



Appeal: MDRSY019	Hazard: Flood	Country: Syrian Arab Republic	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 433,266	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 19,998 people	People Targeted: 20,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 08-06-2026	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 31-12-2026	DREF Published: 09-06-2026
Targeted Regions: Aleppo, Deir Ez-Zor, Al-Raqqa			

Description of the Event

Date of event

25-05-2026



What happened, where and when?

Since mid-May 2026, Syria has experienced severe flooding and rapidly rising water levels along the Euphrates River, primarily affecting Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates in addition to Jarabulus from Aleppo governorate, following a sharp increase in water inflow from upstream areas in Türkiye. The increased inflow, reportedly reaching approximately 2,200 m³ per second, is mainly attributed to seasonal snowmelt and the opening of spillways at upstream dams.

As reservoir levels exceeded 97 per cent of storage capacity, authorities initiated emergency water management measures, including the opening of three spillway gates at the Euphrates Dam for the first time in more than three decades. Water discharge levels have significantly increased and may continue rising in the coming days if inflow persists.

The flooding has resulted in the displacement of at least 1,626 families in Deir ez-Zor Governorate, partial flooding of displacement sites in Ar-Raqqa, around 30 families, damage to agricultural land and disruption to critical infrastructure, including water stations and local access routes. Approximately 50 rural water stations in Deir ez-Zor and several additional stations in Ar-Raqqa are currently out of service or at risk due to inundation and restricted access.

Precautionary evacuations are ongoing in several high-risk communities located along the riverbanks, while local authorities and emergency actors continue to monitor water levels and implement protective measures to safeguard critical infrastructure and vulnerable populations.

The situation remains highly volatile, with authorities warning that additional spillway openings may become necessary should water inflow continue to increase, potentially leading to further flooding, displacement, service disruption, and humanitarian needs across affected areas along the Euphrates basin.



Scope and Scale

The flooding along the Euphrates River has generated significant humanitarian, socio-economic, and infrastructure-related impacts across Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates. The rapid increase in river water levels, resulting from elevated upstream releases and seasonal snowmelt, has affected communities living along both banks of the Euphrates, particularly low-lying settlements, river islands (hawajj), agricultural areas, and communities dependent on river-based infrastructure and services.

According to official reports, at least 1,626 families (approximately 8,280 people) have been displaced in Deir ez-Zor Governorate alone, while additional families residing in displacement sites in Ar-Raqqa have also been affected by flooding and water intrusion. The situation remains dynamic, with continued risks of further displacement should water levels continue to rise. In addition to displaced households, thousands of residents remain exposed to the impacts of flooding due to damaged infrastructure, service interruptions, and restricted access to essential services.

The flooding has had a substantial impact on critical infrastructure. Around 50 rural water stations in Deir ez-Zor, along with several additional stations in Ar-Raqqa, have either gone out of service or are at immediate risk due to inundation, erosion, power disruptions, and limited access for maintenance teams. The collapse of the raw water intake gate at the Euphrates Water Station, one of the main water supply facilities serving Deir ez-Zor city, has reduced water production by an estimated 60–70 per cent, creating a serious risk of widespread water shortages. In parallel, precautionary electricity shutdowns have affected water pumping stations and agricultural schemes in several riverbank communities, further increasing pressure on already vulnerable populations.

Transport and connectivity have also been severely disrupted. Several key bridges and river crossings, including Al-Mrei'iyah Bridge and the earthen bridge in Deir ez-Zor, have been damaged or rendered unusable, while Al-Asharah Bridge required emergency reinforcement works. The disruption of transportation routes has limited access to markets, health facilities, schools, and humanitarian assistance, while also affecting the movement of goods and agricultural products between communities on both sides of the river.

Livelihoods have been significantly affected, particularly among farming and livestock-dependent households. Floodwaters have inundated agricultural lands, damaged irrigation systems, and threatened seasonal crops in both governorates. Rural communities located in areas such as Huwaijat Saqr, Al-Jammasa, Al-Jumaili, Al-Ajeel, and other river-adjacent settlements have reported damage to agricultural assets and productive land. Many households in these areas rely heavily on agriculture and daily labour as their primary source of income, making them particularly vulnerable to prolonged service disruptions and loss of productive assets.

The most vulnerable groups include children, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, chronically ill individuals, and female-headed households. These groups face heightened risks due to reduced mobility, limited access to health services, loss of household assets, and difficulties accessing safe water and sanitation facilities. Children are particularly exposed to protection and safety risks associated with flooding, fast-moving water currents, and displacement. Tragically, during the current emergency, five fatalities have been reported, including three children who drowned in Deir ez-Zor during the first days of the flooding, while one child remains missing. These incidents highlight the increasing risks posed by the unusually high river levels and strong water currents.

The flooding is also affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host communities already facing prolonged socio-economic hardship after years of conflict, displacement, and deteriorating public services. Many affected communities have limited coping capacities and reduced resilience due to repeated shocks, including conflict-related damage, economic deterioration, drought, and previous flood events.

Historically, Euphrates River flooding has periodically affected eastern Syria; however, the current event is considered one of the most

significant river flooding emergencies recorded in recent decades. Local authorities reported that emergency spillway releases at the Euphrates Dam were implemented for the first time in more than thirty years, reflecting the exceptional scale of the hydrological pressure currently affecting the river basin. Combined with the deterioration of infrastructure caused by years of conflict and underinvestment, the current flooding has generated humanitarian needs that exceed the coping capacity of many affected communities and local authorities, necessitating urgent humanitarian support to protect lives, maintain essential services, and prevent further deterioration of living conditions.

