in supporting affected communities through a holistic programmatic approach that includes support to returnees as well as host communities.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support interventions to provide essential and integrated services to IDPs, returnees and the host communities in which they are temporary settled or to which they are returning, according to the National Society's vulnerability criteria.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports Syrian Arab Red Crescent to work within migration/return with a protection-centred approach. It is also looking for opportunities to support the National Society with activities related to migration/assistance to returnees - with a holistic approach aligning different perspectives, including local communities

The **Swiss Red Cross** engagement in the sector of migration and displacement is summarized in its joint resilience efforts for new, and returning IDPs, as well as returning refugees and host communities. The activities include CVA, and community behaviour change activities.

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The **ICRC** provides support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent under the restoring family links ([RFL](#)) initiative.



## Values, power and inclusion

Years of conflict, displacement, and economic crisis have severely disrupted Syria's education system. Over 2.4 million children remain out of school, with higher rates in rural areas, informal settlements, and among IDPs and returnees. School infrastructure is often damaged, overcrowded, or lacking teachers and materials. Barriers to access include poverty, child labour, early marriage, displacement, disability, and insecurity on routes to schools. Quality is also affected: overcrowded classrooms, poorly paid teachers, and outdated curricula limit learning outcomes, with literacy and numeracy rates declining, especially for girls and children with disabilities.

Protracted conflict and displacement have heightened protection risks, particularly for women, children, people with disabilities, and minorities. SGBV (including early/forced marriage and domestic violence) is widespread but under-reported due to stigma and lack of services. Children face risks of recruitment, labour, and family separation. People with disabilities encounter systemic exclusion in accessing services, employment, and education. Ethnic and religious minorities, often experience discrimination and invisibility. Trafficking in persons, especially among vulnerable IDP and returnee populations, has been reported, highlighting weak referral and protection mechanisms.

Years of conflict have left large areas of Syria contaminated with landmines, unexploded ordnance, and other explosive hazards. These continue to pose severe risks to civilians, including children, farmers, and returnees resettling in previously inaccessible areas. Distrust in public authorities, compounded by years of conflict, sanctions, and fragmented governance, has created barriers to effective humanitarian response. Communities frequently express frustration with aid distribution, lack of transparency, and limited avenues to provide feedback. Connectivity challenges exist, especially in rural and displacement settings, but radio, WhatsApp, SMS, and face-to-face meetings remain preferred channels. Where functional, complaints and feedback response mechanisms (CFRMs) have increased trust and improved targeting of assistance, as lessons learned highlight.

Syria has endorsed commitments to SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and participates in coordination platforms for protection and education. However, implementation is limited by resource scarcity and fragmented governance. The Ministry of Education leads on education strategy, while the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and other agencies coordinate protection.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent community service and protection programme includes community centres and psychosocial support mobile teams reaching remote areas where public services are barely available. The community centres implement

structured and advanced activities for small groups of children or adults, and some centres and mobile teams, as well as selected health facilities, have trained staff and volunteers for case management. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent intends to expand the referral pathways and service provision in selected facilities.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent's mine and explosive remnants of war risk education interventions aim to increase civilians' resilience to weapon contamination in conflict-affected areas, by promoting risk awareness and safer behaviour. The National Society staff and volunteers will ensure that casualties of mines and explosions have access to physical rehabilitation and prosthetic centres.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent seeks to institutionalize and integrate protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) into its programmes and operations. The aim is to address the needs and protection risks of the most vulnerable women and men of all ages and from diverse backgrounds. The National Society gives a particular focus to improve inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities and their families in society, including access to humanitarian services. The National Society is committed to enhancing inclusive structures within the organization, ensuring everyone has equal opportunities and can participate fully and safely. Key initiatives include establishing robust internal protection mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse, and workplace harassment (see also accountability and agility section). A survivor-centred approach is central to these efforts, guided by the expertise of protection, gender, and inclusion focal points. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent is developing comprehensive training for its staff to foster a deeper understanding and application of PGI and CEA principles in their work..

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Continue to provide community service and protection programmes through community centres and psychosocial support (PSS) mobile teams in remote areas
- Provide specialized services, such as case management, for survivors of violence, discrimination and exclusion, especially in relation to gender-based violence and child protection
- Strengthen community feedback mechanisms
- Organize awareness-raising events for the general public on persons with disabilities, on opportunities, empowerment, and life/success stories of people with disabilities

- Implement communication campaigns focused on risk awareness and safer behaviour to promote community safety and awareness
- Assist mine victims through specialized support and rehabilitation services
- Enhance gender and age data disaggregation for accurate gender analysis, thereby addressing specific needs and vulnerabilities for better access to life-saving services
- Train staff and volunteers on PGI mainstreaming, as well as themes related to gender-based violence and psychosocial support
- Enhance awareness among staff and volunteers on disability inclusion and the rights of people with disabilities including the intersection of disability with gender, age, migration status

The **British Red Cross** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in integrating gender and protection considerations across all programmatic areas. This partnership ensures that humanitarian interventions are inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of affected populations. In addition, it contributes to strengthening capacity in community engagement and accountability, aiming to enhance the long-term impact of their work.