Source Name	Source Link
1. Rapid Assessment and Response Report – Syrian Arab Red Crescent (Floods)	https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/SYRIADocuments/IQDQ6N97hfEERoXKKB0XexXhLAUegJyLj-XXPVSk3QXd-gIA?e=RvQnuG

Previous Operations

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

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:

The lessons learned from the recent DREF operations conducted in 2025 and 2026 are as follows:

- Improvement of cross-departmental coordination and establishment of regular information sharing protocols.
- Strengthening of community engagement and dissemination efforts, alongside communication activities with various stakeholders and communities through multiple platforms.
- Enhancement of the capacity of assessment teams.

In response to these insights, the following measures have been implemented prior to the current operation:

- Establishment of an internal SARC task force to oversee and coordinate all ongoing operations.
- Ensure timely transfer of funds from SARC HQ to SARC branches responding to this emergency.
- Integration of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), and Communications sections into all operational processes.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?	No
What was the risk level for Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis?:	Child Safeguarding analysis is underway with the support of IFRC MENA RO colleagues



Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

26-05-2026

Shelter, Housing And Settlements	<p>The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is actively responding to urgent shelter needs resulting from the Euphrates River floods across Deir ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and rural Aleppo (Jarabulus). The flooding has led to significant displacement, with affected families losing access to safe housing due to the inundation of low-lying residential areas and partial damage to shelters located near the riverbanks. Many households have been forced to relocate to host communities or collective shelters, while others remain in overcrowded and temporary living conditions.</p> <p>As part of the ongoing response, SARC has supported displaced families in collective shelters through the provision of essential non-food items, including blankets, mattresses, plastic sheets, and basic household items to improve living conditions and ensure minimum dignity standards. Shelter support has been prioritized for newly displaced families and those with inadequate shelter conditions, particularly in Deir ez-Zor where the majority of displacement is concentrated.</p> <p>In addition, SARC teams have supported the establishment and management of collective shelters in coordination with local authorities, ensuring access to basic services such as water, sanitation, and primary health care. Emergency shelter assistance has also been complemented by distribution of shelter repair materials where feasible, to support affected households in stabilizing their living conditions.</p> <p>Overall, SARC's shelter response has contributed to reducing immediate exposure of displaced families to harsh living conditions, while ensuring access to safe temporary accommodation and essential household items during the emergency phase.</p>
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	<p>The Syrian Arab Red Crescent intervention within the Livelihoods and Basic Needs sector focuses on an immediate response to the direct impacts of the Euphrates River floods, which have affected household income sources and food security in Deir ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and eastern rural Aleppo. The floods have caused widespread damage to agricultural land, partial loss of key crops such as wheat, barley, cotton, and olives, as well as livestock losses and damage to rural production facilities such as poultry farms and fish ponds, directly affecting the livelihoods of the affected population.</p> <p>As part of the ongoing response, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has distributed food and non-food assistance to support affected households and mitigate the impact of income loss, including food baskets, essential relief items, and shelter support items. These interventions have helped strengthen the immediate coping capacity of affected families during the emergency phase, particularly displaced households and those who have lost their income sources due to damaged agricultural land or disrupted productive activities.</p> <p>The response also focuses on maintaining a minimum level of livelihood stability by addressing the basic needs of affected families, with priority given to the most vulnerable households, including those who have lost a significant portion of their agricultural production or whose economic assets have been directly impacted. The intervention contributes to sustaining minimum food security and essential household needs during the critical phase, until conditions stabilize and early recovery interventions can be initiated.</p>
Health	<p>The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) continues to provide essential health services as part of the ongoing emergency response to the Euphrates River floods affecting Deir</p>



ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and rural Aleppo (Jarabulus). Health needs have increased due to population displacement, limited access to health facilities, and the secondary public health risks associated with flooding, including waterborne diseases and reduced access to safe drinking water.

As part of the response, SARC deployed ambulance teams and emergency medical staff to key locations, including flood-affected areas, river crossings, and collective shelters. A total of 14 medical cases were managed through field response points, including referrals to secondary health facilities for urgent care.

In addition, mobile clinic services were activated in displacement shelters, providing free medical consultations, essential medicines, and follow-up care. The mobile health teams reached 168 beneficiaries, while broader health outreach activities supported health service delivery in collective shelters.

Community health teams also conducted health awareness sessions focusing on hygiene promotion and disease prevention, reaching 529 beneficiaries. These activities included distribution of basic hygiene items such as soap and lice treatment materials to reduce the risk of communicable diseases in overcrowded shelter settings.

Furthermore, psychosocial support and first aid services were provided through community-based teams, reaching 514 beneficiaries, addressing the psychological impact of displacement and loss. Mine risk awareness sessions were also conducted in shelters, reaching 48 beneficiaries, due to the presence of conflict-related hazards in some affected areas.

Overall, SARC's health response has played a critical role in ensuring continuity of essential health services, reducing health risks in displacement settings, and providing timely emergency medical support in flood-affected communities.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is implementing critical WASH interventions in response to the Euphrates River floods affecting Deir ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and rural Aleppo (Jarabulus). The flooding has significantly disrupted access to safe drinking water due to the shutdown or damage of water pumping stations, contamination risks, and limited access to affected water infrastructure. In total, 74 water stations were reported out of service, creating severe pressure on already fragile water systems in the affected areas.

As part of the ongoing response, SARC has supported emergency water trucking operations to ensure continuous access to safe drinking water for displaced populations in collective shelters and host communities. Water distribution has been prioritized in the most affected and hard-to-reach locations, particularly in Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa. In parallel, efforts have been made to support the protection and rehabilitation of affected water stations through the construction of protective barriers and the deployment of technical teams in coordination with relevant partners.

Hygiene promotion activities have also been conducted in collective shelters, focusing on disease prevention, safe water handling, and personal hygiene practices. These activities were complemented by the distribution of hygiene-related items, including soap and basic hygiene supplies, to reduce the risk of waterborne and communicable diseases in overcrowded displacement settings.

Overall, the WASH response has played a critical role in mitigating public health risks, ensuring minimum access to safe water, and supporting affected communities during the emergency phase while recovery and restoration of damaged water infrastructure are ongoing.

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), through its branches in Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa and with support from headquarters, is implementing Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) interventions as part of the ongoing flood response. The operation is supported by a network of approximately 50 staff and 200 volunteers engaged across affected areas, contributing to rapid needs assessments, outreach, and service delivery



in both governorates. These teams are actively working in coordination with local authorities and humanitarian partners to identify and prioritize the needs of vulnerable and displaced populations, particularly those living in high-risk riverbank areas and collective shelters.

Protection activities are integrated within the broader emergency response and include the provision of psychosocial support services, community awareness sessions, and the distribution of essential non-food items to affected families. Mobile teams are deployed to access hard-to-reach communities, ensuring that vulnerable groups—including women, children, and displaced households—receive timely support. The intervention is reaching a significant portion of the affected population, including thousands of displaced individuals impacted by the floods, addressing their immediate protection risks, mental health needs, and overall well-being.

SARC also plays a key role in strengthening inclusive and community-based approaches by ensuring that assistance is delivered in a safe, dignified, and equitable manner. Through its strong local presence and trusted community networks, the National Society is able to rapidly mobilize, identify emerging protection concerns, and adapt its response accordingly. Its active participation in coordination mechanisms further enhances the effectiveness of the response, ensuring complementarity with other actors. Overall, SARC's PGI intervention adds critical value by combining protection, psychosocial support, and relief assistance within an integrated model that promotes dignity, safety, and resilience among affected populations during the evolving crisis.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC has an established presence in Syria and is actively engaged in supporting the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in the ongoing response to the floods along the Euphrates River. Since the onset of the emergency, the IFRC has been working closely with SARC through continuous coordination at strategic and operational levels to support effective emergency response planning, prioritization, and resource mobilization in line with evolving needs on the ground.</p> <p>The IFRC Secretariat is providing multi-sectoral support to the operation, including coordination and information management to ensure coherent planning and alignment with Movement partners. Technical support is being provided in key sectors such as WASH, health, shelter/NFI, and disaster management, including guidance on operational planning and response design. In addition, surge support has been mobilized as needed to strengthen field assessments, coordination, and operational decision-making.</p> <p>At the domestic coordination level, IFRC is facilitating alignment between SARC, Movement partners, and relevant stakeholders to ensure complementary response efforts and avoid duplication. Strategic support is also provided to strengthen resource mobilization and ensure that operational priorities are adequately funded and implemented.</p> <p>IFRC is maintaining disaster preparedness stocks for any unforeseen situation. In response to this event, SARC has mobilized IFRC supported DP stocks such as food parcels, blankets, jerry cans and mattresses to provide immediate assistance to the population. The stocks will be replenished through this DREF.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>Since the beginning of the response, coordination has been ongoing with other components of the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement to support the flood response in Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa, in line with identified priorities and evolving needs on the ground.</p>



Support is being delivered through Partner National Societies present in the country. This assistance includes the distribution of food parcels, blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, shelter materials, and other essential non-food items (NFIs) across Deir Ezzor and Raqqa to support displaced and affected households.

The Crisis Modifier under the ongoing DG ECHO-funded action, implemented by SARC with the support of the German Red Cross (GRC), was activated within the first 72 hours of the emergency to contribute to SARC's immediate response efforts. In line with the purpose of the Crisis Modifier mechanism, the intervention focuses on supporting Frontline Emergency Response (FLER) activities, enabling rapid and timely humanitarian action during the critical initial phase of the crisis.

Based on the priority needs identified by SARC through rapid assessments, the Crisis Modifier supports key operational costs related to DM, EMS and medical services, and emergency logistics, as well as volunteer allowances for frontline responders. In addition, the activation includes the distribution of 1,000 emergency ready-to-eat food parcels to support displaced and flooding-affected households.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Present in Syria since 1967, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral, impartial, and independent organization with an exclusively humanitarian mandate. The ICRC works closely with and supports the SARC to meet the food, water, health, and other essential needs of people and communities affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence, helping them restore their livelihoods and rebuild their lives. Together, the ICRC and the SARC raise awareness about the risks posed by mines and other explosive remnants.

The ICRC works to restore family links between people separated by conflict and migration and promotes respect for international humanitarian law. The ICRC also support efforts to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons and provide answers to their families, coordinating with relevant authorities, while offering technical advice and support to forensic practitioners to ensure the dignified and respectful management of human remains.

During this response, as in previous emergencies, the ICRC, through its field teams, supported the SARC DM, WatRehab, and EMS teams, by providing operational support in Deir Ezzor, Raqqa and Aleppo. This included contributions to relief distributions (food and essential household items), as well as water and habitat interventions aimed at protecting and restoring critical water infrastructure affected by flooding and by supporting sanitation conditions in the shelters hosting the affected people.