The **Canadian Red Cross** support Syrian Arab Red Crescent in mainstreaming the gender and protection issues into all the activities and ensuring interventions are more inclusive and responsive to the needs of diverse groups. Additionally, it helps to empower the National Society in community engagement and accountability to improve long-term impact of their programs.

The **Finnish Red Cross** is exploring the possibility of securing continued funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to support the Physiotherapy and Disability Inclusion Programme. The Finnish Red Cross is prone to maintaining a flexible approach that adapts to the evolving context in Syria and ready to adapt to different scenarios that a decrease of funds might create. This includes the potential for joint cooperation with other PNSs to ensure continuous and coordinated support for disability inclusion.

The **German Red Cross** will support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in expanding its outreach and impact through strengthened sub-branches. Community Engagement and Accountability will be strengthened by putting community engagement into practice at the operational level.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical and policy support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in institutionalizing PGI and CEA and in scaling up inclusive education and youth engagement. This includes guidance on integrating PGI minimum standards and PSEA policies into all operations, embedding CEA policies, feedback mechanisms into the National Society's programme cycle and strategy, capacity building exercises, among others.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has placed institutional development and accountability at the centre of its Strategic Plan 2025–2028, recognizing that a stronger, more resilient National Society is essential to meet the complex and evolving needs of communities across Syria. It has engaged in structured capacity assessments and development processes, including the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) and internal reviews that identified gaps in emergency preparedness, logistics, and coordination. These findings are guiding multi-year capacity-strengthening investments in branch development, volunteer management, logistics infrastructure, financial systems, and digital transformation.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent's commitments are closely aligned with the NSIF and Way of Working (WoW) framework, as one of the 25 globally prioritized National Societies. This positions SARC to advance its auxiliary role, strengthen its accountability and integrity systems, and enhance its agility in responding to crises while sustaining long-term community resilience.



### Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan
- Digital transformation roadmap
- Data management system



## Strategic and operational coordination

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen external coordination and partnerships by deepening engagement with government authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector actors, and research institutions
- Enhance membership coordination within the IFRC network through joint planning, harmonized reporting, and collective monitoring
- Advance Movement coordination and cooperation by reinforcing the tripartite relationship (SARC-IFRC-ICRC), clarifying roles in emergency response, and leveraging Movement-wide expertise and resources in Syria
- Diversify and expand resource mobilization by developing a domestic fundraising strategy, building partnerships with private sector and diaspora networks, and securing more predictable, multi-year international funding streams

- Invest in coordination capacity by training staff in coordination, negotiation, and partnership management skills, supported by improved IM tools to enhance transparency and evidence-based engagement

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in facilitating and coordinating the National Society's strategic and operational planning processes involving all partners of the Movement and to ensure coordination of contribution in a coherent and coordinated manner. The IFRC provides financial support to the National Society to participate in regional and global thematic events in accordance with its priorities to support the National Society to build partnerships and mobilize resources.

The **British Red Cross** plays an active role in the strengthening of Movement cooperation, collaboration, and complementarity. Its support to humanitarian action by the Movement will be guided by the 'as local as possible and as international as necessary' approach. The British Red Cross will continue to support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent on the technical coordination of the cash voucher assistance.



## National Society development

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen branch and governance capacity through targeted branch development, governance training, and improved oversight systems to ensure more equitable and effective service delivery nationwide
- Reinforce volunteering and youth engagement by scaling up volunteer insurance, training, and care systems, while implementing a Youth Engagement Strategy
- Advance financial sustainability by diversifying funding sources, expanding private sector and diaspora partnerships, and improving financial management systems to ensure predictable and flexible funding
- Institutionalize IM capacity across branches through standardized tools, staff and volunteer training, and integration of IM into planning, monitoring, and reporting systems
- Modernize internal systems and processes (HR, finance, IM, logistics) through digital transformation, enabling improved data management, accountability, and timely decision-making
- Foster peer exchange and learning by actively engaging in Federation-wide NSD platforms, regional peer-to-

peer exchanges, and accessing NSD funding streams to accelerate institutional strengthening

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in undertaking a comprehensive transformation process which is essential for the organization to address the diverse and complex vulnerabilities of communities. In 2026 and beyond, the IFRC will continue to support the National Society branch development processes in the following investment areas: strengthening foundations and systems, programme performance and accountability, financial sustainability, and National Society human capital. The IFRC supports the National Society in strengthening its financial sustainability by focusing on the development of the National Society costing policy and resource mobilization strategy for 2025-2027 under the draft financial sustainability plan.