The ICRC remains in close coordination with the SARC, and participates, as Co-Convener, in the coordinated Movement response led by the SARC as Convener. This includes participation in Movement coordination meetings and dedicated task forces planning and implementing activities, ensuring a complementary, effective, and principled collective response, while supporting the continuity of essential services for affected communities.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	In response to the rising water levels of the Euphrates River and associated flooding in Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates, national authorities activated emergency response and coordination mechanisms at both central and governorate levels.



The Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management, in close coordination with governorate authorities and technical directorates, assumed leadership of the operational response. Immediate actions included the deployment of emergency response teams, reinforcement of flood protection measures along critical points of the river, and mobilization of heavy machinery from multiple governorates including Aleppo and Idlib, in addition to locally rented equipment to accelerate response activities.

Authorities implemented urgent mitigation measures to protect critical infrastructure, including reinforcement of earthen embankments along riverbanks, protection of water pumping stations, and partial modification of vulnerable infrastructure such as earthen bridges to reduce flood pressure and prevent structural collapse.

Search and rescue and civil defense teams were deployed to support evacuations, assist stranded populations, and ensure the safety of civilians in high-risk riverbank areas. Temporary relocation measures were facilitated in coordination with local authorities, including the use of public buildings such as schools where needed.

In parallel, authorities issued precautionary warnings and evacuation guidance to communities living in low-lying and flood-prone areas along the Euphrates, while continuously monitoring water levels and spillway discharges from upstream dams. Additional emergency measures were taken to maintain access to essential services, including water supply and transportation routes, despite significant operational constraints caused by flooding.

UN or other actors

UN agencies and humanitarian partners are supporting the ongoing emergency response to the Euphrates River flooding in Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa through coordinated humanitarian assistance and information sharing mechanisms.

Humanitarian actors are working in close coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and national authorities to support the delivery of emergency relief assistance to affected and displaced populations. This includes the provision of essential humanitarian supplies and support to urgent needs in shelter, food security, and basic services.

Partners are also contributing to coordination and situational monitoring efforts, supporting the identification of priority needs and ensuring alignment of response activities across different actors operating in the affected areas.

UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations continue to rely on SARC field data and operational updates to guide their interventions and ensure that assistance is targeted, timely, and consistent with evolving needs on the ground.



Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

At the national level, coordination for the response to the Euphrates River flooding in Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa is being led by the Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management, which is overseeing the overall emergency response and ensuring coordination among relevant line ministries, technical directorates, civil defense, and governorate authorities. A central emergency operations structure is in place to manage flood risk reduction measures, protection of critical infrastructure, evacuation decisions, and the deployment of national resources, including heavy machinery and response teams.

At the governorate and district levels, emergency coordination committees are active in both Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa. These platforms bring together local authorities, technical services (particularly water, electricity, and public works directorates), civil defense, and humanitarian actors to coordinate immediate mitigation works along the riverbanks, including embankment reinforcement, infrastructure protection, and access facilitation.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is fully integrated into these coordination mechanisms at both national and sub-national levels. As an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, SARC participates in joint operations rooms, contributes to multi-sector needs assessments, and supports operational planning and response implementation, particularly in areas of evacuation support, emergency relief distribution, water and sanitation interventions, and service continuity for affected populations.

At the inter-agency level, coordination is maintained through sectoral working arrangements involving UN agencies and humanitarian partners, particularly in the sectors of WASH, Health, Shelter/NFI, Food Security, and Logistics. These mechanisms support information sharing, prioritization of interventions, and alignment of response activities across actors operating in the affected areas.

While coordination structures are active and functional, the scale and speed of the flooding along the Euphrates present increasing operational pressure on existing mechanisms. Key gaps are emerging in terms of limited availability of specialized flood response equipment, constraints in rapid deployment capacity to hard-to-reach riverine areas, and the need for strengthened real-time data sharing between field teams and coordination hubs to support more timely decision-making.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The flooding along the Euphrates River has resulted in significant displacement and widespread damage to housing conditions across Deir Ezzor, Raqqa, and parts of rural Aleppo (Jarablus). A large number of affected families approximately 2,727 HHs (20,000 person) as of 31 of May 2026, have been forced to evacuate their homes due to rising water levels and inundation of residential areas, with many now residing in overcrowded collective shelters, informal settlements, or being hosted by already vulnerable communities. This has led to significant gaps in safe, adequate, and dignified shelter solutions.

Existing collective shelters, including schools, are under pressure due to increased occupancy, limited space, and insufficient shelter materials. Many displaced households lack adequate non-food items such as mattresses, blankets, plastic sheeting, and basic household essentials required to ensure minimum living standards. In informal settlements and host communities, families are often residing in substandard conditions without proper protection from weather exposure or privacy, increasing their vulnerability.

In addition, floodwaters have caused structural damage to some housing units and surrounding settlements, particularly in low-lying riverbank areas, making return unsafe in the short term. The lack of transitional shelter options and limited capacity for rapid repairs further delays safe return or relocation processes. Site conditions in some affected areas are also deteriorating due to waterlogging and damaged infrastructure, including access roads and drainage systems.

Overall, there is a critical gap in emergency shelter assistance and settlement support, including the need for additional shelter/NFI supplies, site management in collective centres, and support for safe, dignified, and sustainable living conditions for displaced and affected households.





Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The floods along the Euphrates River have resulted in significant damage to livelihoods and basic household assets, creating substantial unmet needs among affected populations. Large-scale losses in agricultural production, including extensive damage to crops such as wheat, barley, cotton, and olive trees, have directly impacted household income sources and food security. In addition, flooding has destroyed or damaged irrigation systems, farmland, and livestock-related infrastructure, including poultry farms and fish ponds, further undermining already fragile livelihoods in rural communities.

Many affected households have lost essential income-generating assets and are now relying on negative coping mechanisms, including reduced food consumption and increased debt. Daily labour opportunities in agriculture and related sectors have also been disrupted due to flooded land and damaged infrastructure, limiting access to casual work for both host and displaced populations.

In terms of basic needs, displaced families are experiencing significant gaps in access to essential household items and emergency supplies. While some assistance has been provided, coverage remains insufficient compared to the scale of displacement, particularly for newly affected households and those outside formal collective shelters. There is an ongoing need for food assistance, emergency household items (such as blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, and shelter materials), and support for dignity and personal hygiene needs.

Overall, the scale of damage to livelihoods combined with the insufficient coverage of basic household needs highlights a critical gap in early recovery and emergency assistance, requiring continued support to stabilize affected households and prevent further deterioration of living conditions.



Health

Despite the ongoing health response, significant gaps persist due to the scale of displacement and disruption of health services. The flooding has led to increased demand for emergency medical care, while access to health facilities remains constrained in many areas, particularly in isolated communities cut off by damaged infrastructure, including destroyed bridges and flooded access routes. Existing ambulance coverage and mobile health services are limited relative to the needs, restricting timely medical evacuation and continuity of care for affected populations.

There is also a shortage of essential medical supplies and equipment required to manage both emergency and routine health needs, including trauma kits, medicines for chronic diseases, reproductive health supplies, and treatments for waterborne illnesses. Health facilities are under additional pressure from increased caseloads, with gaps in medical consumables, fuel, and operational support affecting their ability to respond effectively to the surge in patients.

Furthermore, community-based health activities require scaling up to address heightened public health risks, particularly related to disease outbreaks, mental health stress, and limited awareness of preventive measures. Nutrition needs are also increasing among vulnerable groups such as children under five and pregnant and lactating women, with insufficient resources for screening, prevention, and treatment of malnutrition. Overall, there is a critical need to expand mobile and emergency health coverage, reinforce facility-based services, and ensure consistent availability of medicines, supplies, and operational support to meet the growing health needs of affected populations.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Despite ongoing interventions, significant gaps remain in meeting WASH needs across the affected areas. Large portions of water infrastructure remain damaged or non-functional, and current rehabilitation efforts do not fully address the scale of repairs required to restore safe and reliable water supply systems. Many water stations continue to operate at reduced capacity due to shortages in critical equipment such as pumps, motors, and electrical systems, prolonging dependence on temporary solutions and limiting access to safe water.

At the household level, available supplies are insufficient to meet the needs of all affected families. The quantities of water storage containers and water treatment items, such as jerrycans and chlorine tablets, remain limited in comparison to the number of displaced and affected households, leaving many without adequate means to safely store or treat water. This gap increases the risk of reliance on unsafe water sources and heightens exposure to waterborne diseases.

Operational challenges further constrain the response, including limited fuel to operate water stations and support water trucking, as well as insufficient maintenance capacity to ensure sustained operation of water systems and tanker fleets. In addition, hygiene promotion activities are not yet reaching all affected communities, particularly in remote and newly affected areas, reducing the effectiveness of disease prevention efforts. Overall, there is a continued need to scale up both emergency water supply interventions and



longer-term rehabilitation, expand the provision of WASH supplies, and strengthen operational and community engagement capacities to ensure adequate coverage and reduce public health risks.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Despite the ongoing protection response, significant gaps remain in adequately addressing the needs of flood-affected populations, particularly in Deir ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa. While dignity kits are being distributed, the available quantities are limited compared to the overall number of displaced and affected individuals, leaving many vulnerable people—especially women and men in overcrowded shelters—without access to essential personal items required to maintain dignity and hygiene. At the same time, psychosocial support and community outreach activities remain insufficient to cover all affected locations, particularly in remote or newly displaced communities, where access constraints continue to limit regular service delivery.

Operational challenges also persist, including limited transportation capacity and insufficient resources for outreach materials, which affect the ability of mobile protection teams to expand their coverage and deliver consistent services. In addition, protection risks remain high due to displacement, overcrowding, and loss of livelihoods, increasing vulnerability among women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities who require tailored and sustained support.

Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen community engagement and awareness activities to address protection concerns, including psychosocial distress, safety risks, and access to services. Overall, scaling up CSP interventions—including increased coverage of dignity kits, expanded psychosocial services, and strengthened outreach capacity—is essential to ensure that all vulnerable groups are reached in a timely, safe, and dignified manner and that evolving protection needs are adequately addressed.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The current assessment highlights several gaps and limitations that may affect the completeness and effectiveness of the response planning. Despite ongoing humanitarian interventions, significant unmet needs remain across multiple sectors, particularly in shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs), as many newly displaced families—especially those hosted in informal settlements or outside collective centres—remain insufficiently covered. WASH needs are only partially addressed due to the continued disruption of water pumping stations and inconsistent access to safe drinking water, while health services remain overstretched in flood-affected and hard-to-reach areas. Additionally, livelihoods and agricultural recovery needs are largely unmet despite extensive damage to crops, irrigation networks, and livestock assets. The response is further constrained by shortages in critical resources, including funding, operational personnel, fuel for water trucking and essential services, and engineering equipment required for infrastructure protection and rehabilitation. Operational challenges persist due to damaged roads, limited and controlled river crossings, and restricted access to some affected locations, which delays timely delivery of assistance. Coordination gaps remain due to uneven sectoral coverage among humanitarian actors, occasional delays in information sharing, and reliance on ad-hoc access arrangements, resulting in inconsistencies in response coverage. Finally, several vulnerable groups may not be fully captured or adequately supported, including elderly persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, female-headed households, informal riverbank settlers, and seasonal agricultural workers, in addition to children facing heightened protection risks and disruption of education due to the use of schools as temporary shelters.