The **British Red Cross** will continue working in convening, investing, sharing learning and pushing for progress on the strengthening of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

The **Canadian Red Cross** supports Syrian Arab Red Crescent in strengthening its institutional capacity through technical assistance in policy development and organizational development. The Canadian Red Cross enables targeted capacity building interventions for staff at HQs and branches.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop and implement a comprehensive humanitarian diplomacy and communication strategy aligned with the Strategic Plan 2025–2028, positioning the Syrian Arab Red Crescent as a trusted humanitarian actor and policy partner at national and regional levels
- Strengthen dialogue with national authorities and decision-makers to influence humanitarian access, protection frameworks, and inclusion of community resilience and disaster preparedness in national policies
- Enhance international engagement by actively participating in inter-agency coordination platforms, regional networks, and global advocacy initiatives
- Build communication capacity by modernizing digital platforms, strengthening media relations, and equipping staff and volunteers with communication and advocacy skills
- Promote humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles through public campaigns, youth engagement, and education initiatives

- Mobilize domestic and international resources by positioning the National Society as a credible partner for principled humanitarian action

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical guidance on developing the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's humanitarian diplomacy and communication strategy, build staff and volunteer capacities in advocacy and media engagement, and facilitate its participation in regional/global advocacy platforms. The IFRC will also support dialogue with international donors and states on sanctions exemptions, humanitarian access, and multi-year funding.

The **British Red Cross** will continue supporting the Syrian Arab Red Crescent on Humanitarian Diplomacy to influence in their national context, improving understanding of their auxiliary role and capacity in delivering principled humanitarian assistance in conflict settings.

The **Finnish Red Cross** is ready to support the needs for dissemination of international humanitarian law within the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and stakeholders beyond the current program covering 2025-2026.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen safeguarding, protection, and integrity systems by reinforcing HR policies, expanding safeguarding mechanisms, and ensuring robust prevention and response to integrity cases
- Advance financial accountability and sustainability by upgrading financial systems, improving compliance with donor requirements, and strengthening transparency in resource management
- Reinforce risk and security management through updated risk registers, security protocols, and regular staff training, ensuring continuity of operations in volatile environments
- Modernize supply chain and logistics systems to ensure efficiency, compliance, and resilience against sanctions-related and operational barriers

- Institutionalize results-based management by enhancing PMER capacities, strengthening data quality, and embedding monitoring and learning into programme cycles
- Implement a [Digital Transformation](#) Roadmap that expands branch-level connectivity, invests in data systems and digital literacy, enhances cash assistance and health programming, and ensures data protection and cyber-security
- Expand digital and information management systems to enable data-driven humanitarian services, strengthen results-based management, and improve donor accountability
- Foster a culture of innovation by creating safe spaces for experimentation, scaling successful community-led innovations, and building partnerships with research institutions, private sector, and innovation hubs

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical assistance for strengthening accountability frameworks, including financial systems, safeguarding, integrity management, and results-based

management. It will also support the development and implementation of the National Society's Digital Transformation Roadmap in line with the IFRC global strategy.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC has been present in Syria supporting Syrian Arab Red Crescent in the implementation of its humanitarian work since the mid-1990s and established a permanent representation office in 2007. Over the course of the last two decades, IFRC has provided technical, financial and in-kind support to Syrian Arab Red Crescent in implementing its programmes.

The IFRC mandate is to strengthen Syrian Arab Red Crescent's operational and structural capacity for a continued and efficient humanitarian response through technical support, as well as long-term sustainability through capacity building and organizational development for Syrian Arab Red Crescent's headquarters and branches. IFRC Syria Country Delegation maintains close collaboration with Syrian Arab Red Crescent and aims to continue the provision of technical support to Syrian Arab Red Crescent's range of

services including disaster management, livelihoods, health, water and sanitation, community services, community engagement, inclusiveness, and accountability (CEA), PMER, risk management, disability inclusion, and physiotherapy, and National Society development. The National Society is a recipient of National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) Accelerator Funding. Besides supporting the operations of Syrian Arab Red Crescent, IFRC supports coordination through regular meetings and technical collaboration to ensure that Syrian Arab Red Crescent's partners are aligned with standard approaches and procedures in livelihoods, health, and more.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal [operations](#) in relation to complex emergencies, earthquakes, population movement, droughts, wildfires, floods, and disease outbreaks.