[Assessment Report](#)

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The objective of this DREF operation is to provide timely, life-saving, and needs-based humanitarian assistance to populations affected by the rising water levels and flooding along the Euphrates River in Deir ez-Zor, Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates.

The operation aims to reduce immediate risks to life, health, shelter, and access to essential services for approximately 20,000 affected people, including displaced families and vulnerable host communities impacted by flooding, infrastructure damage, and disruption of critical services such as water supply, electricity, health care, and transportation.

The response will focus on urgent humanitarian priorities, including emergency shelter and relief assistance for displaced households, emergency WASH interventions to ensure access to safe water, health services through mobile and fixed health capacities, and protection and community engagement activities to reduce vulnerability and enhance safe access to assistance.



The operation also aims to support continuity of essential services and strengthen the operational capacity of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to respond effectively to rapidly evolving flood conditions along the Euphrates River basin.

Operation strategy rationale

This IFRC-DREF operation adopts a rapid, needs-based, and multi-sectoral emergency response strategy to address the immediate humanitarian consequences of severe flooding along the Euphrates River in Deir ez-Zor, Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa.

Rapid assessments conducted by SARC and coordination partners indicate widespread impacts, including displacement, damage to Houses and critical infrastructure, disruption of water systems, partial or full closure of bridges, and increased risks of waterborne diseases and protection concerns. These impacts are particularly severe in riverbank communities, low-lying agricultural areas, and densely populated urban neighborhoods.

The strategy prioritizes life-saving interventions during the acute phase of the emergency. The most urgent needs identified include emergency shelter and non-food items for displaced households, access to safe drinking water, emergency health services, and restoration of basic access routes and service continuity. These priorities were selected based on the scale of displacement, the level of infrastructure disruption (particularly water stations and bridges), and the high dependency of affected populations on limited service networks.

The operational approach combines immediate relief assistance with critical service continuity measures. This includes emergency distribution of food and non-food items, support for water trucking and protection of water infrastructure, deployment of mobile health teams, and reinforcement of community-based protection and awareness activities. These actions are designed to directly reduce mortality and morbidity risks, prevent secondary health crises, and maintain minimum living conditions for affected populations.

A key component of the strategy is replenishment of pre-positioned stocks used during the response to ensure sustained readiness for continued or secondary flooding events. In addition, operational support costs are included to enable rapid deployment of staff, volunteers, and response assets in a highly dynamic environment.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) are fully integrated across all sectors to ensure safe, inclusive, and dignified access to assistance, particularly for women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and displaced populations.

The strategy is shaped by the evolving nature of the flood, limited local infrastructure capacity, and the need for rapid, flexible, and scalable response modalities. Coordination with national authorities, Movement partners, and humanitarian actors ensures complementarity, avoids duplication, and enhances the efficiency of the overall response.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The operation will target approximately 20,000 individuals affected by the flooding of the Euphrates River in Deir ez-Zor, Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates.

Priority will be given to populations most exposed to the direct and indirect impacts of flooding, including displaced families, riverbank communities, and vulnerable households whose shelters, livelihoods, and access to essential services have been significantly affected.

Families directly affected by the floods will receive direct assistance, while soft components and awareness raising will benefit both those directly and indirectly impacted.

Targeting will be based on severity of impact and vulnerability levels, with a focus on ensuring equitable access to assistance across both displaced and host communities. Special attention will be given to geographically isolated populations on the "island" areas of Deir ez-Zor, where access constraints and infrastructure damage have significantly increased vulnerability.

Different assistance modalities will be applied depending on need: emergency relief and shelter support for displaced households, WASH and health interventions at community and service level, and protection-focused activities integrated across all response sectors.



This approach ensures that assistance is prioritized for those most affected while maintaining inclusivity and operational efficiency in a rapidly evolving emergency context.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Beneficiary selection will be based on a combined assessment of flood impact severity, vulnerability status, and reduced coping capacity resulting from the Euphrates River flooding.

The following criteria will guide household selection for relief assistance:

- Households residing in areas directly affected by rising water levels and flooding.
- Families whose shelters have been fully or partially damaged or are at high risk of collapse or inundation.
- Displaced households evacuated from riverbank and low-lying areas.
- Households that have lost essential assets, including food stocks, household items, and livelihood inputs due to flooding.
- Families with no stable or sufficient income sources following disruption of economic activities.
- Female-headed households.
- Households including children, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant or lactating women, or individuals with chronic medical conditions.
- Households experiencing restricted access to basic services such as water, health care, electricity, and transportation.
- Households identified as resorting to negative coping mechanisms due to the impact of the disaster.

Selection will be conducted through field-based assessments, community verification, and coordination with local authorities and established community structures in affected areas. Data will be disaggregated by sex, age, and disability to ensure inclusive and equitable targeting.

Additional attention will be given to populations in hard-to-reach riverine areas and locations where access constraints limit the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Mechanisms will be put in place to ensure safe, transparent, and accountable selection processes, with particular attention to protection risks and mobility constraints faced by vulnerable groups.

Total Targeted Population

Women	4,340	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	5,860	Urban	-
Men	4,180	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	5,620		
Total targeted population	20,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes



Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
<p>Hydrological instability and secondary flooding</p> <p>Root cause: Continued variability in Euphrates River discharge and controlled dam operations leading to fluctuating water levels and delayed recession downstream.</p> <p>Potential impact: Re-flooding of already affected areas, disruption of ongoing response and recovery activities, restricted access to communities, and damage to already compromised infrastructure.</p>	<p>Continuous coordination with water authorities for real-time hydrological updates; adaptive and phased operational planning; pre-positioning of relief supplies in safe locations; use of early warning and community alert mechanisms; flexible deployment and contingency planning to allow rapid response adjustment.</p>
<p>Access constraints and logistical disruptions</p> <p>Root cause: Flood-damaged roads and bridges, limited operational crossing points, and reliance on a restricted number of transport corridors.</p> <p>Potential impact: Delays in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, reduced geographic coverage, increased operational costs, and inability to reach the most vulnerable populations in a timely manner</p>	<p>Development of alternative access routes and contingency logistics plans; pre-positioning of stocks at branch level; use of mobile response teams; coordination with local authorities for humanitarian access facilitation; engagement of local transport providers and contractors to increase flexibility.</p>
<p>Public health, protection, and operational safety risks</p> <p>Root cause: Contaminated floodwaters, damaged WASH systems, overcrowded shelters, presence of UXO/ERW in some areas, and hazardous field conditions near riverbanks and flooded terrain.</p> <p>Potential impact: Increased risk of waterborne disease outbreaks, injuries or fatalities among affected populations and responders, heightened protection risks for vulnerable groups, and potential interruption of field operations</p>	<p>Strengthened WASH and hygiene promotion interventions; distribution of hygiene kits and safe water provision; enforcement of safety protocols and restricted access to high-risk zones; UXO risk awareness and coordination with mine action actors; mandatory use of PPE and safety briefings; deployment of trained teams for high-risk field activities.</p>



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The operation is being implemented in a context that presents a range of security and safety concerns that could impact personnel, volunteers, and affected communities. While the current situation is primarily driven by a hydrological emergency rather than active conflict, some of the affected areas—particularly in Deir Ezzor and parts of rural Raqqa—remain sensitive due to their proximity to previously contested zones, fragmented control, and the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW). This increases the risk of movement restrictions, sudden access constraints, and potential exposure to hazardous areas, especially near riverbanks, damaged infrastructure, and flooded or recently submerged zones.

From a safety perspective, significant risks include fast-changing water levels, unstable riverbanks, and submerged debris, which pose drowning hazards and physical injury risks for both communities and responders. Damaged roads, weakened bridges, and partially inundated terrain further increase the likelihood of accidents during field movement and relief operations. Public health risks are also present, including potential waterborne disease outbreaks, particularly in overcrowded collective shelters with limited WASH facilities, as well as increased exposure to poor sanitation conditions. Additional risks include heavy reliance on water trucking operations and the use of heavy machinery for flood protection works, which require strict operational safety measures.

To mitigate these risks, strict security and safety protocols must be maintained throughout the operation. These include continuous coordination with local authorities and relevant operational actors for movement approvals and real-time security updates, adherence to established safe access procedures, and implementation of field movement tracking and communication protocols for all teams. Safety briefings should be conducted regularly for staff and volunteers, with particular emphasis on water safety, road movement in flood-affected areas, and UXO awareness. The use of personal protective equipment (PPE), especially for teams working near water infrastructure and engineering sites, is mandatory. In addition, medical contingency arrangements, including rapid evacuation procedures and standby ambulance support, should be in place for all high-risk field deployments.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 89,234

Targeted Persons: 9,900

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached with non-food items	9,900

Priority Actions

- Deployment of volunteers for assessments and distribution
- Distribution of non-food items from Disaster Preparedness stocks
- Provision of fuel, stationary and other necessary items for operations
- Replenishment of distributed items (Mattresses: 300, Blankets: 9,900)



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 56,742



Targeted Persons: 8,250

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached with food parcels	8,250
Number of food parcels distributed	1,650

Priority Actions

- Distribution of food items (together with non-food items) from DP stocks
- Replenishment of distributed items



Budget: CHF 62,162

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of EMS teams deployed	3
Number of MHUs deployed	2
Number of people reached with health services	5,000

Priority Actions

- Deployment of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Deployment of Mobile Health Units (MHUs)
- Procurement of medical consumables (replenishment)



Budget: CHF 75,092

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
No. of Jerry cans distributed	5,000
No. of water pumps repaired	5



No. of people reached with clean drinking water	10,000
-------------------------------------------------	--------

Priority Actions

- Deployment of volunteers for WASH interventions
- Procurement and distribution of chlorine tablets
- Procurement of material and water pipes for affected water pumps
- Distribution of jerry cans
- Provision of fuel, stationary and other necessary items for operations



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 33,353

Targeted Persons: 20,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of dignity kits distributed	1,686
Number of people reached with protection, inclusion, and psychosocial awareness sessions	20,000

Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of dignity kits
- Awareness sessions on PGI, PSEA, GBV and Child protection.
- Provision of fuel, stationary and other necessary items for operations



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 75,992

Targeted Persons: 20,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of social media posts/awareness sessions	5
Number of people reached with relevant awareness sessions	20,000