*The National Society provides critical support to vulnerable people through its Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) (Photo: Syrian Arab Red Crescent)*

## IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs. It involves agreeing on common priorities, co-developing strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes incorporate clarity in their humanitarian efforts, development assistance, and efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

In addition to IFRC members channeling overall support to sister National Societies through the IFRC, there are nine participating National Societies present in Syria, providing long-term support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. They comprise the British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross. Long-term in-country and remote bilateral partnerships include:

The **British Red Cross** focuses its support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent on disaster management, cash and voucher assistance, and National Society development, including for core administrative functions. The British Red Cross supports the National Society's work on early recovery actions such as livelihoods and food security. The British Red Cross also supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's profile as a strong humanitarian actor.

The **Canadian Red Cross** Society supports the National Society in public health in emergency, medical emergency response unit adaptation, health system strengthening, and positioning the National Society among donors and the diaspora community.

The **Danish Red Cross** and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent partnership primarily includes community-based development and emergency programmes. The Danish Red Cross provides support with administrative capacity development and organizational development. It also supports a range of health interventions and resilience building in crisis-affected communities, including for mental health and psychosocial support and access to sustainable and protected livelihoods.

The **Finnish Red Cross** focuses on humanitarian assistance in Syria, including health, relief, and International Humanitarian

Law dissemination in cooperation with the ICRC. Its partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent includes a strong focus on protection and disability, and gender inclusion initiatives. This includes supporting high-quality physiotherapy and rehabilitation services, and the longstanding partnership with the Abilis Foundation for disability inclusion in Syria.

The **German Red Cross** focuses on providing operational support to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, with a recent focus on planning and analysis, including information management. It also provides support on logistics, community engagement, and reproductive and child health services in the city of Aleppo.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent under health by providing essential health facilities for vulnerable people. It also supports the National Society in capacity building and capacity strengthening under its migration efforts.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supports the efforts of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to improve the health and protection of the most vulnerable people who are affected by crises and climate change. It aims to increase safe access to quality health care and first aid services, and to help the Syrian Arab Red Crescent reduce cases of water-borne disease outbreaks, by improving safer access to clean water and sanitation and improving hygiene practices.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's primary health clinics, mental health clinics, and psychosocial support interventions. It will also continue to support the National Society in developing and rolling out its community engagement and accountability work plan, aligning with its strategy for institutionalizing CEA.

The **Swiss Red Cross** works with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in the areas of health, including first aid, disaster risk management, and National Society development. The Swiss Red Cross incorporates comprehensive technical and managerial support in its programming, in support of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

In line with the Agenda for Renewal and Way of Working jointly the membership has assigned national societies with lead technical roles depending on their in-country expertise and resources.

## Movement coordination

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). A platform for strategic coordination between the senior leadership of Syrian Arab Red Crescent, ICRC and IFRC was established in 2024.

**The ICRC** has been present in Syria since 1967. It currently works to support the most vulnerable who have been affected by over a decade-long conflict. The ICRC carries out its activities in Syria in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, to contribute to better access to food, improve access to medical services, rehabilitate water and sanitation networks across the country, and help people gradually restore their livelihoods. Following the February 2023 earthquakes, it has stepped up its response in light of fast-growing humanitarian needs.

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## Coordination with other actors

As a humanitarian auxiliary to the public authorities, Syrian Arab Red Crescent is Syria's national convener for humanitarian aid as mandated by the Government of Syria and works with multiple international and national actors in-country who are actively involved in humanitarian sector operations. These international organizations and agencies present in-country and partnering with Syrian Arab Red Crescent include UN Agencies such as UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and INGOs including Action Against Hunger, ADRA, AVSI, COOPI, Danish Refugee Council, Lutheran World Relief, MEDAIR, Oxfam, Premiere Urgence, Secours Islamique France, Terre des hommes, Intersos and Triangle.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent is a member of the High Relief Committee, the government-lead agency for coordination of

humanitarian response in which Syrian Arab Red Crescent plays a critical role in facilitating international humanitarian assistance. Coordination with UN and other humanitarian actors takes place through the Humanitarian Country Team in which IFRC, ICRC and Syrian Arab Red Crescent have observer status and through the active engagement and involvement with relevant clusters.

The IFRC participates alongside Syrian Arab Red Crescent in cluster meetings and working groups for health, shelter and household items, livelihoods, information management, among others. Activities conducted are carried out in coordination with local, national, and international stakeholders active in the relevant sectors. These multisectoral partnerships play a key role in the humanitarian response to the needs of the Syrian people.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

## About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

## Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

## Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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