Priority Actions

- Awareness sessions through deployment of volunteers, social media and other platforms, such as raising awareness of the safety measures during floods, and its impact...
- Procurement of communication items
- Provision of fuel, stationary and other necessary items for visibility, coverage and support to the operations



- Transportation of relief items including transportation of relief items of PNSs
- Loading/offloading of the relief items
- Deployment of volunteers for monitoring and quality assurance



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 28,755

Targeted Persons: -

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of monitoring visits conducted	2

Priority Actions

- Deployment of IFRC Surge/Regional support to the operation
- IFRC participation in lessons learnt workshop
- Monitoring of the operation



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 11,936

Targeted Persons: 25

Indicators

Title	Target
LLW conducted	1

Priority Actions

- Lessons learnt workshop

About Support Services

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

200 Volunteers, 50 Staff members.

Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your



volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is committed to ensuring that its volunteer teams accurately reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the communities they serve. The response to the recent floods is being collaboratively led by both headquarters and the affected branches, with volunteers being mobilized directly from the impacted regions. This localized approach allows for teams to be culturally attuned to the populations they assist, thereby fostering trust and facilitating more effective support.

Both male and female volunteers are actively involved in the response, thereby enhancing outreach efforts, which is particularly crucial for engaging vulnerable groups such as female-headed households or individuals with specific cultural or protective needs. While the current team composition aligns with the local demographic, SARC remains vigilant in its assessment and efforts to address any gaps in representation. The aim is to ensure that all individuals affected by the crisis feel safe, respected, and comprehensively understood during the response process.

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

Procurement for the operation will primarily be carried out by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), with technical guidance and support from the IFRC in line with Movement procurement standards and procedures. SARC, through its headquarters and relevant departments (particularly logistics and operations), will be responsible for planning, sourcing, and managing procurement activities, ensuring timely acquisition and delivery of required items. IFRC will provide oversight, quality assurance, and, where required, support for specific procurements in accordance with DREF procedures.

Procurement will largely involve local suppliers, given the urgency of the response and the need for rapid delivery of items such as WASH equipment, relief items, dignity kits, and medical supplies. Local sourcing is also appropriate due to the availability of required goods in local markets and the cost-effectiveness it offers. No large-scale international procurement is foreseen at this stage.

The majority of procurement will be for replenishment of SARC pre-positioned stocks and operational use, including items such as water rehabilitation equipment, hygiene supplies, and medical consumables, while dignity kits will be procured for direct distribution to affected populations.

For items procured for distribution, tendering processes will follow SARC procedures and are expected to be conducted on an accelerated timeline due to the emergency context, typically through rapid tendering and quotation processes to ensure timely delivery, while maintaining compliance and transparency.

Regarding Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), the response plan will be initiated with the market assessment and the visibility of FSP in the area.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) standard operating procedures for monitoring are utilized across all SARC operations and programs. This includes post-distribution monitoring, process monitoring, and community feedback mechanisms, as well as coordinated assessments conducted with implementing partners, including IFRC.

A monitoring plan will be created and implemented during this response in close conjunction with the PMER and Quality Assurance teams at IFRC MENA RO. PMER, IM, and CEA capabilities are included in the PMER and Quality Assurance unit and will work directly with SARC.

SARC has already established DREF task force, a team comprising of the members from all sectors and support services teams. The task force oversees the overall implementation of the DREFs.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) will implement a communications strategy that ensures timely, transparent, and people-centered information throughout the operation. Internally, coordination will be maintained through regular updates from branches to headquarters, using digital platforms and reporting channels to keep staff and volunteers aligned on activities and key messages.

Externally, the Media and Communications Unit will provide wide coverage of the Flood response, documenting activities in a way that motivates local communities and associations to undertake similar initiatives. Regular updates and multimedia content will be shared through national media, as well as SARC's social media platforms, to highlight the scale of the response and recognize the support of



Movement partners, including the IFRC.

At the community level, the strategy prioritizes two-way engagement to ensure people at risk receive actionable information on flood preparedness and available services. Public awareness campaigns will be carried out in partnership with traditional media outlets and across social media, ensuring broad reach and resonance with affected populations. Complementary IEC materials and awareness sessions at community level will reinforce these messages, while feedback mechanisms (suggestion boxes, volunteer reporting) will capture community concerns and inform adjustments in programming. The IFRC MENA Regional Office and Damascus Delegation will provide technical support, especially in amplifying SARC's efforts regionally and ensuring alignment with global Movement messaging.

This approach positions communication not only as visibility, but also as a tool for accountability, trust-building, and resilience.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

- Syrian Arab Red Crescent
Euphrates River Floods DREF

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	392,575
Shelter and Basic Household Items	89,234
Livelihoods	56,742
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	62,162
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	75,092
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	33,353
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	75,992
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	40,691
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	28,755
National Society Strengthening	11,936
TOTAL BUDGET	433,266

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Mohammad Tarek Alashraf, Head of Operations & DM, tarek.alashraf@sarc-sy.org, +96399299259

IFRC Appeal Manager: Karin Sorensen, Head of IFRC delegation- Syria, karin.sorensen@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Bilal Hussain SHAH, Operations Manager, Bilal.SHAH@ifrc.org, +963 953 333 860

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Raja Assaf, Acting Head of DCC, raja.assaf@ifrc.org

Media Contact: Mey El Sayegh, Head of Communications IFRC MENA, mey.elsayegh@ifrc.org

National Society Hotline: +963 11 4041

[Click here for the reference](#)

